



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

January 21, 2025

Infrastructure Readiness

[Connected Vehicle Tech Helps Tampa Tackle Traffic Congestion – Government Technology](#)

Tampa is expanding its connected vehicle program on the Selmon Expressway to reduce traffic congestion. The initiative, supported by a \$4 million grant, will use data from vehicles, mobile devices, and roadside units to optimize traffic flow and potentially offer drivers toll discounts for better driving behavior.

[New grants to bring cutting-edge technology to these Nashville streets – The Tennessean](#)

Nashville has received \$12 million in SMART grants from the U.S. DOT to enhance transit safety and efficiency using LiDAR and AI technology. The grants will support the largest installation of LiDAR technology in the country along Nolensville Pike and optimize WeGo's route on Murfreesboro Pike.

TRB Panel: Technology Key to 'Future of Transportation' – AASHTO Journal

A panel at the 2025 Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting discussed how technology will play a pivotal role in the future of transportation. Key topics included enhancing operational efficiency and adding new capabilities through technological tools. The panel featured experts from the U.S. Department of Transportation, AASHTO, and other organizations.

Idaho Adding More 'Safety Signage' to State Highway 55 – AASHTO Journal

The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) will increase safety signage on seven miles of State Highway 55/Eagle Road, from I-84 to State Highway 44. This safety corridor pilot project aims to reduce crashes by enhancing driver awareness with variable speed limit signs and driver speed feedback signs.

Oxa joins Sunderland's autonomous shuttle project – Motor Finance Online

Oxa has partnered with Sunderland City Council to enhance the city's smart transport initiative with autonomous Ford E-Transit shuttles. This project, known as the Sunderland Advanced Mobility Shuttle (SAMS), aims to improve urban connectivity and reduce environmental impact. Oxa's autonomous technology will be central to demonstrating how these shuttles can connect communities to key destinations within Sunderland.

Policy & Legislation

Biden administration finalizes US crackdown on Chinese vehicles – Reuters

The Biden administration has finalized rules that will effectively bar nearly all Chinese cars and trucks from the U.S. market. This crackdown targets vehicle software and hardware from China, citing national security concerns. The rules also cover Russian vehicles and components, with exemptions for vehicles heavier than 10,000 pounds.

AVs at Forefront of Duffy Confirmation Hearing – Autonomous Vehicle Industry Association (AVIA)

During Sean Duffy's Department of Transportation confirmation hearing, autonomous vehicle (AV) policy was a key topic. Duffy emphasized the need for clear federal regulations to support innovation and maintain U.S. leadership in AV technology. Senators highlighted the importance of AVs for safety and national security, stressing the need for a unified regulatory framework to avoid a patchwork of state laws.

US self-driving car companies seek boost under Trump – Reuters

Self-driving car companies are urging the U.S. government to speed up autonomous vehicle deployment and remove regulatory barriers. They seek clearer federal guidelines and increased efforts from the Department of Transportation, warning that China may surpass the U.S. in this technology.

Auto Innovators takes NHTSA to court for AEB rule it says is not feasible – Repairer Driven News

The Alliance for Automotive Innovation (Auto Innovators) has filed a lawsuit against the NHTSA over a new automatic emergency braking (AEB) rule. Auto Innovators argue that the rule, which requires AEB systems to prevent collisions at speeds up to 62 mph by 2029, is not technologically feasible.

Autonomous trucking's triangle-shaped problem goes to court – Freight Waves

Aurora Innovation is suing the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) after the agency denied its request for a five-year exemption from placing roadside warning devices in favor of cab-mounted warning beacons (CMWBs). Aurora argues that the FMCSA's decision is arbitrary and not based on sufficient evidence.

Economic Development

Trucking industry unaffected by restrictions on connected vehicle parts — for now – Trucking Dive

The U.S. Department of Commerce has restricted the sale and import of connected vehicle technology from China and Russia, starting with 2027 model year passenger vehicles, to protect national security. The trucking industry is currently unaffected, but future regulations may address commercial vehicles.

Autonomous vehicles are having a moment and other vibes from CES 2025 – Tech Crunch

Autonomous vehicles were a major highlight at CES 2025, with many companies showcasing their latest advancements. The mood was optimistic, with a focus on overcoming past challenges. Notable exhibitors included Waymo, Applied Intuition, May Mobility, and Zoox.

Here's How Honda's Self-Driving AI Partner Plans to One-Up Tesla – PC Magazine

Honda and Helm.AI revealed plans at CES 2025 to develop EVs with advanced autonomous capabilities, aiming to surpass Tesla. Using a unique AI model and virtual simulations, they target Level 3 self-driving, allowing drivers to focus on other tasks while the car handles complex situations.

Why 2025 is set to be a crucial year for Amazon's Zoox robotaxi unit – CNBC

Amazon's Zoox plans to commercialize its robotaxi operations in 2025, starting with Las Vegas. They will launch an "Early Rider Program" and expand to cities like San Francisco and Miami, aiming to grow their self-driving vehicle fleet and offer public rides later this year.

Public Safety & Enforcement

US upgrades probe into 129,000 Ford vehicles over hands-free tech – Reuters

The NHTSA is investigating 129,222 Ford vehicles with BlueCruise hands-free driving technology due to reports of collisions, including two fatal accidents. The probe will examine the system's ability to detect stationary vehicles at highway speeds and in low-light conditions.

US opens probe into 2.6 million Tesla vehicles over remote driving feature – Reuters

The NHTSA is investigating 2.6 million Tesla vehicles due to crashes involving the "Actually Smart Summon" feature, which allows remote control via a smartphone app. The probe will assess the system's obstacle detection and performance in various conditions.

NHTSA Closes Preliminary Investigation Into General Motors' Cruise Robotaxis – U.S. News

The NHTSA has closed its investigation into GM's Cruise robotaxis without further action. The probe examined the vehicles' caution around pedestrians after crash reports. Despite some incidents, the NHTSA found the vehicles took avoiding actions. GM has since halted Cruise operations.

Goodyear's smart tires can sense rain and ice for improved emergency braking – The Verge

Goodyear's SightLine technology enhances automatic emergency braking (AEB) systems by improving their performance in rain and snow. It uses data from vehicle

cameras, weather information, and tire sensors to optimize AEB activation, potentially preventing crashes more effectively.

[Ngee Ann Poly shuttle bus in accident with car in Clementi – The Straits Times](#)

A Ngee Ann Polytechnic shuttle bus, marketed as "driverless," was involved in a collision with a car. Although the bus is designed to operate autonomously, it was being manually driven by a safety operator at the time of the collision. No injuries were reported, and the incident is under investigation.

Research, Development, Testing & Evaluation

[2024 PAVE Annual Report – Partners for Automated Vehicle Education](#)

The 2024 PAVE Annual Report highlights growth in public education, industry collaboration, and public sector partnerships. Key activities included the first Autonomous Trucking Weekend, launching the US AV Jobs Coalition, and various virtual panels and workshops.

[RFP: Safety Criteria for Use of Autonomous Service Vehicles on Airfields – Transportation Research Board](#)

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) is requesting proposals for a project to develop guidelines for airport operators to conduct safety risk assessments for autonomous ground vehicle systems in non-movement areas. The research will address use cases such as cargo and baggage movement, snow and deicing operations, security and more.

[Self-Driving Shuttle 'Harlander on Course to Start Pilot in Titanic Quarter in March – Belfast Harbour](#)

Belfast Harbour is set to launch a pilot project for a self-driving shuttle named Harlander in the Titanic Quarter starting in March. This initiative aims to enhance urban mobility and showcase the potential of autonomous transport in a busy urban environment.

[DRIVE Lab: Paving the Way to Safer Roadways in an Era of Increasing Automation – MITRE](#)

MITRE's DRIVE Lab is enhancing road safety by simulating various vehicle types and driving environments. Researchers test and evaluate new transportation technologies in customizable scenarios to improve the safety of automated vehicles.

Upcoming Events

AI-Based Verification and Validation of Autonomous Driving Features

PAVE Europe Virtual Panel

January 23

7:00 a.m.

Panelists:

Mihai Nica – AVL

Daniel Watzenig – Tu Graz and Virtual Vehicle Research

Mark Pittman – Blyncsy

Jeanus Ko – Rekor Systems, Inc.

AVs in 2025: A Fireside Chat with Waymo's Head of Federal Policy

PAVE Virtual Panel

January 23

7:00 a.m.

Panelist:

David Quinalty – Waymo

A National Strategy for Transportation Digital Infrastructure

ITS America

January 30

12:00 p.m.

Presenters:

Firas Ibrahim – U.S. Department of Transportation

Laura Chace – ITS America

Brian Cronin – U.S. Department of Transportation

Alasdair Cain – U.S. Department of Transportation

Timothy Drake – ITS America

Connected Vehicle Data Roundtable: Real-world applications to improve transportation for all

StreetLight

February 6

1:00 p.m.

Presenters:

Scott Lee – TranSmart

Zong Tian – University of Nevada Reno
Wang Zhang – Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG)
Carl Novelli – StreetLight

Iowa Advisory Council on Automated Transportation Meeting
Tuesday, April 29 from 10 am - 1 pm

Recent Events

[Iowa Advisory Council on Automated Transportation Meeting Materials](#)
Iowa Advisory Council on Automated Transportation
Tuesday, October 29