

## YEAR-END HOLIDAY VEHICLE TRAVEL EXPECTED TO RISE 2.1%

AAA forecasts that 91.9 million Americans will travel 50 miles or more from home during the year-end holiday travel season — a 1.4-percent increase over the 90.7 million people who traveled a year ago. Roughly 83.6 million people (91 percent of holiday travelers) plan to take to the nation's roadways this travel season. That's up 2.1 percent compared to 2010-'11, when the number of auto travelers totaled 81.9 million. **This year's projected automobile travel volume would be the second highest in the past decade and only 100,000 less than the 2006-'07 auto travel peak of 83.7 million.**

Year-end holiday travel has grown each year since 2008-'09: 89.5 million in 2009-'10; 90.7 million in 2010-'11 and the projected 91.9 million this time around. (AAA defines the year-end holiday travel season as Friday, Dec. 23 to Monday, Jan. 2).

Fifty-nine percent of intending travelers told AAA that they feel the economy has either no impact on their travel plans or they feel like things have improved for them. The remaining 41 percent expressed an intention to scale back travel plans because of economic concerns.

**NEWS BRIEFS . . .** The **Paccar** board of directors has approved the repurchase of an additional \$300 million of its outstanding common stock. The Bellevue, WA-based company is nearing completion of a previously authorized \$300-million share repurchase program. . . . **Federal-Mogul Corp.** has been named the 2011 Vendor of the Year by the **Aftermarket Auto Parts Alliance**. This is the fourth time since 2001. . . . **The Engine Parts Group Inc.** honored five of its top suppliers at its winter shareholders meeting. They are: **the Durabond Bearing Co., Ferrea Racing Components, Hastings Piston Rings, Melling Engine Parts and SA Gear.** . . . **Champion Brands'** synthetic racing oil is now available online from **Speedway Motors**, a distributor and retailer of street rod and racing products, and from **Bryan Snyder's Bryke.com.** . . . **CRP Automotive** (Cranbury, NJ) has expanded its line of **Rein Automotive** anti-vibration and suspension parts with the addition of new OE hydraulic engine mounts.

**PEOPLE WATCHING . . .** **Joe Ward**, owner of **First Call Truck Parts** in Tallahassee, FL, has been appointed to the **Automotive Aftermarket Association Southeast (AAAS)** board of directors. Ward was a member of the former **Florida Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association (FAIA)** and has been an active supporter of AAAS following the merger of FAIA and AAAS. . . . **Dennis Jacinto**, president of the **Lester Catalog Co.**, is the new chairman of **APRA**. For the past four years, Jacinto has served on the APRA executive committee. Before that, he was an active member of the electrical division and served as a member of its board of governors. . . . **Mark Foote**, a former president of **Canadian Tire Retail**, has been appointed president and CEO of **Wajax Corp.**, a Canadian distributor and service support provider of equipment, industrial components and power systems.

**EVENT & TRADE SHOW BRIEFS . . .** The **AASA Technology Council** will hold its annual spring meeting March 30 in Chicago. . . . Registration is open for the 2012 **Car Care Council Women's Board** winter meeting being held Feb. 15, 16 at the Sheraton New Orleans. For more information, visit [www.carcare.org/womens\\_board](http://www.carcare.org/womens_board). . . . The **APRA Heavy Duty Remanufacturing Division (HDRG)** will host its sixth annual **Heavy Duty Remanufacturing Group Summit** on Jan. 23 at the Mirage Hotel in Las Vegas. The event will be held prior to **Heavy Duty Aftermarket Week (HDAW)**. . . . APRA will host its third **European Exhibition** on April 23 in Krakow, Poland. The expo will be followed by a symposium the next day, which will include a presentation on remanufacturing, a panel discussion and open forum.



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