



*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/](http://iowadrivingav.org/)*

## Articles and upcoming events April 29, 2024

### Infrastructure Readiness

#### Fort Worth sole Texas city to receive \$2 million grant funding – Fort Worth Texas News

*The project will pilot low altitude weather sensors of freight routes used by AVs. Microclimate sensors that may offer a solution by providing precise, real-time localized weather data, enabling AVs to adapt to varying weather conditions and make informed decisions to enhance operational safety and reliability.*

#### I-5 Truck Parking Information Management System – Washington Transportation Commission

*PowerPoint slides highlighting how the Washington DOT, Caltrans, and the Oregon DOT are working on a project together to provide truck drivers with real-time parking availability along the I-5 corridor. Topics covered include how the technology works, the multi-state coordination, project costs & benefits, and current & future activities.*

## HDOT Launches Autonomous Electric Shuttle at Daniel K. Inouye International Airport (HNL) – Hawaii DOT

*During the 18-month pilot project, HDOT and its partners will evaluate ways to increase overall efficiency of the intra-airport transportation service. The electric shuttles, services and software supplied by Beep, Inc. can accommodate up to 10 passengers and are ADA compliant. They will be driven autonomously, travelling at 10 mph or less. A shuttle attendant will be on board at all times to serve as ambassador for the new shuttle pilot project and to educate riders on how the shuttle operates and the service offered at HNL. The attendant can take over manual control of the shuttle at any time by utilizing a controller on board.*

## MASSDRIVE: A pioneering network for safe self-driving cars in the UK – University of Surrey

*The MASSDRIVE (Methods for Assurance of Self-Driving Vehicles) project has been funded by Innovate UK to help the country and industry develop robust methods of approving and certifying self-driving cars as they become available. MASSDRIVE brings together industry, scientists, regulators and the public.*

## What to Know Before Launching an Automated Vehicle Pilot – Kimberly Horn

*Rundown on the basics of vehicle automation, the value of deployments, considerations before deployment, and processes for capturing the outcomes. Before launching an AV pilot, you should identify its foundational pieces: the goal of the pilot, the location, partnerships, and funding. After verifying these, agencies will need to tackle other factors, such as considering the riders' needs, the layout of the area, and how the space will influence the AV operations.*

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## **Policy & Legislation**

### Senate Democrats urge crackdown on autonomous vehicles and driver assist – The Verge

*Two Senate Democrats are calling for increased scrutiny of autonomous vehicles and advanced driver-assist systems (ADAS) like Tesla's Autopilot. They urge NHTSA to use its recall authority to prohibit some driver-assist features from being used on certain roads.*

### Kentucky lawmakers override veto of autonomous vehicle legislation – Commercial Carrier Journal

*Lawmakers overrode the Kentucky Governor's veto, allowing [House Bill 7](#) to become law which clears a regulatory path for fully autonomous vehicles without a human driver to operate. The bill requires a testing period with a driver to be present for trucks with a declared gross weight and any towed unit over 62,000 pounds through July 31, 2026.*

### [Bills aimed at closing traffic ticket loophole for driverless cars get initial green light – NBC Bay Area](#)

*A pair of AV bills cleared major hurdles in the California legislature this week. [Assembly Bill-1777](#) seeks to standardize communication between driverless car companies and emergency responders. [Senate Bill-915](#) aims to add additional oversight by giving California's more than 400 cities the power to write their own individual regulations relating to driverless cars.*

### [Legislators Tackle AV, School Zone Safety – Street Blogs - California](#)

*The California Assembly Transportation Committee passed two AV related bills. [Assembly Bill-2286](#), would require a human driver to be present in big rigs that are testing autonomous technology, until such point that the legislature decides certain safety benchmarks are met. [Assembly Bill-3061](#) would update reporting requirements for collisions, traffic violations, and disengagements involving autonomous vehicles, and bring state requirements in line with federal NHSTA rules. It would also require the information to be made available to the public.*

### [British Columbia Bans All Cars Equipped With Level 3 Driving Assists – Motor 1](#)

*The updated rule prohibits the operation of vehicles with Level 3, 4, or 5 automated systems. At this stage, nothing is available for public use beyond Level 3. Even then, there are only two vehicles with Level 3 capability you can buy. In a statement regarding the rule changes, officials call it a "new and emerging transportation technology" that needs further testing and policy adjustments before widespread use.*

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## **Economic Development**

### [FEATURE: Behind the wheel of an Inceptio autonomous truck on a 900km haul through eastern China – ADAS & Autonomous Vehicle International](#)

*Deppon began trial operations of Inceptio's technology in September 2021. This particular case study follows a recent trip in February, and shows how Inceptio's technology helped a single driver complete a nearly 13-hour run from Shanghai through rain, fog and strong winds.*

## Walmart rolls out autonomous forklifts – Chain Store Age

*Walmart is rolling out the self-driving forklifts developed by Fox Robotics, with the potential for further deployment as it evaluates the benefits. Trucks arrive at a Walmart distribution center for unloading, and using AI-powered machine vision and dynamic planning, the forklifts safely and accurately unload pallets and ferry them to be inducted into the automated storage and retrieval system, which catalogues and stores Walmart's goods. Instead of unloading the pallets manually, associates become conductors to unload trailers.*

## Opinion: Take it from a trucker: autonomous trucks will be good for drivers – Orange County Register

*A Kodiak Robotics safety driver shares how his experience has given him a deeper understanding of how this technology works and how he thinks it may impact the lives of truck drivers across the country. He is deeply passionate about how it will both save lives and help supplement, not replace, truck drivers.*

## Tesla unveils more details about driverless ride-hailing service – IOT News

*The new service will operate similarly to a hybrid model combining elements of Airbnb and Uber. Under this scheme, Tesla will manage the majority of their fleet, but individual car owners would also have control over whether or not they choose to participate in the program. The service will offer car owners additional revenue streams by allowing them to monetise their vehicles when they aren't in use—with the company taking a percentage of the profits and passing on the rest to the vehicle owner. Full details to be revealed in August.*

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## **Public Safety & Enforcement**

### 6 Waymo robotaxis block traffic to San Francisco freeway on-ramp – Tech Crunch

*After encountering a road closure, a Waymo robotaxi pulled over out of the traffic lane that was blocked by cones. Six additional Waymo robotaxis and other human-driven cars followed, causing a traffic backup. Waymo's roadside assistance team was dispatched to help clear the vehicles and all lanes were clear within 30 minutes. Two videos: one shows the line of vehicles, another shows drivers moving cones so they could pass both the road closure.*

### Tesla driver admits he was using Autopilot before fatal accident – Cyber News

*A Tesla driver who had Autopilot engaged was “distracted” by his phone before reportedly hitting and killing a motorcyclist on Washington Highway. The driver was arrested by the Washington State Patrol under suspicion of vehicular manslaughter due to “inattention to driving, while in Autopilot mode and the distraction of the cell phone while moving forward.” The incident is still under investigation.*

Exclusive: Mercedes becomes the first automaker to sell autonomous cars in the U.S. that don't come with a requirement that drivers watch the road – Yahoo Finance

*Mercedes's technology, called "Drive Pilot", can be activated by the driver when certain conditions are met, including in heavy traffic jams, during the daytime, on specific California and Nevada freeways, and when the car is traveling less than 40 mph. When activated, drivers can focus on other activities until the vehicle alerts them to resume control. The technology does not work on roads that haven't been pre-approved by Mercedes. The cars have turquoise lights on its rear-view mirrors, headlights, and taillights to inform law enforcement and other drivers of when the car is operating autonomously. Currently, CA and NV are the only US states where the company can legally sell this SAE Level-3 technology.*

US Probes Tesla Recall of 2 Million Vehicles Over Autopilot, Citing Concerns – Insurance Journal

*NHTSA has opened an investigation into whether Tesla's recall of more than 2 million vehicles announced in December to install new Autopilot safeguards is adequate.*

Young pedestrians, self-driving vehicles: What's the safest scenario for crossing the road? – Iowa Now - The University of Iowa

*University of Iowa researchers investigated how pre-teenage children determined when it was safe to cross a residential street with oncoming self-driving cars. They found children made the safest choices when self-driving cars indicated via a green light on top of the vehicle that it was safe to cross when the vehicle arrived at the intersection, then stopped. When self-driving cars turned on the green light farther away from the crossing point—and even when they slowed down—children engaged in riskier intersection crossings.*

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## **Research, Development, Testing & Evaluation**

Robotaxi company Waymo tests self-driving car technology in Atlanta – The Atlanta Journal Constitution

*A few vehicles equipped with the Waymo Driver autonomous driving system will begin testing in Atlanta. Vehicles will be driven manually at first, before moving to autonomous testing with a human driver behind the wheel. They will be driving in various neighborhoods at all hours of the day, but the testing fleets are “limited and closed to the public.” According to the Georgia DOT, there is no rule or law that mandates that Waymo tell the state when or where they are testing.*

### Look, no hands! My trip on Seoul's self-driving bus – BBC

*Smart YoUr Mobility (SUM) has spent the past four years developing the city's new self-driving night bus. The route travels through the city center and then into the capital's more dimly-lit residential neighborhoods - stopping about 20 times on the way. A safety driver is always available to take manual control of the bus. Passengers are required to wear a seatbelt. South Korean authorities are planning to invest more than \$1bn (£810m) in projects to develop autonomous driving technologies and build related infrastructure by 2027.*

### Waymo riders most frequently travel to these areas of San Francisco: data – Teslarati

*Data shows that Waymo robotaxis carried over 530,000 passengers around San Francisco, most frequently bringing passengers to job centers like the Financial District, event hubs like the Chase Center, and other areas—especially those with difficult parking situations. Many of the passengers utilizing Waymo are “power riders” who use the service on an almost daily basis for their work commute, while Friday and Saturday nights remain popular riding nights. In addition, some riders prefer the “private environment” offered by Waymo’s robotaxis for trips to and from medical appointments.*

### Enhancing Road Traffic Safety Through the Synchronization of Self-Driving Vehicles – University of Florida Transportation Institute

*A research team at the University of Florida’s Department of Civil and Coastal Engineering at the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering has developed two control algorithms which show great potential in synchronizing the movements of two self-driving vehicles to form a short platoon, and then sequentially growing the platoon size as more CAVs join in and the traffic condition permits. Potential benefits include improving fuel efficiency by forming a platoon and reducing congestion on highways through the optimal synchronization of speeds and movements. Cooperative trajectory control for synchronizing the movement of two connected and autonomous vehicles separated in a mixed traffic flow (Transportation Research Board Part B: Methodological, Vol. 174, 2023)*

### ADAS & Autonomous Vehicle International - April 2024 – ADAS & Autonomous Vehicle International

*April issue highlights ADAS testing and conferences in Europe, Autonomous racing, radar is competing with LiDAR, ADAS education, and autonomous interaction with human behavior.*

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## **Upcoming Events**

### [PAVE Europe Virtual Panel “Autonomous Mobility and AI: Building Trust Beyond the Hype”](#)

*Partners for Automated Vehicle Education: Europe*  
Monday, April 29  
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

**Presenters:**

Margriet van Schijndel – de Nooij – Eindhoven University of Technology  
Hendrik Reese – Trustworthy AI PwC

### [Autonomous Vehicle & Advanced Driver Assistance Systems – Safety Perspectives from Industry Experts](#)

*Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine - Autonomous Vehicle Special Interest Group*  
Thursday, May 23  
1:00 - 2:15

**Presenters:**

Kristofer Kusano – Waymo  
Shane McLaughlin – TORC Robotics, Inc  
Offer Grembek – Zoox  
Katie Stevens - Nuro

## **Recent Events**

ATC Council Meeting (meeting summary coming soon)  
*Iowa Advisory Council on Automated Transportation*  
Thursday, April 18