IOWA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AUTOMATED TRANSPORTATION


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

**Articles and upcoming events**
**October 14, 2024**

## 🧱 Infrastructure Readiness

Crash course? Dubuque's new traffic-management system studying driver habits – *Telegraph Herald*

> *Dubuque's new AI-driven traffic system, STREETS, aims to improve traffic flow by managing intersections and suggesting alternate routes. Currently gathering data, it will go live in spring, initially covering 40 intersections on the West End. Future phases will expand to downtown and surrounding areas, eventually integrating autonomous vehicles and direct communication with drivers.*

City's driverless bus project delayed – *BBC*

> *The launch of Sunderland's driverless bus project has been delayed until 2025. Originally set to start in May, the project was postponed due to extended timelines, which is common in large, innovative projects. The buses will transport people between the city's transport interchange and hospital.*

Autonomous Shuttles to Connect Birmingham's NEC – *Future Transport News*

> *A self-driving shuttle service will launch in Solihull, connecting Birmingham International rail station, the NEC, and Birmingham Business Park. Part of the Solihull & Coventry Automated Links Evolution (SCALE) project, it will use three electric autonomous shuttles, each carrying up to 20 passengers and navigating with cameras and sensors, with a human operator on board for safety.*

Four key challenges for autonomous public transport in smart cities – *RCR Wireless News*

> *A report by IDTechEx, a UK technology research group, identifies four key challenges for autonomous public transport in smart cities: the complexity of urban transport systems, proving commercial viability, gaining public trust, and securing government support. Extensive testing and government backing are essential for integrating autonomous buses and robo-shuttles into urban environment.*

Real-time replication of real-world traffic conditions in cyber space using Smart Mobility Digital Twin – *EE News Europe*

> *The article discusses the development of a Smart Mobility Digital Twin, which is a real-time digital replication of real-world traffic conditions designed to enhance hybrid, autonomous, and remote driving by simulating various scenarios to improve safety, efficiency, and the overall driving experience.*

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## 📋 Policy & Legislation

Driverless cars can't get traffic tickets in CA, but new law offers compromise – *NBC Bay Area*

> *California's new law allows law enforcement to issue "notices of noncompliance" to driverless car companies, closing a loophole that prevented these vehicles from receiving traffic tickets. This aims to increase accountability and ensure safer interactions with emergency responders.*

Expert Proposes Driver's Test for Autonomous Vehicles – *Transport Topics*

> *A leading expert is urging the federal government to develop a national driver's test for AVs to ensure they meet minimum safety standards before operating on public roads. This proposal comes amid growing concerns about the safety of*

*self-driving cars, which currently rely on self-certification by manufacturers. The expert believes that a standardized test would enhance public confidence and ensure autonomous vehicles can handle various traffic situations.*

Autonomous vehicles could render personal auto insurance obsolete by 2044, new report finds – *CBT News*

*A new report from Morningstar suggests that AVs could make personal auto insurance largely obsolete by 2044. As self-driving cars become more prevalent, liability is expected to shift from drivers to manufacturers, transitioning insurance needs to product liability. The report outlines various adoption scenarios, with the most aggressive predicting significant changes within 20 years. Report*

Government report examines opportunities and challenges for automated vehicles on UK roads – *RCR Wireless News*

*A recent government report examines the opportunities and challenges for AVs on UK roads. With the Automated Vehicles Act 2024 now in effect, the report highlights the potential for reducing road accidents, as 88% of crashes involve human error. The report also discusses the uncertainties and challenges that need to be addressed as AV technology progresses. Report*

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## 💵 Economic Development

Tesla's robotaxi event was long on Musk promises. Investors wanted more details. – *Reuters*

*At Tesla's recent robotaxi event, CEO Elon Musk unveiled the "Cybercab" and a robovan, promising fully autonomous operation by 2026 at a price below $30,000. Despite the exciting announcements, investors were disappointed by the lack of concrete details on Tesla's transition to an autonomous driving and AI-focused business model. Tesla's stock fell 5% following the event, as investors sought more clarity on the company's plans.*

Advancing Transportation Safety and Workforce Development in Emerging Technologies – *Final Research Report - Richard Saxton*

*The project provided valuable training in three areas: Advanced Driver Assist Systems for transportation technicians, EV accident concerns for public safety workers, and EV repair and diagnosis for entry-level technicians. All training was well received, and the college plans to expand these opportunities.*

Houston Food Bank to use Cruise autonomous vehicles to make deliveries to expectant moms – *Cruise*

> *Cruise is partnering with the Houston Food Bank to use AVs for delivering food to new and expectant mothers facing food insecurity. The pilot program will deploy Chevy Bolt EV-based AVs with safety drivers to make 180 deliveries, providing 6,000 meals. This initiative aims to leverage technology to address food insecurity in the Houston area.*

New infrared camera aims to enhance safety in autonomous driving – *Tech Xplore*

> *Fraunhofer IOF has developed a new infrared camera to enhance autonomous driving safety. Operating in the 8 to 14 micrometer range, it detects thermal radiation from humans, identifying pedestrians and cyclists even in poor visibility. This camera complements existing systems like LIDAR and RADAR, is cost-effective, and has a compact design suitable for various applications.*

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## 🦺 Public Safety & Enforcement

Fewer drivers are opting out of lane departure prevention – *Insurance Institute of Highway Safety (IIHS)*

> *A recent IIHS study shows that nearly 90% of drivers now keep their lane departure warning and prevention systems activated, up from 51% eight years ago. This increase indicates growing awareness of the safety benefits and improved user-friendliness of these technologies.*

Gatik Paves the Way for Safe Driverless Operations ('Freight-Only') at Scale with Industry-First Third-Party Safety Assessment Framework – *Gatik*

> *Gatik AI has announced an industry-first third-party safety assessment framework for its Freight-Only autonomous operations. This initiative involves comprehensive safety evaluations by Edge Case Research and TÜV SÜD to ensure the highest safety standards. The assessment will cover Gatik's entire autonomous ecosystem, aiming to set a new benchmark for safety in autonomous trucking.*

Uber and Lyft drivers use Teslas as makeshift robotaxis, raising safety concerns – *Reuters*

*Some Uber and Lyft drivers are using Tesla vehicles are leveraging Tesla's Autopilot and Full Self-Driving features to operate their vehicles with minimal human intervention. Experts and regulators are worried about the safety implications, as these systems are not yet fully autonomous and require driver supervision.*

GM is working on an eyes-off, hands-off driving system – *Tech Crunch*

*GM is developing an advanced driving system which builds on GM's existing Super Cruise technology. The new system aims to enable drivers to take their eyes off the road while driving on highways at reduced speeds. Unlike fully autonomous vehicles, drivers will still need to be ready to take control if necessary.*

Are taxis safer with no driver? These women think so. – *NBC News*

*A growing number of women in cities like San Francisco are opting for autonomous taxis over traditional ride-hailing services like Uber and Lyft to avoid safety concerns associated with human drivers. These women appreciate the absence of a human driver, which eliminates the risk of inappropriate behavior and enhances their sense of security.*

Honda autonomous system to allow car drivers to take eyes off road – *The Mainichi*

*Honda plans to launch a level 3 autonomous driving system in its new Honda 0 EV series by 2026, allowing drivers to take their eyes off the road, especially on expressways. This system uses AI to learn from experienced drivers. Honda's 2021 Legend sedan was the first level-3 vehicle but was limited to heavy traffic. This initiative is part of Honda's strategy to compete with Tesla and BYD, aiming to sell only EVs or fuel-cell vehicles globally by 2040.*

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## 🔬 Research, Development, Testing & Evaluation

PARTS: Market Penetration of Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) – *Partnership for Analytics Research in Traffic Safety (PARTS)*

*The report provides an in-depth analysis of the adoption rates of various ADAS features in the U.S. market. As of the 2023 model year, penetration rates for various ADAS features range between 22% and 94%, with most features surpassing 50% market penetration.*

[Autonomous vehicles are here but the public is divided on whether they trust them] – *CNBC*

> *Despite the increasing presence of AVs on American streets, public trust remains low. A Pew Research Center survey found that nearly two-thirds of Americans are hesitant to ride in driverless cars. High-profile accidents and unfamiliarity with the technology contribute to this reluctance.*

[The Northeast's first self-driving car test track and research facility planned for UConn] – *CT Insider*

> *UConn and Promesa Capital are planning a $15 million "smart city" and research facility at UConn's Depot Campus. This facility will include the Northeast's first AV test track. The project aims to test and develop technologies like self-driving cars, smart traffic signals, and hydrogen refueling.*

[Self-driving vehicles can be imperfect] – *Inceptive Mind*

> *Research from the University of Virginia reveals that self-driving vehicles can be imperfect due to AI making incorrect decisions or delayed responses, leading to safety shutdowns. Funded by the National Science Foundation, the study aims to identify and mitigate faults such as transient hardware issues, network problems, and software errors to improve the reliability of autonomous systems.*

[World's first open online platform gives public a voice in safety of automated vehicles] – *Highways News*

> *WMG at the University of Warwick has launched Safety Pool™ Studio, the world's first online platform that allows the public to influence the safety of automated vehicles. This platform enables users to create driving scenarios based on their real-life experiences, aiming to make the development of automated vehicle safety more inclusive and reflective of real-world conditions.*

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## Upcoming Events

[Spotlight on Pedestrian Safety: Can Thermal Cameras Improve ADAS?]
*Partnership for Automated Vehicle Education (PAVE)*
Wednesday, October 16
1:00 p.m.

**Presenters:**
Mike Walters - Teledyne FLIR
Phil Magney - VSI Labs

UTC Fall 2024 Seminar Series: Bridging the Gap: Addressing the Last-Mile Problem with AMoD
*Urban Transportation Center - University of Illinois Chicago*
Thursday, October 17
12:00 p.m.

**Presenter:**
Dr. Alireza Khani – University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Road Operator Perspective: Our Highways Need a Digital Upgrade
*Cavnue*
Thursday, October 17
1:00 p.m.

**Presenters:**
Chris Armstrong – Cavnue
Carolina Baumanis – Texas DOT
Michele Mueller – Michigan DOT
Tim Haile – Contra Costa Transportation Authority

Mobility COE Webinar Series: When ADS Meets Traffic Rules
*Center of Excellence on New Mobility and Automated Vehicles*
Thursday, October 24
11:30 a.m.

**Presenters:**
Siddartha Khastgir – University of Warwick
Roxane Mukai – Maryland Transportation Authority
Sagar Behere – Foretellix

**Iowa Advisory Council on Automated Transportation Meeting**
Tuesday, October 29 from 10 am - 12 pm, University of Iowa Driving Safety Research Institute

## Recent Events

*Public Safety & Enforcement Subcommittee Meeting*
Wednesday, September 25

*Economic Development & Infrastructure Readiness Joint Subcommittee Meeting*
Friday, September 27

*Policy & Legislation Subcommittee Meeting*
Wednesday, October 2