



*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

June 24, 2024

### Infrastructure Readiness

#### Detroit Autonomous Delivery Pilot Will Begin With Food Waste – Government Technology

*The Autonomous Robotic Pickup Platform, a project set to launch in Detroit's Transportation Innovation Zone, will begin by testing small sidewalk delivery bots to collect food waste for compost. This pilot project in the historic district will partner autonomous sidewalk bots with a composting startup and an urban farm to test new uses for self-operating vehicle technology. The initiative received a grant from the Michigan Mobility Funding Platform*

#### Driverless Car App Service Vay Expanding across Las Vegas – Las Vegas Weekly

*Initially operating in the University District since January, Vay's service allows remote drivers to send electric vehicles to customers who then drive themselves to their destinations. The expansion includes areas like the Strip, Chinatown, and the*

*College of Southern Nevada West Charleston campus. This move aims to provide more convenient and affordable mobility solutions while addressing urban transportation challenges such as parking and congestion.*

### USDOT Awards Nearly \$60 Million in Advanced Vehicle Technology Grants to Arizona, Texas and Utah to Serve as National Models and Help Save Lives on Our Nation's Roadways – FHWA

*The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) announced that it is awarding \$60 million in grants under the Saving Lives with Connectivity: Accelerating V2X Deployment program to advance connected and interoperable vehicle technologies. The grant recipients from Arizona, Texas and Utah will serve as national models to accelerate and spur new deployments of vehicle-to-everything (V2X) technologies.*

### Lidar comes to Peachtree Corners in another smart city project – Fierce Electronics

*The latest safety and efficiency innovation is advanced lidar being installed on poles at city intersections with technology from Seyond in a collaboration with the city and its Curiosity Lab innovation center. The lidar allows for real-time 3D mapping which can enhance safety for vehicle and pedestrians, improve traffic efficiency. Lidar technology is vital for the development and operation of AVs.*

### To build better roads and keep highway workers safe, Minnesota looks to autonomous technology – University of Minnesota

*In Minnesota, two projects are being initiated with a focus on autonomous technology to enhance road conditions and safeguard highway workers. The first employs robots to conduct pavement density tests. The second is centered on the development of autonomous trucks fitted with mounted attenuators, aimed at protecting highway workers in temporary work zones.*

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## **Policy & Legislation**

### Los Angeles City Council votes to monitor driverless vehicles – CBS News

*Council members approved recommendations to monitor and address issues with autonomous vehicles in the city. The council also backed three bills in the state Legislature aimed at providing municipalities more power to regulate AVs, and to gain access to testing data.*

## Proposed Law Allowing California Cities To Regulate GM's Cruise AVs Implodes – *The Mercury News*

*A proposed California law that would have allowed cities to regulate and fine robotaxis has been withdrawn. The bill faced opposition from a business group representing companies like Waymo and Cruise. Critics argued that local control could lead to fragmented regulations and hinder the operation of autonomous vehicles.*

## Multistate Coordination and Harmonization of AV Legislation (NCHRP LRD 91) – *TRB's National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP)*

*NCHRP LRD91 provides guidance for multistate coordination and harmonization for AV legislation for Levels 3 through 5 vehicles. It also presents the legal issues and barriers to national harmonization of state AV laws and addresses the federal government's role in AV legislation concerning deployment and the operation of a vehicle on public roads by members of the public who are not employees, contractors, or designees of a manufacturer or other testing entity.*

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## **Economic Development**

### Inside May Mobility's Detroit AV Deployment – *METRO Magazine*

*The “Accessibili-D” service aims to improve the quality of life for Detroiters who live with disabilities or are age 65 and older. The service will be available to select residents of Detroit starting June 20 and extending through 2026. May Mobility will deploy three AVs, including two wheelchair-accessible vehicles, to help participants achieve greater access to healthcare facilities, shopping centers, jobs, and social and recreational activities.*

### CEO says Ford is ‘getting close’ to Level 3 autonomous driving that enables ‘hands and eyes off’ – *Electrek*

*In a recent interview, Ford CEO Jim Farley discussed the American automaker's progress in autonomous driving, stating that it has achieved Level 3, which allows drivers to take their hands off the wheel and eyes off the road. However, it'll still be a while before Ford customers get to test it out..*

### A Nvidia-backed self-driving truck startup says its AI-powered cars will hit the roads next year – *Quartz*

*Waabi is one of just a handful of autonomous vehicle companies that have taken an AI-first approach to tackling self-driving vehicles, relying on a generative AI model*

*to predict how vehicles move. Waabi looks to launch fully driverless autonomous trucks in Texas by 2025.*

### EasyMile introduces driverless terminal tractor at Port of Helsingborg – ADAS & Autonomous Vehicle International

*EasyMile, a provider of AV technology, has deployed its EZTug driverless terminal tractor at the Port of Helsingborg in Sweden to test the feasibility and effectiveness of autonomous solutions for container transportation.*

### Plus releases PlusProtect AI safety technology – Fleet Equipment

*Plus has unveiled PlusProtect, an AI-driven safety technology aimed at advancing next-generation vehicle safety systems. This technology boasts features such as high-performance automatic emergency braking (AEB), lane departure warnings, traffic jam assist, and predictive fuel optimization. Utilizing cameras, radar, and AI software, PlusProtect can detect objects up to 650 feet ahead, enhancing situational awareness by monitoring both the vehicle's lane and adjacent lanes.*

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## **Public Safety & Enforcement**

### FleetWatcher to Use Paver Data to Track Work Zones, Improve Safety – For Construction Pros

*FleetWatcher has developed an app in partnership with the Work Zone Data eXchange to enhance safety for road construction teams. The app uses data from pavers to alert drivers using popular navigation systems like Waze and Google Maps about upcoming work zones and reduced speed limits.*

### Cruise Fined \$112,500 for Self-Driving Taxi Accident Response – IOT World Today

*Cruise has been ordered to pay \$112,500 by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for its response to last year's October incident involving one of its self-driving taxis in which a pedestrian was injured. Cruise was specifically criticized by the regulatory body for its failure to swiftly provide video of the incident*

### Tesla in 'self-drive' mode crashes into police vehicle in California – Fox 5

*A Tesla in "self-drive" mode crashed into a Fullerton police vehicle that was managing traffic at the scene of a fatal accident. The Tesla driver admitted to using the self-drive mode while on his cell phone, which is a violation of California law. The officer was able to move out of the way, avoiding injury.*

## BCU researchers use VR to design safer driverless cars for VRUs – ADAS & Autonomous Vehicle International

*Birmingham City University (BCU) researchers are using virtual reality (VR) technology to design AVs that prioritize the safety of deaf and hard of hearing pedestrians. This project aims to address the gap in current external human-machine interface (eHMI) designs, which often overlook the needs of individuals with disabilities.*

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

### Beep deploys autonomous shuttles at Honolulu airport with partners – The Robot Report

*Beep's senior VP of Operations was interviewed about Beep's 18-month pilot program for autonomous shuttles at Daniel K. Inouye International Airport in Honolulu. This initiative, in partnership with the Hawai'i Department of Transportation and Sustainability Partners, aims to enhance passenger mobility and sustainability. The pilot features the Miki shuttles, which are electric and autonomous, providing safe and efficient transport between airport gates.*

### Generative AI could power the next wave of self-driving cars – Axios

*Traditional methods of autonomous vehicle (AV) development, which involve extensive data collection and programming, are proving too slow and costly. Generative AI offers a more efficient approach by enabling self-learning systems that can reason like humans and make quick decisions in novel situations.*

### UA looks to introduce autonomous transit buses to campus – ABC 3340

*The University of Alabama received a \$3 million grant from the Federal Transit Administration and the U.S. Department of Transportation to develop autonomous transit buses for its campus. These buses will feature advanced driver assistance systems, including pedestrian awareness, lane keeping, traffic light communication, and automatic brake and throttle activation. The project aims to improve safety and reduce the cognitive load on drivers. The buses are expected to be operational by mid-2025.*

### Self-Driving Cars Safer Than Humans Except in Turns, Study Finds – IOT World Today

*In a recent study conducted at the University of Florida found that AVs are generally safer than those driven by human driver except in certain scenarios. Two of the*

*most common that present problems for AVs are when performing turns and in low-light conditions. Research Report: [A matched case-control analysis of autonomous vs human-driven vehicle accidents](#)*

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## **Upcoming Events**

### Elevating Truck Safety: The Rise of ADAS Technology

*Transport Topics' Newsmakers*

Tuesday, June 25

1:00 p.m.

**Presenter:**

Jeff Loftus – FMCSA

### Evolution of User Trust in Autonomous Vehicles and Characteristics of Disengagements

*Safety Research Using Simulation (SAFER-SIM), University of Iowa*

Tuesday, June 25

3:00 p.m.

**Presenter:**

Andrew McFadden – University of Wisconsin-Madison

### PAVE Europe Virtual Panel “Understanding and Pricing AV Deployment Risk”

*Partners for Automated Vehicle Education (PAVE): Europe*

Wednesday, June 26

8:00 a.m.

**Presenters:**

Andy Gill – SIMULYTIC a Siemens AG venture

Stefano Lassa – SCOR

Rebecca Marsden – Oxa

Hans Fridberg – Holo

### Can Augmented Reality Help Pedestrians Safely Cross Multiple Lanes of Traffic?

*Safety Research Using Simulation (SAFER-SIM), University of Iowa*

Thursday, June 27

3:00 p.m.

**Presenter:**

Joe Kearney – University of Iowa

Virtual Reality Simulation to Evaluate Drivers' Mental Models of Advanced Vehicle Technologies

*Safety Research Using Simulation (SAFER-SIM), University of Iowa*

Tuesday, July 9

3:00 p.m.

**Presenter:**

Anuj Pradhan – University of Massachusetts-Amherst

Attention and Adaptation of Teen Drivers to Driving Automation Systems

*Safety Research Using Simulation (SAFER-SIM), University of Iowa*

Thursday, July 11

3:00 p.m.

**Presenter:**

Dr. Shannon Roberts – University of Massachusetts-Amherst