

December 5, 2013 - Regional News

AAMVA News

Apply to Join Ignition Interlock Working Group

AAMVA is forming an Ignition Interlock Working Group to:

- Review available Blood Alcohol Ignition Interlock Device (BAIID) scientific/evidence based research ;
- Review various BAIID programs administered by motor vehicle administrations and state police/highway patrol agencies;
- Extract and compile best and most promising practices focusing on areas of ignition interlock administration based upon scientific evidence based research, practices from various ignition interlock programs administered by motor vehicle administrations and state police that fall within the purview of our members;
- Conduct a gap analysis comparing AAMVA's and the Association of Ignition Interlock Program Administrators (AIIPA) recommendations to identify and develop model program aspects outside the mission scope of AIIPA;
- Review AIIPA program recommendations for potential inclusion in an AAMVA published national model program document.

AAMVA is seeking the following representatives to serve on the working group:

- Two law enforcement representatives from the AAMVA jurisdictions, one ignition interlock representative with program and/or policy experience from each AAMVA region,
- one program and/or policy representative from a Canadian AAMVA jurisdiction, and
- one representative from our legal services discipline.

If you are interested in serving on this working group, please complete the application

(http://www.aamva.org/uploadedFiles/MainSite/Content/MembersLeaders/CommitteesWorkingGroups/Enforcement/Ignition_Interlock_Working_Group/Ignition%20Interlock%20Working%20Group%20Application.doc) and return it to AAMVA by December 16, 2013.

For additional information about the working group, please contact Brian Ursino at (703) 350-5103.

Region I

Christie Administration's Skip the Trip Program Takes a Half Million Customers Out of Agency Lines (New Jersey)

The success of the Christie Administration's Skip the Trip program was marked today as the Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) received its 500,000th license renewal in the mail and announced that the

average customer wait time in the 10 busiest agencies has been reduced by 45 percent. Read the MVC press release.

<http://www.state.nj.us/mvc/About/News.htm>

Region II

Driver Services Commissioner Announces Technology Upgrade (Georgia)

Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) Commissioner Rob Mikell announced today a recent technology upgrade at the Calhoun, Gordon County, Customer Service Center. This upgrade allows customers to obtain or renew a driver's license even in the event of a network outage. DDS connects to the state data network to conduct any transaction, such as a license issuance or renewal. In the past, any circuit outage would bring services to a halt until the issue could be resolved. Read the press release for more information.

<http://www.dds.ga.gov/news/newsdetail.aspx?id=317>

New Oklahoma Law Allows Seizure of License Plates from Uninsured Drivers (Oklahoma)

Law enforcement officers in Oklahoma will soon have the option to seize license plates from uninsured drivers and assign temporary insurance under a new law passed this year by the Legislature. Read the full story in the Insurance Journal.

<http://www.insurancejournal.com/magazines/features/2013/12/02/312360.htm>

New Law Allows Temporary Deactivation of Vehicle License Plates (Virginia)

Starting January 1, 2014, customers who operate Virginia-registered vehicles for only part of the year may temporarily deactivate their license plates and cancel the insurance without having to surrender the plates to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). This new law will be beneficial for owners of seasonal vehicles such as motorcycles and RVs and active duty members of the military on deployment, if the vehicle is not being used. Read the DMV press release.

http://www.dmv.state.va.us/general/news/pressReleases/#/Recent_News

"Virginia is for Lovers" Added to State License Plate

Gov. Bob McDonnell has unveiled a new design for the state's standard license plate that incorporates the "Virginia is for lovers" slogan. Read the full story at HamptonRoads.com.

<http://hamptonroads.com/2013/12/virginia-get-new-standard-license-plate-design>

Region III

Cellphone Ban May Make 'Distracted Driving' Laws Easier to Enforce (Illinois)

Unlike a sobriety test for drunken driving, there is no physical, definitive test for using a cellphone while driving. So without further investigation, police must rely on drivers admitting cellphone use or witnesses providing statements at the scene, which may or may not be accurate. . . It may get easier for police starting Jan. 1 when Illinois joins 11 other states in banning hand-held cellphone use for motorists. If caught, motorists could face a \$75 fine. The new law allows only for speakerphones or headsets that allow for voice-activated or one-digit dialing. Read the full story at PJStar.com.

<http://www.pjstar.com/article/20131130/NEWS/131129121>

Undocumented Immigrants Start Testing for Illinois Driver's Licenses

Undocumented immigrants in Illinois began taking road tests on Tuesday to qualify for driver's licenses, starting a process expected to be closely watched by other U.S. states that are preparing to implement similar laws. Read the full story at Reuters.com.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/12/03/us-usa-illinois-immigration-idUSBRE9B214O20131203>

New Restrictions for Teen Drivers Starting Soon (Iowa)

The New Year will bring new rules for Iowa teen drivers. The state will enforce more restrictions for teen drivers starting Jan. 1st, in an effort to minimize teen driving deaths. The new law extends the permit period and will ban driving around with a car full of friends. Read the full story at KCCI.com.

<http://www.kcci.com/news/central-iowa/new-restrictions-for-teen-drivers-starting-soon/-/9357080/23275856/-/psvm8dz/-/index.html>

State Law Calls for License Plates to be Replaced at Least Every 10 Years (Michigan)

A new law, signed by Gov. Rick Snyder last week, will require Michigan drivers to replace their license plates every 10 years. The goal of Public Act 179 is to create a 10-year limit for license plates that will help ensure the plates are legible. This will have multiple benefits, according to Michigan Legislative Analyst Glenn Steffens during the Senate Fiscal Analysis. Read the full story at MichigansThumb.com.

http://www.michigansthumb.com/articles/2013/12/03/news/local_news/doc529dcd4f0c435228982191.txt

Proposed Wisconsin Bill Would Set Rules for License-Plate Readers

As police departments throughout Wisconsin use new technology to collect millions of photos of license plates each year, a new bill circulating the state Capitol would establish clear guidelines on how that information can be used and stored. Read the full story at JSOn-Line.com.

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/proposed-wisconsin-bill-would-set-rules-for-license-plate-readers-b99155494z1-234324371.html>

Region IV

ADOT Warns Public of Fraudulent MVD Websites (Arizona)

The Motor Vehicle Division of the Arizona Department of Transportation is alerting customers that there are various websites conducting numerous fraudulent schemes by falsely advertising motor vehicle services for Arizona driver licenses, IDs, vehicle titles or registrations. The fraudulent websites appear in a search with keywords such as MVD or DMV. Read the MVD press release.

<http://www.azdot.gov/media/News/news-release/2013/11/27/adot-warns-public-of-fraudulent-mvd-websites>

Woman Fights Ticket for Driving with Google Glass (California)

A California woman pleaded not guilty Tuesday to what is believed to be the first traffic citation alleging a motorist was using Google's computer-in-an-eyeglass. The device, known as Google Glass, features a thumbnail-size transparent display above the right eye. Read the full story at News10.com.

http://www.news10.com/story/24125079/woman-fights-ticket-for-driving-with-google-glass?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter

Driverless Cars Could Be Cruising California Roads By Spring

The California Department of Motor Vehicles has released its newly created regulations for the testing of automated vehicles. The DMV's Bernard Soriano said the regulations are intended for manufacturers who want to begin testing their cars on California roads. The rules cover everything from how much insurance the cars must have to who can drive them. Read the full story at CapRadio.org.

<http://www.capradio.org/articles/2013/12/03/driverless-cars-could-be-cruising-california-roads-by-spring/>

Idaho Supreme Court: Drug Cases Up, DUIs Down

A new report from the Idaho Supreme Court shows drug cases were on the rise last year but the number of drunken driving cases has dropped. Read the full story in the Idaho Statesman.

<http://www.idahostatesman.com/2013/12/03/2905738/idaho-supreme-court-drug-cases.html>

Governor to Push Repeal of Immigrant License Law (New Mexico)

Although Gov. Susana Martinez hasn't yet released the list of measures she plans to introduce during the next legislative session, one item definitely will be on the list: She will once again push to repeal the

law that allows the state to issue driver's licenses to immigrants who are living in the country illegally. Read the full story in The New Mexican.

http://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/legislature/governor-to-push-repeal-of-immigrant-license-law-again/article_ab6285f0-99f1-5de8-b8c2-bbeae3b99b00.html

Simulator Teaches Troopers Chase Techniques (Washington)

The trooper was hot on the tail of a red car in a minutes-long pursuit when a truck made a U-turn in front of him and the two vehicles collided. The truck driver got away as car parts flew into the air around the trooper. Luckily, the crash was simulated. The lesson was not. Read the full story at LM Tribune.com.

http://lmtribune.com/northwest/article_53e7b2e5-cffb-5863-8f8d-bc2f9cfa22aa.html

Other News

Distracted Drivers Cause Pedestrian Deaths To Rise 50% From Texting, Talking On Phone, Or Eating At The Wheel

Now that digital devices have become more pervasive in our daily lives, they pose a serious threat as a distraction — not only at our jobs, but also in our cars. According to a recent study, the number of pedestrians and bicyclists who have been killed by distracted drivers has risen significantly in the past several years — up to 50 percent more in 2010 than in 2005. Read the full story at MedicalDaily.com.

<http://www.medicaldaily.com/distracted-drivers-cause-pedestrian-deaths-rise-50-texting-talking-phone-or-eating-wheel-264077>

Private Toll Road Investors Shift Revenue Risk to States

Companies that build private toll roads are pressing states to assume more financial risk of traffic not meeting expectations, a change that benefits the operators while threatening to increase taxpayer costs. Illinois and Indiana are among states offering set payments instead of the right to keep toll revenue, the standard financing method in the past. A similar approach is being used in Florida to expand highways in Fort Lauderdale and Orlando, and by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey for a bridge to Staten Island. Read the full story at Bloomberg.com.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-11-27/private-toll-road-investors-shift-revenue-risk-to-states.html>

15-cent Increase in Federal Gas Tax Proposed

With Congress facing a major shortfall in transportation funding next year, a House bill introduced Wednesday would raise the federal gas tax by 15 cents per gallon to close the gap. Read the full story in The Washington Post.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/trafficandcommuting/15-cent-increase-in-federal-gas-tax-proposed/2013/12/04/548d6d80-5ce9-11e3-95c2-13623eb2b0e1_story.html

Study: Holiday Season Brings Out The Worst In Drivers

If you have witnessed a case of aggressive driving lately, you are in the majority of drivers surveyed across the country. A new study shows the holiday season is among the worst times for erratic behavior on the highways. Read the full story at Baltimore.CBSLocal.com.

<http://baltimore.cbslocal.com/2013/12/04/study-holiday-season-brings-out-the-worst-in-drivers/>

Did You Know

With the Holidays upon us, and many of us getting ready to pack up and spend the holidays afar with friends and family, we thought you might be interested in some travel facts and statistics.

- Fewer adults are traveling with children. In 2012, 26 percent of domestic leisure travelers traveled with children under the age of 18 (408.5 million trips) compared with 2008, when 31 percent of adults traveled with children (466.2 million trips).
- Driving versus flying. In 2012, 33 percent of domestic business trips included air travel compared to just 11 percent of leisure trips. Nearly eight in ten (79%) leisure trips were by car compared to less than half (48%) of business trips.
- Leisure travelers are older than business travelers.
 - The average age of leisure travelers is 47.5 years old. Mature travelers comprise 36 percent of leisure travel volume (18% are 65+, 18% are 55-64). Nearly two in ten (19%) are 45-55, 17% are 35-44, 20% are 25-34 and 8% are 18-24 years old.
 - The average age for business travelers is 45.9 years old. The majority (26%) are aged 45-54; 20 percent are 55-64; nearly one quarter (24%) are 35-44; 19 percent 25-34 and four percent 18-24 years of age. Only 7 percent are 65+.
- Traveling households earn more than non-traveling households. In 2012, the median household income for domestic leisure travelers was \$62,500. For business travelers, the median household income was \$87,500. This compares to \$52,800 for the general U.S. population.
- Trip planning sources have shifted over the last several years, with social media and mobile devices being used more often. In 2012, nearly one-quarter (23%) of domestic leisure travelers relied on friends and relatives to plan their trips, while three in ten (31%) utilized their own past experiences. One in ten used destination websites, nine percent used traveler provider websites (airline, hotel, rental car, cruise, tours, etc.), five percent used social networking and four percent used a mobile device to help plan their trip.
- Compared to 2009, only two percent used social networking sources and one percent used their mobile device to assist in trip planning. Direct experiences and destination websites were relied on slightly more in 2009 than in 2012.

Want more travel facts and tips? Visit the US Travel Association's Web site at <http://www.ustravel.org/news/press-kit/travel-facts-and-statistics>