

November 1, 2013 - Regional News

AAMVA News

Upcoming AAMVA Webinar: "NMVTIS: An Improved Tool for Law Enforcement"

Join us on Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2-3 PM (ET) for a webinar that will provide updates on what has been going on to improve NMVTIS for the law enforcement community. Hear about the activities and efforts of the NMVTIS Law Enforcement Working Group along with information from the U.S. Department of Justice on new developments with the NMVTIS Law Enforcement Search Tool. Please join us for the latest news regarding NMVTIS and its increasing value and use as an effective tool for the law enforcement community. Register online today at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/666813057>

Colorado Announces Open RFP

The following RFPs/RFIs have been posted the AAMVA Website:

- Consultant for Colorado DRIVES Procurement (Colorado Dept. of Revenue)
<http://www.aamva.org/Open-RFPs/>

Region I

Red Sox World Series Championship is Another Reason to Buy CT Red Sox Plates

Last night's World Series win for the Boston Red Sox gives Connecticut residents added advantage to show their support for Connecticut charities the team supports by purchasing one of the new Connecticut license plates supporting the Red Sox Foundation. Learn more at <http://ct.gov/dmv>

DMV Reports on Customer Service Improvements

Improving online service opportunities, according to a recent Department of Motor Vehicles study, has been central in changes at the agency during the last few years as DMV expanded offerings for customers. The changes range from having new test centers to providing online scheduling of learner's permit tests. Reducing wait times through various improvements has also been central to changes at the agency. Learn more about DMV's customer services improvements at <http://ct.gov/dmv>.

Delaware DMV Offers Free EZ Pass Transponders for the Holidays

The Delaware Department of Motor Vehicles is giving out free E-Z Pass transponders this holiday season. From November 1st to December 31st residents of any state that open a new individual account with the Delaware toll collection agency will receive a complimentary transponder for their vehicle. A transponder typically costs for \$15. Read the full story at [WDDE.org](http://www.wdde.org).

<http://www.wdde.org/52138-dmv-free-ezpass-transponders#sthash.sa8fCd8e.dpuf>

'Choose Life' License Plates Are Now Available in D.C.

"Choose Life" license plates became available in Washington, D.C. last week. Sponsored by The Children First Foundation of DC, a "pro-adoption," anti-abortion group that provides funding to so-called "crisis pregnancy centers," similar plates are also available in 29 other states, including Virginia. But unlike in Virginia, where the plates were sponsored by gubernatorial candidate Ken Cuccinelli and help fund Christian group Heartbeat International, no money from the purchase of the plates in D.C. goes to an anti-abortion organization. Read the full story at DCist.com.

<http://dcist.com/2013/10/choose-life-license-plates-are-now.php>

Debate Intensifies Over Proposal to Provide Pennsylvania Driver's Licenses to Undocumented Immigrants

Should undocumented immigrants in Pennsylvania be able to get driver's licenses? Legislation's in the works, and activists are taking the issue to local college campuses to raise awareness. Read the full story at WFMZ.com.

<http://www.wfmz.com/news/news-regional-lehighvalley/debate-intensifies-over-proposal-to-provide-pa-drivers-licenses-to-undocumented-immigrants/-/132502/22704114/-/u08jr8z/-/index.html>

Region II

Tougher Texting While Driving Bill Could Become Law in Florida

A Florida legislator is pushing to make the state's new texting and driving law tougher. The law took effect October 1st, but right now texting while driving is only a secondary offense. Read the full story at WearTV.com.

<http://www.wearTV.com/news/features/top-stories/stories/texting-while-driving-bill-could-become-law-37618.shtml>

Driver Services Commissioner Exchanges Ideas with State DMVs (Georgia)

Commissioner Rob Mikell, Department of Driver Services (DDS) has recently initiated an information exchange strategy with other agencies also tasked with administering their state's driver's licensing and testing laws. This valuable platform has fostered collaboration for a safer, more secure country in addition to identifying valuable customer service improvements. Read the press release for more information.

<http://www.dds.ga.gov/news/newsdetail.aspx?id=307>

Driver Services (DDS) Commissioner Accepts Technology Awards (Georgia)

Department of Driver Services (DDS) Commissioner Rob Mikell recently accepted three awards for DDS online customer service enhancements during the recent Georgia Technology Authority (GTA) 2013

Technology Innovation Showcase. This year's showcase spotlighted projects designed specifically to improve operating efficiency, make information more easily available and improve customer service. DDS was selected for the Agency's focused enhancement of online driver's licensing options including the 'Create a Custom Checklist', 'Online License Status Check' and 'Monitored Driver Service' options on the www.dds.ga.gov website. Read the press release for more information.

<http://www.dds.ga.gov/news/newsdetail.aspx?id=308>

Court To Hear Arguments In 'Choose Life' License Plates Case (North Carolina)

A federal appeals court is scheduled to hear arguments today on whether North Carolina can offer license plates with an anti-abortion message without making an alternative available to supporters of abortion rights. Read the full story at WUNC.org.

<http://wunc.org/post/court-hear-arguments-choose-life-license-plates-case>

Tennessee Highway Patrol Uses A New Tool To Catch Distracted Drivers

Law enforcement have a new tool to catch distracted drivers, and the officers behind the strategy blend in better than ever with traffic. This week, the Tennessee Highway Patrol launched a new campaign to identify and cite drivers texting and driving. They're using the THP tractor trailer truck to get a higher, better look at what drivers are doing inside their vehicles. Read the full story at WBIR.com.

<http://www.wbir.com/story/news/local/2013/10/29/thp-uses-a-new-tool-to-catch-distracted-drivers/3308529/>

Region III

Program To Give Veterans Commercial Driver's Licenses Is Struggling (Indiana)

Few people have taken advantage of an initiative created at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles in 2012 that aims to providing a shortcut for veterans to obtain their commercial drivers license. Rep. Chuck Moseley, D-Portage, says the legislature needs to find out how it can help. He says it could be as simple as better marketing efforts. Read the full story at IndianaPublicMedia.org.

<http://indianapublicmedia.org/news/indiana-veteran-program-bmv-struggling-57707/>

House Votes to Extend Alcohol Ignition Program (Michigan)

Michigan lawmakers want to make permanent a pilot project that lets repeat drunken drivers get a restricted driver's license by installing a breath alcohol ignition device on their vehicle. Legislation to extend indefinitely a 2010 law won approval unanimously in the House Wednesday and moves to the Senate. Read the full story at SFGate.com.

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/House-votes-to-extend-alcohol-ignition-program-4938027.php>

Missouri House Committee Releases Report Accusing DOR Of Breaking 2009 Anti-REAL ID Law

A Missouri House committee that spent the summer investigating the Department of Revenue (DOR) is officially accusing the state agency of breaking the law. In its report released Friday, the Bipartisan Investigative Committee on Privacy Protection says Revenue officials and the Nixon Administration implemented parts of the federal REAL ID Act, despite a 2009 state law forbidding implementation. State Representative Stanley Cox (R, Sedalia) chairs the committee. Read the full story at StLouisPublicRadio.org.

<http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/mo-house-committee-releases-report-accusing-dor-breaking-2009-anti-real-id-law>

Region IV

New and Interactive Option for Preparing for the Written Test (California)

The California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has introduced a new dynamic and interactive version of the Driver Handbook for the Apple iPad tablet to help new drivers prepare for DMV's written exam. Read the DMV press release.

https://www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/newsrel/newsrel13/2013_37.htm

Car Dealers Would See New Rules Under California Ballot Initiative

Add buying a car to the growing list of consumer transactions California voters could be asked to regulate during the 2014 election. In a Wednesday morning conference call, Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson, D-Santa Barbara, and advocates announced the filing of a proposed ballot measure that would impose new restrictions on automotive sales. Read the full story in the Sacramento Bee.

<http://www.sacbee.com/2013/10/30/5867117/car-dealers-would-see-new-rules.html>

'Keep Kids Safe' Could Join Long List Of Defunct Oregon License Plates (Oregon)

An Oregon license plate meant to raise money for child abuse prevention programs could soon be canceled due to lack of interest. Read the full story at NWPR.org.

<http://nwpr.org/post/keep-kids-safe-could-join-long-list-defunct-oregon-license-plates>

Other News

Panelists Talk Vehicle Miles Traveled Fee Option for Transportation Financing

Transportation financing experts met in Denver at the 2013 AASHTO Annual Meeting to discuss the idea of a fee on vehicle miles traveled as a means to fund surface transportation. This session featured Jaime Rall of the National Conference of State Legislatures, Jack Opiola of D'Artagnan Consulting, and Jack Basso of the Mileage-Based User Fee Alliance. Read the full story in the AASHTO Journal.

<http://www.aashtojournal.org/Pages/102513VMTfee.aspx>

Asia with 85% Share Lead in Issuing Electronic Driving Licenses

IMS Research finds only 12% of the total 1.4 billion driving licenses worldwide are smart card type documents. IMS says Asia is found to be the region with the largest installed base of electronic Driving Licenses (eDL), accounting for almost 85 percent of the total eDL install base in 2012. Japan is a key market in the region, representing nearly 40 percent of the world's installed base of eDL at the end of 2012. Read the full story at EEHerald.com.

<http://www.eeherald.com/section/news/onws2013102801a.html>

Drowsy Driving an Increasing Hazard Say Rutgers Medical Experts

Many of us make light of that relatively short drive home. But getting behind the wheel when you're sleepy can cost lives and lead to imprisonment and a hefty fine. Drowsy drivers number in the millions. In a 2011 National Sleep Foundation poll, 60 percent of adults said they had driven at least once while drowsy, and 37 percent admitted to have actually fallen asleep at the wheel in the past year. AAA reports that one in six fatal traffic accidents results from drowsy driving. Read the full story at NJTVOnline.org.

<http://www.njtvonline.org/njtoday/2013/10/30/drowsy-driving-an-increasing-hazard-say-rutgers-medical-experts/>

Richer Countries have Safer Roads, Concludes UMTRI Study

Wealthier nations have lower roadway fatality rates, according to new research from the University of Michigan's Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI). The study examined road safety in 170 low-, middle- and high-income countries, looking at both the wealth of the country and the number of roadway fatalities. Read the full story in AutomotiveWorld.com.

<https://www.automotiveworld.com/analysis/richer-countries-safer-roads-concludes-umtri-study/>

Study Says 'Cash for Clunkers' Created Few Jobs

The nearly \$3 billion "Cash for Clunkers" program approved by Congress in 2009 did little to boost the environment and created few jobs, a new study released Wednesday found. Read the full story at DetroitNew.com.

<http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20131030/AUTO01/310300106/1361/Study-says--Cash-for-Clunkers--created-few-jobs>