Survey: AAMVA Seeks Feedback on Community Podcast

AAMVAcast is AAMVA's flagship podcast, featuring conversations with our host, Ian Grossman, and members of the AAMVA Community. Episodes have covered a variety of topics including driver licensing and highway safety; partnerships and bridging the gap between our members; how members are giving back to their communities; and the impacts of COVID-19 on different member agencies and jurisdictions. New episodes are released every Monday, and can be found on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Stitcher, Spotify, and on its own website.

For a special, 1-year anniversary episode, we want to hear from our listeners. What was your favorite AAMVAcast episode? What do you want to hear about in the future? Click here to take the survey.

Jurisdiction Response to COVID-19

Click here to view consolidated information and see how motor vehicle administrations are handling driver licensing and vehicle registration. This document will be updated with the most current information on our homepage.

Motor Vehicle Industry Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

Below is a selection of news articles regarding the effects of coronavirus on the motor vehicle community.

COVID-19 | NATIONAL NEWS COVERAGE

- Survey of Motorists' Reckless Behavior Should Be Wake-up Call for Commercial Fleets, Travelers Says

COVID-19 | REGION 1 NEWS COVERAGE

- With Restrictions Lifted, Will the DMV Add More Appointments? (Rhode Island)
- DC Residents Scramble to Get DMV Appointments as Parking Enforcement Ramps up (Washington, DC)
COVID-19 | REGION 2 NEWS COVERAGE

- Sen. Reeves: Virginia DMV To Open More Windows, Testing Stations June 1

COVID-19 | REGION 3 NEWS COVERAGE

- Illinois Driver's License Renewal Extension Remains in Place
- DMV Considers Making Road Test Waiver Permanent (Wisconsin)

COVID-19 | REGION 4 NEWS COVERAGE

- Why Is Honolulu County Scrapping Popular by-Mail Renewal for Certain Driver's Licenses? (Hawaii)

Visit cdc.gov for more information on COVID-19, guidance, press releases, press kits, and more.

REGION 1 NEWS

Vermont, New York and the Nation Begin Traffic Safety Crackdown
Veteran Bennington Police Chief Paul Doucette remembers clearly the two-vehicle crash caused by a drunken driver that almost cost him his life and demolished a brand new police cruiser. It was the seatbelt in his cruiser that helped save his life on Sept. 8, 1994 — a day he says he will never forget. Read more at benningtonbanner.com.

New York Considers Sticking SUVs, Large Vehicles with Pedestrian Warning Labels
If passed, Senate Bill S4307 would prompt the N.Y. Department of Motor Vehicles to build a database of all vehicles available in the U.S., and giving each model a one-to-five star rating based on its “frequency of collisions and number and severity of injuries resulting from such collisions involving a bicyclist or pedestrian...compared to the total number of such motor vehicle model registered in the state.” Read more at driving.ca.

Pittsburgh Parking Mobile App Releases Results of Investigation Into Data Hack (Pennsylvania)
More than 20 million users had their information stolen after a major parking app hack in March. The Pittsburgh Parking Authority asked people who use their Park Mobile app to change their passwords. Park Mobile said hackers were able to steal passwords even though the data was encrypted. Read more at wpix.com.

REGION 2 NEWS

Mississippi, Louisiana, and Tennessee State Police Partner to Tackle Holiday Traffic Safety
You can expect to see a new traffic safety initiative on Interstate 55 beginning Wednesday, May 26. The Mississippi Highway Patrol, the Tennessee Highway Patrol, and the Louisiana State Police will kick off what they call a “Line to Line” traffic safety initiative on Interstate 55. Read more at wlax.com.
More Georgia Veterans & National Guard To Be Eligible For Free Driver’s Licenses/ID Cards July 1
Although Memorial Day is when we honor the fallen, it is also important to show your support of living veterans. One of the most popular state benefits for Georgia veterans is not having to pay for their driver’s license or identification card (ID). Read more at allongeorgia.com.

Regional Counties Among 10 Transitioning Driver License From Court Clerks to Regional Centers (Kentucky)
Ten more Kentucky counties will make the transition in June to a new, secure driver-licensing model, administered by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC), that gives customers more choices and modern services. The traditional system of licenses and permits being issued by the Office of Circuit Court Clerk in each county is being phased out. Read more at wvg.com.

Oklahoma Lawmakers Address REAL ID Backlog
Lawmakers are addressing the backlog of Oklahomans who have hit a roadblock in getting their REAL ID. Gov. Kevin Stitt signed Senate Bill 1057 on Monday, giving Oklahomans the option to extend their renewal license time from four years to eight years. Read more at kswo.com.

'We Are Sharing Hope SC' and 'Donate Life SC' Partner with SCDMV (South Carolina)
When South Carolina residents head to the DMV to get a REAL ID they can choose to take part in the new 'Be A Star' campaign and potentially save the life of someone who needs an organ, eye or tissue transplant. "Right now, when you go into a South Carolina DMV, they ask you to register for your REAL ID and once you do that, you get a star...We are asking people to also register as organ and tissue donors; that way, when you register for both, you are a shining star." Read more at news.yahoo.com.

Meet the State Police Troopers Working to Keep Commercial Vehicles Safe on Highways (Virginia)
There's a small specialized unit of state troopers in Virginia who check the safety and equipment of all commercial vehicles. They're part of the Motor Carrier Safety Unit. "The primary unit that's responsible for monitoring the safety and equipment of all commercial vehicles," said Sgt. Steve Lowe, an area supervisor in the Virginia State Police Motor Carrier Unit. Read more at wdbj7.com.

WVU Researcher Seeks Participants for CBD Oil Driving Study (West Virginia)
People have been driving under the influence of alcohol since before the first person crank-started a Ford Model T. But CBD oil didn’t become a concern until years after people began driving the Tesla Model X. The widespread use of CBD oil is so new that scientists don’t yet understand all of the ways it affects drivers. Read more at wboy.com.

New Phishing Scam Claims To Be From DMV (Illinois)
An email that looks to be from the Illinois Secretary of State’s office seems like the real deal with the letterhead and the link. It warns recipients they need
to update their information or lose their driver's license. But it is a scam. Read more at chicago.cbslocal.com.

**REGION 4 NEWS**

**DMV Director Discusses Platform, Mobile Identity, Real ID Projects (California)**
Steve Gordon, the Department of Motor Vehicles’ director, provided an update on ongoing technology work around a new platform, mobile drivers' licenses or identity cards, and Real ID work, as well as areas of potential future procurement. Read more at techwire.net.

**If Your Car Crashes on Autopilot, California Highway Patrol Wants To Know**
California drivers who want to try and blame their cars for bad driving now have the proper paperwork. The California Highway Patrol (CHP), the law enforcement agency on all California highways and roads, has rolled out a revised version of its traffic crash report. Read more at mashable.com.

**CTA Pursues Review of AB 5 Contractor Ruling (California)**
“California’s Assembly Bill 5, which adopts a new test for determining whether a worker must be treated as an employee for purposes of California’s labor laws, effectively prohibits motor carriers from using independent contractor drivers,” said the CTA appeal. “The statute therefore makes a core feature of the motor-carrier transportation market unlawful in California.” Read more at ttnews.com.

**Speeding Tickets Given Out Every Six Minutes in April (Saskatchewan)**
April in the prairies is a time when Saskatchewanians can finally exit their hibernation and enjoy the (sometimes) beautiful weather. Some people end up enjoying the warmth too much - and Saskatchewan Government Insurance has the proof, with more tickets being given out in April than any other month so far. Read more at westcentralonline.com.

**OTHER NEWS**

**DOT Investigating Safety of Camera-Based Rearview Mirrors**
The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) wants truck drivers to help the agency assess the safety of replacing outside rear mirrors with in-cab cameras. DOT’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) will publish on Monday a notice seeking comments on the proposal, which will then be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget to be approved. Read more at freightwaves.com.

**Is There Really a Truck Driver Shortage?**
It was the perfect anecdote to whiz around the internet. A number of outlets, including Newsweek, recently reported that a trucking company in Texas, Sisu Energy, is offering to pay truck drivers “$14,000 a week — $728,000 a year" because of a "nationwide shortage of truckers." ...There's just one problem: "Those news stories flying around out there are very misleading and inaccurate," says Karrie Grundy, the director of recruiting for the
company...But beyond the ridiculousness of how journalists told the story, is there actually a "nationwide shortage" of truck drivers? Read more at npr.org.

For State Governments, the REAL ID Mandate Might Seem More Unreal Than Ever
Some time in the distant past, Congress imposed a mandate on states to issue driver’s licenses and other forms of identification tied to a stack of documents that would verify the IDs. One form of enforcement would be denial of boarding commercial aircraft unless the passenger could produce a REAL ID. Read more at federalnewsnetwork.com.

Tesla Is Ditching Radar, Will Rely on Cameras for Autopilot in Some Cars
Tesla announced Tuesday that it is ditching radar in its driver-assistance features, including Autopilot. In a blog post, the company said its best-selling Model 3 and Model Y vehicles made for customers in the U.S. and Canada starting this month would instead feature a camera-based system to enable Autopilot features such as traffic-adjusted cruise control or automatic lane-keeping. Read more at cnbc.com.

Turn off the Gas: Is America Ready To Embrace Electric Vehicles?
In Detroit, auto plants have for decades churned out trucks built with Motor City steel and fueled by gasoline. But this week’s rollout of the Ford F-150 Lightning electric truck offered a vision of the future in America’s automotive heartland: aluminum-clad pickups running off of electric powertrains with lithium batteries. Read more at theguardian.com.

Light Is the Key To Long-Range, Fully Autonomous EVs
Advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS) hold immense promise. At times, the headlines about the autonomous vehicle (AV) industry seem ominous, with a focus on accidents, regulation or company valuations that some find undeserving. None of this is unreasonable, but it makes the amazing possibilities of a world of AVs seem opaque. Read more at techcrunch.com.

How Exactly Would a Motorcycle Seat Belt Work? ItalDesign Has an Idea
The patent from the Italian firm is interesting, but whether bikers go for it is something else. At first glance, it sounds like a bad idea. In fact, check that; even on second thought, a seat belt on a motorcycle doesn’t sound right...Nonetheless, according to Cycle World magazine, legendary design house ItalDesign...has patented just such a mechanism: Read more at driving.ca.

Hacking and Loss of Driving Skills Are Major Consumer Concerns for Self-Driving Cars
A new study from the University of Kent, Toulouse Business School, ESSCA School of Management (Paris) and ESADE Business School (Spain) has revealed the three primary risks and benefits perceived by consumers towards autonomous vehicles (self-driving cars). Read more at eurekalert.org.

Study Shows Many Motorists Feel Less Safe with Autonomous Cars on the Roads

https://www.magnetmail.net/design/preview.cfm?version=html&message_id=20356920&contentType=MailMessage
A joint study from the American Automobile Association (AAA) and Harvard has revealed how uncomfortable many drivers are about sharing the roads with self-driving vehicles...53 percent of drivers surveyed felt less safe sharing the road with self-driving semi-trucks while 47 percent felt less safe sharing roads with other self-driving vehicles. Read more at carscoops.com.

**TWITTER NEWS**

Stay on top of the chatter in the MVA and LE community on social media. You may be surprised at what you're missing! Here are a few highlights of last week's activity.

**Trooper Gayheart | View the Post**

Today, Troopers with Kentucky State Police, Post 13, along with Commissioner Burnett, were able to spend some time with newly appointed Trooper Calvin Quinones.

Calvin was presented with his honorary State Trooper certificate, as well as his official K.S.P. campaign hat. Everyone continue their prayers for this young man. Calvin is not fighting this fight alone, we are all fighting with him.

**MD_MVA @MD_MVA | View the Tweet**

Thanks to everyone for joining us today as we remind Marylanders to Buckle Up, Drive Sober, Make a Plan, and Be the Driver who Saves Lives this weekend. #MDOTSafety
Ohio State Patrol @OSHP | View the Tweet

Watch: Video shows dangers of distracted drivers on the road next to you

OSHP video shows dangers of distracted drivers on the road next to you: I-Team Video released to the FOX 8 I-Team gives you a new look at the danger you face every day from drivers not paying attention to the road because they're ...

Trooper Miree @PSPTroopKPIO | View the Tweet

The Border-to-Border #ClickItOrTicket Campaign is running from 05/17-06/06/2021. Seatbelt usage use can increase your chances of survival up to 60%. Visit http://pennot.gov/safety for more information.

@PASstatePolice
We Are Sharing Hope SC @SharingHopeSC | View the Tweet

#WeAre partnering with @DonateLifeSC and the @SC_DMV on a virtual campaign #BeAStar, encouraging SC residents to say YES to organ, eye, and tissue donation when updating to the Real ID. Are you a #Star? @DonateLife

TN Highway Patrol @TNHighwayPatrol | View the Tweet

We are very excited to be joining the @TNHSO, @NC_GHSP, @NCSHP @universityofthe4 Hospital in a Border to Border Click It our Ticket virtual press conference. Please wear your seat belt every trip, every time. If you ride wear a helmet and never drink and drive. #ClickItOrTicket

Zero Fatalities @ZeroFatalities | View the Tweet

Pics from our press event today! Summer is coming fast so we wanted to introduce you to our new summer campaign, #SummerSafety. That means driving to all your summer destinations safely. Drive calm, drive buckled, drive sober, drive focused, drive alert. @UTHighwayPatrol @UtahDOT
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