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/*

Articles and upcoming events

February 17, 2025

Infrastructure Readiness

Environment for Testing and Assessing Infrastructure Support of Connected Vehicle and Cooperative Highway Automation – *Florida DOT (FDOT)*

The FDOT summarizes research on the impact of connected and automated vehicles (CAVs) on traffic flow and safety. It examines how CAVs can improve traffic efficiency, reduce congestion, and enhance road safety. The study also identifies potential challenges and necessary infrastructure adaptations to support the integration of CAVs into existing transportation systems. Draft Final Report

In Peachtree Corners, Ga., Smart Crosswalk Alerts Vehicles – *Government Technology*

In Peachtree Corners, Georgia, a smart crosswalk near Pinckneyville Middle School uses AI and V2X technology to enhance pedestrian safety. It detects pedestrians and vehicles, activating beacons automatically and alerting V2X-equipped vehicles about pedestrians or cyclists in the crosswalk.

The unseen environmental costs of autonomous cars – *Smart Cities Dive*

Robotaxis and self-driving cars, while offering benefits like improved road safety and mobility, might increase vehicle miles traveled. This could lead to higher greenhouse gas emissions, potentially undermining efforts to reduce transportation-related emissions.

Schiphol Airport tests self-driving baggage vehicle – *Airport Suppliers*

Schiphol Airport and KLM are testing an electric, self-driving baggage vehicle from Aurrigo to improve efficiency and sustainability. The vehicle autonomously transports baggage using 3D cameras, Lidar sensors, and 360-degree cameras, with a Safety Operator present.

Autonomous Vehicle Trials Begin at Hamad International Airport – *Source*

Hamad International Airport has started trials for AVs, including an autonomous bus and baggage tractor, in collaboration with Qatar Aviation Services, MATAR, and Qatar Science & Technology Park. These vehicles, equipped with advanced technologies like GPS and AI-driven systems, aim to enhance operational safety and efficiency.

Policy & Legislation

U.S. Commerce Department Finalizes Connected Vehicle Prohibitions – *Arnold & Porter*

The U.S. Commerce Department's new rule, effective March 17, 2025, bans the import and sale of connected vehicle hardware or software from entities influenced by the Chinese or Russian governments. It also prohibits these governments' controlled manufacturers from selling connected vehicles in the U.S. that use such hardware or software.

Washington bill seeks to regulate the use of driverless vehicles on state roads – *The Center Square*

House Bill 1984, introduced by Rep. Shelley Kloba, seeks to ban driverless vehicles from operating without a driver and increase oversight of AV testing. Supporters argue it enhances safety, while opponents believe it restricts the benefits of AVs. No further action is scheduled for the bill.

Labour issues major update on automated vehicles with UK set to bring in 'revolutionary' changes – *GB News*

The UK Labour Party has announced a major update on self-driving vehicles, aiming to align UK regulations with international standards. This move is expected to help UK companies export self-driving technology globally. The update involves several executive agencies, including the DVSA, DVLA, Vehicle Certification Agency, and National Highways.

Navigating The Privacy Pitfalls Of Connected Cars: A Call For Industry Self-Regulation – *Forbes*

Connected cars collect vast amounts of sensitive data, posing significant privacy risks. There's a call for industry self-regulation to protect consumer privacy while allowing technological advancements. The automotive industry, in collaboration with privacy professionals, should develop a robust self-regulatory framework to address these challenges.

Economic Development

Automaker Reveals New Hands Off, Eyes Off Self-Driving Tech – *IOT World Today*

Stellantis has unveiled its new self-driving technology, STLA AutoDrive 1.0, which offers hands-off, eyes-off Level 3 autonomy. This technology allows the car to take full control of driving, although a human driver must be ready to take over if needed. STLA AutoDrive is designed to function in various conditions and at speeds up to 37 mph.

Nomination Hearing Transcript for Deputy Secretary Nominee Steven Bradbury – *Senate Committee of Commerce, Science and Transportation*

This Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation hearing transcript features questions for Steven Bradbury, nominee for Deputy Secretary of Transportation. The discussion focuses on autonomous vehicles,

truck driver shortages, and the intersection of technology and transportation. Bradbury highlights the need to advance regulatory frameworks for AVs and other innovative transportation technologies to maintain U.S. leadership.

Impacts of Autonomous Truck-Mounted Attenuator (ATMA) on INDOT Work Zone Safety, Mobility, and Worker Productivity – *Indiana Department of Transportation and Purdue University*

The study on Autonomous Truck Mounted Attenuator (ATMA) technology aimed to enhance work zone safety for DOT workers, particularly TMA drivers. Interviews with project managers and researchers from four state DOTs, along with evaluations in simulations and real-world scenarios, showed that the ATMA system performs well in most Indiana DOT road maintenance activities. Workers were comfortable using the system after training and appreciated its safety benefits. However, the high cost of the ATMA system remains a limitation.

Trucking goes to Vegas, and driverless technologies run the table – *Freight Waves*

The Manifest conference in Las Vegas showcased advancements in autonomous trucking technology, featuring key players like Torc Robotics and Outrider. Despite the excitement, many trucking executives remain cautious, discussing regulatory challenges, cost efficiency, and the future of autonomous trucking in states like Texas and California.

What we know about Waymo's 2025 expansion plans – *ARS Technica*

Waymo is expanding its robotaxi service in 2025, covering nearly 80 square miles in Los Angeles and adding new cities like San Diego and Las Vegas. Despite advancements, public trust remains a challenge. Waymo is also integrating with public transit through a credit pilot program.

Public Safety & Enforcement

Behind the scenes of AV trucking company Gatik's outreach to first responders – *Tech Brew*

Gatik, an autonomous trucking company, is actively engaging with first responders to improve their understanding and interaction with autonomous

vehicles. Clint Kneip, Gatik's head of first responder engagement, leads outreach efforts to educate police officers, dispatchers, and emergency medical services workers about the technology.

Have questions about Aurora and AVs? Get your answers here. – *Aurora*

Aurora's FAQ page provides insights into their self-driving technology and its development. It covers topics such as the safety measures in place, the technology behind their AVs, and their plans for commercial deployment. Aurora emphasizes their commitment to safety and the rigorous testing their vehicles undergo to ensure reliability and performance.

Largest Automatic Emergency Braking Study Finds Systems Improving Over Time – *Mitre*

A new study by the Partnership for Analytics Research in Traffic Safety (PARTS) shows that automatic emergency braking (AEB) systems have reduced rear-end crashes by up to 52% in newer vehicles. Additionally, pedestrian AEB systems have led to a 9% reduction in single-vehicle frontal crashes involving pedestrians and other non-motorists.

The Future of Autonomous Cars: The Shift to Level 3 Technology – *MSN*

The shift to Level 3 autonomous driving allows cars to take full control in specific conditions, letting drivers take their hands off the wheel and eyes off the road. Leading companies like Mercedes, BMW, and Ford are driving this transition. However, there are challenges, including regulatory hurdles and debates over the best approach to achieving full autonomy.

How Do Self-Driving Cars Work? – *Fox 56 News*

Self-driving cars are progressing but not yet fully consumer-ready. The SAE defines six levels of automation, from Level 0 (no automation) to Level 5 (full automation). Currently, only Mercedes-Benz offers Level 3 automation in the U.S. Level 4 vehicles handle most tasks without human input. Technologies like GM's Super Cruise and Ford's BlueCruise allow hands-free driving on certain roads but still need driver attention.

Research, Development, Testing & Evaluation

With UW-Madison leadership, autonomous vehicles could bridge transportation gaps for people living in rural areas – *AAA Newsroom*

The University of Wisconsin-Madison is leading a research center to advance AV availability in rural and tribal communities. The Tribal and Rural Autonomous Vehicles for Equity, Liability, and Safety (TRAVELS) Center, supported by $30 million in funding, aims to address transportation gaps in these areas. The initiative will focus on overcoming challenges like unmarked roads and limited digital infrastructure, with a six-year project divided into research, demonstration, and deployment phases.

AAA: Fear in Self-Driving Vehicles Persists – *AAA Newsroom*

According to AAA's latest survey, only 13% of U.S. drivers trust riding in self-driving vehicles, up from 9% last year. However, 60% of drivers still report being afraid to ride in them. Most drivers prioritize enhancing vehicle safety systems over developing self-driving technology. While awareness of robotaxis is high, 53% of drivers would not choose to ride in one.

Autonomous robotaxi successfully completes 75 mph highway testing– *Fox News*

Motional's autonomous robotaxi has successfully completed highway testing at speeds of up to 75 mph at Hyundai's Proving Grounds in California City, California. This milestone demonstrates the company's commitment to developing safe and scalable self-driving technology.

Tesla applies for ride-hailing service in California, but with human drivers – *Electrek*

Tesla has applied for a permit to operate a ride-hailing service in California, but it will use human drivers instead of the anticipated robotaxis. This move comes despite previous claims by CEO Elon Musk that Tesla would launch unsupervised self-driving in Texas and California by mid-2025.

Roadway Safety Research, Automated Vehicle Testing Join Forces at U-M – *News Wise*

The University of Michigan is expanding its roadway safety research and AV testing by integrating Mcity, a leading test facility for connected and

automated vehicles. This initiative aims to fast-track the development of AV vehicle technologies and enhance overall transportation safety.

Upcoming Events

Autonomous Vehicles for All: Seattle's Community-Driven Approach
Partners for Automated Vehicle Education (PAVE)
March 19
1:00 p.m.

Presenters:
Armand Shahbazian – Seattle Department of Transportation
Charlotte Jernick – Uncommon Bridges
Nico Larco – University of Oregon

Automated and Connected Vehicles Digital Summit
SAE International
March 25 and 26

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