



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

February 3, 2025

Infrastructure Readiness

[**PennDOT receives \\$1.3 Million grant to keep goods moving – The Huntington Daily News**](#)

This tech uses real-time GPS data to extend green lights for trucks, aiming to reduce traffic congestion and pollution on Cameron Street in Harrisburg and Harrisburg Pike in Cumberland County.

[**Driverless Buses Provide New Routes for Robotaxi Tech Level 3 autonomy is already making inroads in public transportation – IEEE Spectrum**](#)

Driverless buses are emerging as a promising alternative to robotaxis. Companies like Imagry are developing autonomous buses, currently at Level 3 autonomy but aiming for Level 4. These buses could reduce congestion by avoiding "deadheading" and are being tested and expanded globally.

[Deloitte and May Mobility team up to boost autonomous transportation safety](#) – Just Auto

The Deloitte and May Mobility partnership aims to enhance community safety and accessibility in autonomous transportation. By leveraging data analytics, they plan to improve safety outcomes, optimize mobility, and support programs like Accessibili-D for older adults and people with disabilities.

[ADOT launches I-10 Truck Parking Availability System near rest areas](#) – Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT)

The ADOT has launched a Truck Parking Availability System (TPAS) along Interstate 10. This system provides real-time information on available truck parking spaces at rest areas in western and southeastern Arizona. The initiative aims to enhance safety and efficiency for truck drivers by helping them find designated parking spots more easily.

[Alphabet's Waymo to test its autonomous driving technology in over 10 new cities](#) – Reuters

Waymo is expanding its autonomous driving technology to over 10 new cities in 2025, starting with Las Vegas and San Diego. This aims to enhance its ride-hailing services, building on operations in San Francisco, Phoenix, and Los Angeles.

Policy & Legislation

[Autonomous trucks the topic of bills in five statehouses](#) – Land Line

Several state legislatures are reviewing new rules for autonomous trucks. These regulations aim to address safety, operational standards, and the integration of autonomous trucks into existing transportation systems. The states involved in this review process are focusing on ensuring that autonomous trucking technology is implemented safely and efficiently.

[Trump Freeze Pauses Automatic Braking Rule](#) – Transport Topics

The Trump administration has paused a rule requiring automatic emergency braking systems on new vehicles, which was adopted under President Biden. The NHTSA will review the regulation, which mandates that new cars have braking systems capable of avoiding collisions at speeds up to 62 mph and detecting pedestrians in various conditions.

[NHTSA proposes exemptions tailored for autonomous vehicles](#) – Fleet Owner

The NHTSA has proposed exemptions for vehicles equipped with autonomous driving systems (ADS). These exemptions aim to facilitate the deployment of ADS-equipped vehicles by addressing regulatory barriers and ensuring safety standards are met. The proposal includes specific guidelines for the design and operation of these vehicles to promote their safe integration into public roads.

[Bill to put guardrails around driverless vehicles gets pushback](#) – Daily Montanan

A proposed bill in Montana aims to regulate driverless vehicles due to safety concerns related to the state's weather and road conditions. However, AV companies oppose the bill, arguing it could hinder innovation. The debate centers on balancing public safety with technological advancement.

[Autonomous driving tech enters a transformative era](#) – Auto Service World

The article highlights the slow adoption of Level 3 autonomous driving technologies due to regulatory and liability issues, while Level 2+ systems are becoming more popular. It also discusses the expansion of robotaxi services by companies like Waymo and Baidu, and anticipates significant advancements in AV technology and legislation over the next decade.

Economic Development

[Kodiak Delivers First Customer-Owned Autonomous RoboTrucks to Atlas](#) – Kodiak

Kodiak Robotics has delivered its first customer-owned autonomous RoboTrucks to Atlas Energy Solutions. These trucks, equipped with Kodiak's self-driving system, have already completed 100 loads of proppant in the Permian Basin. This marks the first time a customer has launched driverless commercial semi-trucking operations.

[Aurora Informational Report: Preparing for Driverless Operations](#) – Aurora

Aurora is preparing for driverless trucking operations by closing the final claims in their safety case. They emphasize transparency and collaboration, sharing safety progress with regulators, customers, and the public. Aurora's safety case framework ensures their autonomous trucks are proficient, fail-safe, resilient, and trustworthy.

[TIER IV Joins the Autonomous Vehicle Industry Association](#) – Autonomous Vehicle Industry Association (AVIA)

TIER IV has joined the AVIA. As a leader in open-source autonomous driving software, TIER IV aims to collaborate with global industry leaders to advance the safe and timely deployment of autonomous vehicles. This partnership will help shape future regulatory frameworks and contribute to a safer, more sustainable mobility ecosystem.

[After robotaxi failure, GM software bet turns to driver assistance](#) – Reuters

General Motors (GM) is shifting its focus to its Super Cruise driver assistance technology after discontinuing its robotaxi business, Cruise. Super Cruise, similar to Tesla's Autopilot, is expected to generate significant revenue, with GM forecasting about \$2 billion annually within five years.

[Musk "confident" on 2025 robotaxi launch](#) – Axios

Elon Musk is confident about launching Tesla's robotaxi service in Austin by June 2025. The company plans to start pilot production of its humanoid robot, Optimus, in the same year. Tesla's Full Self-Driving system, which requires driver intervention, is rapidly improving with the aim of surpassing human safety levels.

Public Safety & Enforcement

[Report: ADAS Systems Struggle To Recognize Pedestrians Wearing Reflective Clothing After Dark](#) – The Truth About Cars

A recent study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety found that Advanced Driver Assistance Systems struggle to recognize pedestrians wearing reflective clothing after dark. The study revealed that while some vehicles perform well in detecting pedestrians at night while most systems show negligible improvement.

[Haas Alert to expand in Michigan](#) – ITS International

Haas Alert is expanding its Safety Cloud system in Michigan. The Michigan Department of Transportation and the city of Dearborn are deploying this platform on various public safety and city vehicles to enhance road safety with real-time alerts about roadway hazards.

[Vandals in Southern California attack Waymo driverless taxi](#) – KTLA

In Los Angeles, a Waymo driverless taxi was vandalized by a crowd in the Beverly Grove neighborhood. The vandals shattered the windows, ripped off the passenger front door, and flattened at least one tire. The vehicle was unoccupied at the time, and no arrests were made

[While Waymo not blamed in multi-car wreck, it's the first fatal collision involving a driverless car](#) – NBC Bay Area News

A driverless Waymo vehicle was involved in a multi-car collision in San Francisco. Although the Waymo car was stationary and not at fault, the crash resulted in the deaths of a passenger in another vehicle and a dog.

Research, Development, Testing & Evaluation

[Research looks at younger drivers and autonomous vehicles](#) – The University Record, University of Michigan

The University of Michigan-Dearborn study found that younger drivers monitoring Level 3 AVs experience higher fatigue and may trust the technology too much, leading to less vigilant monitoring. Their developing brains also affect their response to takeover demands, highlighting the need for further research.

[Announcing the Launch of the Rural Autonomous Vehicle \(RAV\) Research Program](#) – U.S. Department of Transportation

The U.S. Department of Transportation has launched the Rural Autonomous Vehicle (RAV) Research Program. This initiative aims to bring the benefits of automated vehicle technology to rural and Tribal communities. The program allocates \$15 million for passenger transportation, led by the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and \$10 million for freight movement, directed by [UC Berkeley](#).

[How simple prompts can make partially automated cars safer](#) – Science Daily

A study from North Carolina State University found that simple prompts, like audio cues and text messages, can keep drivers engaged and ready to take control in partially automated cars. However, these prompts are less effective if drivers are deeply distracted.

[Trust in ADAS Reported to Rise as Automated Vehicles Near UK Roads](#) – Future Transport News

Trust in Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) is increasing as AVs approach deployment on UK roads. A recent survey indicates that more drivers are becoming comfortable with ADAS features, such as lane-keeping assistance and adaptive cruise control.

[Can Self-Driving Cars Navigate Roundabouts?](#) – NC State University

Researchers at NC State University examined the ability of self-driving cars to navigate roundabouts. They found that while autonomous vehicles (AVs) can sometimes slow down traffic, connected autonomous vehicles (CAVs) that share information and coordinate movements significantly improve traffic flow.

[Waymo begins testing robotaxis on LA freeways](#) – Tech Crunch

Waymo has started testing its robotaxis on Los Angeles freeways, including Interstates 10, 110, 405, and 90. Initially, only Waymo employees will have access to these driverless vehicles on freeways, providing feedback before the service is opened to the public. This move is part of Waymo's strategy to enhance its robotaxi service by enabling faster routes through freeway access.

Upcoming Events

[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

[The Road Ahead: Navigating AV Policy and Progress in 2025](#)

Partners for Automated Vehicle Education (PAVE)

February 19

1:00 p.m.

Presenters:

Hilary Cain - Alliance for Automotive Innovation

Finch Fulton - K&L Gates

Iowa Advisory Council on Automated Transportation Meeting

Tuesday, April 29 from 10 am - 1 pm