



The Iowa Advisory Council on Automated Transportation is intended to increase roadway safety, personal mobility, and freight movement within the state of Iowa by advancing highly automated vehicle technologies. The Council provides guidance, recommendations, and strategic oversight of automated transportation activities in the state. The structure of the ATC Press Clippings is done to align with the subcommittees and working groups that exist for the Council while aiming to keep the Council and other interested parties informed. Learn more at iowadrivingav.org/

Articles and upcoming events

March 18, 2024

Infrastructure Readiness

'Smart freeway' tech planned to improve traffic flow on 15 Freeway near Temecula – ABC Channel 7

The changes will synchronize the signal lights at the onramps with information provided by sensors analyzing the speed and flow of traffic on the freeway. There will also be signals at one of the onramps that will alert drivers as to when it's allowable to use the shoulder for travel.

How autonomous vehicles will transform mobility – Innovation News Network

A perspective on the role autonomous vehicles might play in the future of mobility in the U.K. Included are the potential societal, economic, and environmental benefits of AVs; the challenges associated with AV development and widespread implementation; how AVs affect existing urban

planning and transport infrastructure;, and the outlook for AVs over the next five to ten years and beyond.

Driving into the future: Michigan's vision for connected and autonomous mobility – Intelligent Transport

Jean Ruestman, Administrator of the Office of Passenger Transportation at the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), spoke with Intelligent Transport's Halimah Haque about the transformative impact of connected and autonomous mobility and its integral role within Michigan's forward-looking transportation strategy. Topics discussed include: key societal and environmental benefits that connected and autonomous mobility can bring to the State of Michigan and beyond, the technical and institutional challenges need to be overcome for the successful implementation of connected vehicles in the U.S., and how is MDOT is addressing these challenges.

How can driverless cars broaden access for people with disabilities? – KXAN

Lauren Schwendimann, Waymo One's head of UX design, told KXAN Tuesday it's also about diversifying local transit systems to incorporate both public, mass transit options in addition to autonomous technology. Waymo met with various organizations and community members to solicit direct feedback on ways to better adapt the technology to be as accessible as possible to individuals with disabilities.

CDOT using new technology to control traffic speeds on I-70 – 9 News

CDOT will be turning on 26 variable speed limit signs along a 10 mile stretch on I-70 East between Georgetown and Idaho Springs this week. The speed limit signs will adjust the speed limits automatically based on congestion, traffic conditions, and bad weather. Colorado has similar signs already in use in Glenwood Canyon.

Policy & Legislation

A California bill could require robotaxi companies to report collisions and other data or risk fines – The Hill

The new bill, proposed in the state Legislature, would double down on data reporting requirements for the companies by forcing them to not only report when their vehicles collide with another vehicle or object, but also report

whenever their actions have to be manually overridden due to safety. The companies are already required to report the data during testing operations but not during regular use.

US reviewing security of connected vehicles, including trucks – Trucking Dive

The Commerce Department is gathering input for a potential regulation on connected vehicles and whether wireless technology sourced from foreign entities presents a national security risk. In an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking earlier this month, the department's Bureau of Industry and Security asked stakeholders whether its definition of connected vehicles was broad enough to cover autonomous and electric vehicles. The definition could eventually lead to possible restrictions on certain foreign products and manufacturers from the U.S. Comments are due by April 30.

Saving Lives with Connectivity – Vehicle-to-Everything National Deployment Plan: A Perspective from the Intelligent Transportation Systems Joint Program Office Director Brian Cronin - Intelligent Transportation Systems Joint Program Office

The potential benefits of vehicle-to-everything (V2X) communications are highlighted. U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) is currently reviewing public comments that have been submitted in response to the National V2X Deployment Plan, which was released in draft form in October 2023.

Economic Development

Self-driving buses? Not a chance, drivers say – Axios

The Transport Workers Union's new collective bargaining agreement with the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) includes first-of-its-kind language requiring the union's consent to implement any form of autonomous transportation. If such technology is deployed, a qualified union operator must be aboard. The contract also says bus operators and mechanics cannot be laid off or have their wages reduced because of new or modified technology. Union leaders aim to negotiate similar protections in upcoming contract talks with transit agencies in other cities, including San Francisco, Philadelphia and Houston.

Aurora's driverless trucks show they are for real (video included) – Freight Waves

About 30 Wall Street analysts attended Aurora Investor Day on Thursday morning,. They climbed in and out of two trucks for their own ride of a lifetime. Aurora executives said the financial community is an important audience it needs to convince of the viability of autonomous trucking. The truck navigated aggressive cut-ins by other vehicles; a trash can and a tire littering the roadway; a pickup truck losing a mattress from its cargo bed in front of the truck; and a pseudo-pedestrian along the side of the road. The show-and-tell ended with the truck striking a spike strip and blowing a tire. It stayed in control, pulling over to wait for help.

Waymo to start offering free driverless robotaxi services in Los Angeles - Yahoo Finance

Alphabet's Waymo said on Wednesday it will begin offering free driverless robotaxi services to select members of the public in Los Angeles starting Thursday. The company said services will be available across 63 square miles from Santa Monica to downtown Los Angeles, adding that the initial rides will be free.

The next steps for our robotaxi in Las Vegas, Foster City and beyond – Zook

Zook has expanded their Las Vegas geofence which is the virtual boundary they can operate their purpose-built vehicles in. This geofence spans approximately five miles from their Las Vegas headquarters to the south end of the Strip along multiple routes. It's larger and more complicated, with three-lane roads, required lane changes, unprotected right turns onto high-speed roadways, and double-right and left-hand turn lanes. Driving in these larger areas exposes their robotaxis to the busiest conditions they've ever encountered and provides invaluable data and learnings as we continue to scale.

Public Safety & Enforcement

After Crash, Orlando's Self-Driving Bus Back on the Road – Government Technology

The shuttle, which operated in downtown, was taken out of service after a crash Nov. 4. A review determined human error prompted it to move into the

path of another bus. Test runs restarted Tuesday. Following this crash, Beep retrained all of its attendants and also decided to add a second one to each shuttle; allowing one person to focus on the road, and the other to talk to riders and collect feedback. The pilot cost about \$500,000 to run.

[First partial driving automation safeguard ratings show industry has work to do](#) – Yahoo Finance

The new IIHS ratings aim to encourage safeguards that can help reduce intentional misuse and prolonged attention lapses as well as to discourage certain design characteristics that increase risk in other ways — such as systems that can be operated when automatic emergency braking (AEB) is turned off or seat belts are unbuckled. Only one of 14 partial driving automation systems evaluated earns an acceptable rating for its safeguards designed to prevent misuse and lapses of attention. The rating requirements and the ratings of each category and system tested are provided.

[What do robotaxis see when a human crosses in front of them? This Waymo video shows you.](#) – Business Insider

As its robotaxis arrive on the streets of Austin, Texas, Waymo's chief product officer shared a video showcasing how the driverless vehicles see pedestrians. The video shows the perspective of a Waymo vehicle driving in various scenarios including driving through a city at night, and pedestrian-packed side streets.

[Tesla Full Self-Driving Fails Real-World Driving Test with Professional Driving Instructor](#) (video included) – Globe Newswire

Tesla Full Self-Driving (FSD) failed to pass a DMV driving test administered by a professional driving instructor, new tests conducted by The Dawn Project have revealed.

Research, Development, Testing & Evaluation

[AAA: Fear of Self-Driving Cars Persists as Industry Faces an Uncertain Future](#) – AAA Newsroom

According to AAA's latest survey on autonomous vehicles, most U.S. drivers either express fear (66%) or uncertainty (25%) about fully self-driving vehicles – a fear that has not decreased since spiking last year. However,

interest in semi-autonomous technologies such as Reverse Automatic Emergency Braking (AEB) and Lane Keeping Assistance remains high. The results infer that to alleviate concerns, the industry should continue to advance vehicle technologies reasonably and with overall consistency in performance.

Automated Shuttles and Buses for All Users: Final Report – Safety through Disruption (Safe-D) University Transportation Center (UTC)

This research project focused on ensuring that individuals with disabilities have equal and safe access to automated shuttles and buses to improve their mobility. Guidelines for enhancing automated shuttles for individuals with mobility and visual impairments were developed.

Biden-Harris Administration Announces Investments in Innovative Transportation Technology Projects - U.S. Department of Transportation

U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg announced more than \$50 million in grant awards for 34 technology demonstration projects across the country through the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program. The competitive grant program, established by President Biden's historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, provides \$500 million over five years for State, local, and Tribal governments to leverage advances in technology to create safer, more efficient, and more innovative transportation systems. The projects announced today are a part of the President's Investing in America agenda and encompass locations across 22 states, including Iowa, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. For the full list: [SMART Grants Program Awards](#)

NCHRP Research Report 1084: Connected and Autonomous Vehicle Technology: Determining the Impact on State DOT Maintenance Programs - National Cooperative Highway Research Program

Provides an overview into how the implementation of CAV technology will likely impact the state of practice for maintenance programs within state DOTs. Traffic control devices, markings, signals, guardrail, computing systems, communications infrastructure, and other permanent and temporary devices will likely each be affected by the operation of connected and autonomous vehicle (CAV) technology. State departments of transportation (DOTs) need to identify gaps in knowledge and skills and prepare for the challenges of CAV implementation while maintaining the existing roadway system at an acceptable level of service.

 **Upcoming Events**

Iowa Advisory Council on Automated Transportation Meeting (In-person)
Thursday, April 18 from 10 am - 12 pm, Des Moines Area Community College