Automated Vehicles Working Group Meets in Michigan

The Automated Vehicles Working Group met in Ann Arbor, Michigan, July 22-27, to continue to prepare the Jurisdictional Guidelines for the Safe Testing and Deployment of Highly Automated Vehicles, a report that is expected to be published at the end of this year. While in Ann Arbor the group visited Mcity, a model facility at the University of Michigan that will allow researchers to test emerging concepts in connected and automated vehicles in both off-road and on-road settings. During the visit the group had the chance to ride in a NAVYA Shuttle, (a Level 4 automated vehicle), and also held an informational meeting with a representative from UBER to discuss their automated vehicle plans.

CDL Facial Recognition LEAN Workshop

On July 19th and 20th, the Midwest multi-state CDL facial recognition jurisdictions came together for a LEAN workshop to develop a streamlined process for coordinating facial recognition investigations in preparation for program implementation. LEAN is a method of developing a procedure with high value and less resources to provide the most efficient process possible. Participants from the states of South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, and Illinois worked with LEAN trainers at the Iowa State University (ISU) Center for Transportation Research and Education Facility in Ames, Iowa. During the two days the team worked to accomplish goals and objectives outlined in the project scope and created a flowchart to develop an effective process in which to communicate and coordinate facial recognition cases among jurisdictions. At the completion of the workshop, participants were provided a variety of resources to utilize as they plan to implement the multi-state facial recognition program later this year.

Minnesota Becomes the First State to Implement NMVTIS Web Services

After more than one year of intense software development using an agile methodology, Minnesota has taken a giant step forward being the first jurisdiction to complete a NMVTIS Web Services implementation. This effort coincides with Minnesota’s Licensing and Registration System (MNLARS) project, a multi-year initiative of Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) to replace its 30-year old legacy IT system. Web Services allow states to manage complex data exchanges with the Central Site more effectively using modern web based technologies and industry standards. We encourage other states to consider Web Services as part of their system modernization effort. For additional information, contact AAMVA Helpdesk at helpdesk@aamva.org.

Register Now And Save! 2017 Annual International Conference

The 2017 Annual International Conference is coming up next month, August 21-23. Don’t miss out on the Early Bird Registration Deadline of July 31. Why wait? Register today online and start planning your trip to the 2017 AAMVA Annual International Conference in San Francisco. Check out the program-at-a-glance and register online today!
Four Clerks From Haymarket RMV Arrested In Alleged Identity Theft Scheme (Massachusetts)
Six people were arrested Wednesday and charged in federal court with allegedly providing stolen identification cards, drivers’s licenses, and other documents to undocumented immigrants through a Registry of Motor Vehicles office in Boston, according to the US attorney’s office. Read the article in bostonglobe.com.

New Hampshire DMV Announces Changes Coming To State Inspection Stickers
The New Hampshire Division of Motor Vehicles announced Tuesday that it will be changing both the look and location of state inspection stickers this year. Starting October 1, inspection stickers will be placed in the lower, driver side corner of a vehicle's windshield. Read the article at wmur.com.

NJ Assembly Approves New Driver’s License Requirements
New Jersey lawmakers voted Monday to advance legislation adding new requirements to the state’s graduated driver’s license program for both teenage drivers and their parents. The proposed changes would be the first update to the state's GDL system in seven years and would require young, novice drivers to undergo more supervised practice before graduating to a probationary license. Read the article at burlingtoncountytimes.com.

MVC Unveils New Parking Placards for Disabled Veterans and Purple Heart Recipients (New Jersey)
New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) Chairman and Chief Administrator Raymond P. Martinez gathered with representatives from the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and local veterans groups at VFW Post 1333 in Asbury Park to announce the availability of new placards for disabled veterans and Purple Heart recipients which will exempt them from municipal parking meter fees. Read the press release for more details.

New York Law Requiring Hand On Wheel Stymies Pace Of Self-Driving Cars
In Arizona, Google’s spinoff company is looking to enroll hundreds of people for free rides in self-driving vehicles. In California, 36 companies — including Intel, Toyota, Uber and Ford — have been approved over the past three years to conduct tests on autonomous vehicles. Read the article at buffalonews.com.

Pennsylvania Lawmaker Pens Hands-Free Driving Bill
A Pennsylvania legislator is proposing a law to ban drivers from talking on cell phones unless they’re using a hands-free accessory. Read the article at abc27.com.

PennDOT to Start Suspending Vehicle Registrations for Unpaid Tolls
The new state law, Act 165, which was approved last fall, takes effect this Friday. Any drivers with unpaid tolls greater than $500 or who have at least six toll violations are at risk for vehicle registration suspension. Read the article at ellwoodcity.org.

Florida Driver’s License And ID Card Changes Begin Tuesday
Starting Tuesday, the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles will begin issuing a new, Florida driver license and ID card that officials say will be much more secure. Read the article at gainesville.com.
Bill Signed To Allow Deaf People To Designate Status On Driver’s License (North Carolina)

Deaf people or those who are hard of hearing can now have a symbol on their driver’s license that designates their hearing challenges. Read the article at wfae.org.

Former DMV Worker Accused Of Defrauding State (NC)

A former N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles employee has been accused of using government computers to defraud the state. Cynthia Gibson, 42, of the 200 block of Usher Lane in Newton Grove, was arrested July 19 and charged with four counts of accessing government computers to defraud state, common law forgery, obtain property under false pretense and notary administering false information under oath, an arrest warrant said. Read the article at fayobserver.com.

Need a Texas Driver’s License? You’ll Have To Take A Distracted Driving Course

Not knowing about the dangers of texting and driving won’t be an option for young drivers in Texas beginning Sept. 1. Starting next month, anyone 18 and over who wants to get a driver’s license in the state will be required to take the “Impact Texas Young Drivers” course, the Department of Public Safety said in a news release Thursday. Read the article at star-telegram.com.

Uncertified CDL Schools May Compromise Road Safety (Kansas/Missouri)

A quick search of CDL or commercial driver's license training programs in the Kansas City area brings up several businesses. 41 Action News quickly found several of them are not certified in both Kansas and Missouri. Read the article at kshb.com.

You May Need To Renew Your Driver’s License Early If You Want To Fly (Kansas)

Check your Kansas driver’s license. If you want to use it to fly in the United States, you will need to upgrade it before Sept. 30, 2020 – whether or not it expires by then. Read the article at kansas.com.

Legal Action Launched Over Licence Plate Fight (Manitoba)

A Winnipeg man is now preparing to go to court over an ongoing saga surrounding his choice of personal licence plates. Read the article at winnepegsun.com.

University of Michigan Slams On The Brakes Hard In Self-Driving Vehicle Research

University of Michigan researchers want to find out what happens to humans when their vehicles decide on their own to avoid a crash. The researchers brought 80 regular people of different ages and body sizes to the Mcity driverless vehicle test site on the university’s North Campus in May and June to find out. Read the article at freep.com.

Rep. Debbie Dingell Visits Ann Arbor Startups, Talks Autonomous Vehicles (Michigan)

U.S. Rep. Debbie Dingell visited the headquarters of Ann Arbor SPARK on Tuesday, Aug. 1, a day recognized as National Startup Day, to tour new companies making strides in healthcare programs and autonomous drone technology. Read the article at mlive.com.

Toyota Invests $5M In Michigan Driverless Vehicle Testing Center

Toyota will be the first automaker to invest in the American Center for Mobility. The Japanese automaker's Toyota Motor North America and Toyota Research Institute subsidiaries are contributing $5 million to the self-driving vehicle research center being built in Ypsilanti Township. Read the article at govtech.com.
Minnesota Planners Begin To Envision Driverless Future
Minnesota is beginning to confront what promises to be the biggest shift in urban living since cars arrived in cities a century ago: The moment drivers let go of the wheel for good. Read the article at startribune.com.

Missouri Banned License Plate List Grows
Missouri's database of banned character combinations on license plates has grown over the past 40 years to include more than 7,000 arrangements of letters and numbers deemed too offensive. Read the article at usnews.com.

Missouri Lags, Illinois Nears, Real ID Compliance
Missouri was late to the party in converting to Real ID standards, so residents should not expect to see many changes in the near future. Gov. Eric Greitens signed legislation last month to bring the state in compliance with the federal law that was passed in 2005. Read the article at whig.com.

California Reviews Gasoline Vehicles For Pollution: Official
The California environmental agency that probed Volkswagen AG's diesel vehicles for violating pollution-control rules is now scrutinizing whether some gasoline-powered vehicles are emitting excess pollution, according to a senior official. Read more at reuters.com.

DMV Workers Charged With Embezzlement (California)
Two former employees of the state Department of Motor Vehicles office in Weaverville have been charged with embezzlement, and a bench warrant has been issued for one who failed to appear in court. An investigator's report included in an arrest warrant affidavit on file at the Trinity County Courthouse details the investigation that led to the charges against Joanne Lynn Hall, 56, of Hayfork, and Tracy Coahran, 50, whose address is listed as Hayfork or Douglas City. Read the article in trinityjournal.com.

Colorado Has List Of Banned License Plates, And Some Are Head Scratchers
Do you like Tabasco sauce, consider yourself a lovable nerd or have an undying affection for Pepsi products? If so, expressing yourself, at least via personalized license plates, may be difficult. Read the article at greeleytribune.com.

Nevada Officials Say Autonomous-Truck Era Drawing Near
April Sanborn was part of the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles in 2011 when the state became the first to adopt regulations allowing the testing of autonomous vehicles. Read the article at fleetowner.com.

Congress Is Heading for a Confrontation With Sessions Over Marijuana
Congress is heading for a confrontation with Attorney General Jeff Sessions over pot. Sessions is seeking to crack down on marijuana use while lawmakers from both parties are pushing legislation that would do the opposite. Read the article at bloomberg.com.

Adults Less Likely To Use Seat Belts In Hired Cars, Survey Finds
A new survey reveals more than a quarter of adults don't always buckle up in the back seat. Research by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety found 91
percent of adults say they always wear their seatbelt in the front seat, but only 57 percent buckle up in hired vehicles like taxis. Read the article at cbsnews.com.

Teen Drivers Become More Reckless With Age, Study Says
U.S. teenagers are more reckless after their first few years of driving, often becoming overconfident in their abilities and putting themselves at higher risk for accidents, a new study shows. Read the article at bloomberg.com.

States Urged to Utilize Updated Traffic Crash Guideline for Better Data Collection and Reporting
With traffic fatalities on the rise, guidance on how to collect high-quality crash data becomes ever more important. Developed cooperatively by the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria (MMUCC) 5th Edition guideline has been updated to reflect the latest behavioral and technological changes impacting vehicles, drivers, and front-line data collectors. Read the GHSA press release for more details.

Self-Driving Car Demo Is The First To Cross The US-Canada Border
As a rule, self-driving car tests tend to be limited to the country where they started. But that's not how people drive -- what happens when your autonomous vehicle crosses the border? Continental and Magna plan to find out. Read the article at engadget.com.

Significant Spike In Opioid-Related Car Crash Deaths
In yet another sign of just how deadly the U.S. opioid epidemic has become, researchers report a sevenfold increase in the number of drivers killed in car crashes while under the influence of prescription painkillers. Read the article at cbsnews.com.

Federal Bills to Speed Arrival of Self-Driving Cars Could Create Safety Loopholes
As Congress considers the first federal legislation to speed development of self-driving cars, the proposed standards would be a wholesale shift in how the government guarantees safety on the roads. View the article at consumerreports.com.

On Twitter
@AAMVAConnection has been watching the twitter feed and decided to highlight some of the tweets. Links are provided within most of the tweets, and we have also provided a link to each tweet as well. Note that you do not have to have an account or sign in to Twitter to view the message posts, images associated with the post, and the reach of the message (retweets, favorited, etc.).

Stay on top of the chatter in the MVA and LE community. You may be surprised at what you’re missing! Follow @AAMVAConnection.

Check out recent @AAMVAConnection Twitter action.

***Thank you for the @AAMVAConnection mentions!***
CALIFORNIA - DMV self-serve kiosk now in 20 SoCal grocery stores http://abc7.com/2272683/ via @abc7

Ride Safe Indiana @ridesafeindiana View the Tweet

Rule the Road Together on Ride Safe Indiana Day @IndyStateFair, Fri Aug 11. 100 first motorcycles thru Gate 6 park FREE on Main Street!

Drive-Rite Driving @DriveRiteDrvSc View the Tweet

Drive-Rite Driving Retweeted DriveitHOME #safedriving #FridayFeeling

Our Town DC @OurTownDC View the Tweet

Our Town DC Retweeted DC DMV
Bookmark...looks like a good resource.