



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

May 27, 2025

Infrastructure Readiness

[Self-driving cars used in German public transport for first time](#) – Yahoo! Tech

Germany has launched a pilot program using self-driving cars for public transport in small towns, aiming to improve mobility. Riders can book trips via an app, and safety drivers are present during testing. The project is backed by €2.2 million in government funding.

['Smart crosswalk,' real-time traffic alerts funded with UTC grant](#) – Chattanooga Times Free Press

Chattanooga is developing a smart crosswalk system with real-time traffic alerts to enhance pedestrian safety. Funded as part of a broader tech-driven infrastructure initiative, it will use sensors to detect pedestrians and communicate with vehicles and traffic signals.

[UK driverless cars coming in 2027 - but Uber says it's ready now](#) – BBC

The UK plans to approve fully driverless cars by 2027, but Uber says it's ready now with its AV technology. Partnering with firms like Wayve, Uber recently showcased a hands-free ride in London. While public trust remains a challenge, over a third of Brits feel unsafe in AVs. Uber believes real-world experience will shift opinions quickly.

[WisDOT's automated vehicle advisory committee advances innovations in transportation](#) – Wisconsin Department of Transportation

At its May 2025 meeting, Wisconsin's WAVE Advisory Committee focused on creating a guide to help communities prepare for connected and automated vehicles. The meeting also featured a demo of UW-Madison's new automated shuttle, highlighting the state's push toward safer, smarter transportation.

[Michigan sunk \\$67M into self-driving car test track. Now, some fear bankruptcy](#) – Bridge Michigan

Michigan's \$67 million investment in a self-driving car test track—the American Center for Mobility—is in financial trouble. After years of losses and a forgiven \$15 million loan, the center may face bankruptcy unless a second \$35 million loan is also forgiven. Despite setbacks, the state still sees it as a key part of its mobility future.

[Central Ohio roadway becomes living laboratory for testing autonomous vehicles](#) – ABC Channel 6

U.S. Route 33 in Central Ohio has been transformed into the 33 Smart Mobility Corridor, a real-world testing ground for autonomous vehicles and smart transportation technologies. The project supports innovations like self-driving cars, truck platooning, and connected infrastructure to improve road safety and efficiency.

Policy & Legislation

[Tesla's robotaxi plan attracts federal safety scrutiny](#) – Axios

Tesla will launch a small fleet of 10–12 fully driverless robotaxis in Austin, Texas, in June 2025. However, the plan is under federal scrutiny due to safety concerns about the system's ability to handle unpredictable conditions.

[Is your insurance on the line if your robotaxi ride gets in a crash?](#) – KXAN

In Texas, passengers in fully autonomous vehicles (Level 4+) are generally not liable in a crash; responsibility falls on the operator or manufacturer. However, in semi-

autonomous cars (Levels 2–3), a human driver may still be held accountable. Legal and insurance frameworks are still evolving.

[Waabi CEO sees success in simulation, wants AV industry to disclose safety data](#) – Freight Waves

Waabi CEO Raquel Urtasun highlighted the company's success using simulation to train its autonomous trucks, avoiding the risks of real-world testing. She urged the AV industry to be more transparent by publicly sharing safety data, arguing that simulation is a safer and more scalable path to deployment.

[NHTSA loosens autonomous vehicle regulations](#) – Fleet Owner

The NHTSA has relaxed certain rules to help speed up the rollout of AVs. The changes ease requirements for features like steering wheels and pedals, which aren't needed in fully driverless cars, aiming to support innovation while maintaining safety oversight.

[Alphabet's Waymo wins approval to expand driverless ride-hailing service to San Jose](#) – CNBC

Waymo, Alphabet's self-driving unit, has received approval from California regulators to expand its driverless ride-hailing service to San Jose and much of the South Bay. This move supports broader service beyond San Francisco, aligning with the region's tech-forward outlook.

Economic Development

[Aurora changes where humans ride during driverless hauls in Texas](#) – Trucking Dive

Aurora moved its safety observers from the backseat to the driver's seat in its autonomous trucks at Paccar's request, due to concerns about prototype components. The observers still don't control the vehicle, and the Aurora Driver system remains fully in charge.

[TWU Tech Newsletter: Autonomous Trucks Hit a Roadblock](#) – Transport Workers Union of America

The TWU newsletter reports that Aurora's driverless truck operations hit a setback when the company reinstated a human in the driver's seat after pressure from truck maker Paccar. The TWU sees this, along with a federal rejection of Aurora's request to replace traditional safety equipment, as a win for safety and regulatory oversight in the autonomous trucking industry.

[Zoox is arriving in Atlanta](#) – Zoox

Zoox is expanding its autonomous vehicle operations to Atlanta, Georgia in 2025. This marks a significant step in the company's growth as it brings its purpose-built robotaxi to a new major metropolitan area. The expansion is part of Zoox's broader rollout strategy, which includes other cities like Las Vegas, San Francisco, Austin, and Miami.

[State of AV 2025](#) – Autonomous Vehicle Industry Association (AVIA)

The 2025 State of AV report shows AVs are already improving safety, supply chains, and access across the U.S., with over 145 million miles driven. However, national policy is needed to unlock their full potential and support continued growth.

[Oxa and Bradshaw EV Partner for Automation](#) – Self Drive News

Oxa and Bradshaw EV have partnered to automate electric utility vehicles for industrial use, aiming to boost efficiency in places like warehouses and airports by integrating Oxa's self-driving software into Bradshaw's fleet.

[Waymo says it reached 10 million robotaxi trips, doubling in five months](#) – CNBC

Waymo co-CEO Tekedra Mawakana announced that the company has completed 10 million paid robotaxi rides, doubling in just five months. These rides span cities like Austin, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Phoenix. Waymo now delivers over 250,000 rides weekly and recently gained approval to expand into San Jose.

Public Safety & Enforcement

[Seeking solitude and safety, riders flock to robotaxis driven by computers](#) – USA Today

Waymo's self-driving robotaxis are becoming more popular, especially among riders who value safety and privacy. The service now provides over 250,000 rides weekly in several major U.S. cities. Riders appreciate the comfort and security of driverless travel, and Waymo plans to expand to more cities in 2026.

[Gatik Establishes Safety Advisory Council, Taps Former US Department of Transportation Leadership and Executives from Trucking and Automotive Industries to Guide Safety Strategy](#) – Gatik

Gatik has formed a Safety Advisory Council made up of former U.S. transportation officials and industry leaders. The council will guide Gatik's safety strategy, offering independent oversight and helping build public trust as the company expands its autonomous delivery operations.

[Musk Says Tesla's Self-Driving Taxis Will Stick to Austin's 'Safest' Roads](#) – IOT World Today

Elon Musk announced Tesla's self-driving taxi service will launch in Austin using a geofenced approach, operating only on the city's safest roads. The rollout will avoid complex intersections unless the system is highly confident, and remote monitoring will support early operations.

[Tesla On FSD Suddenly Swerves And Crashes Into A Tree, Claims Driver](#) – Car Scoops

A Tesla Model 3 using Full Self-Driving (FSD) software version 13.2.8 suddenly swerved off a straight road and crashed into a tree, despite clear weather and no obstacles. The driver was unharmed. The incident raises fresh concerns about the system's reliability in simple driving conditions.

[Amazon's self-driving Zoox robotaxi unit faces second software recall in a month following collision in San Francisco](#) – New York Post

Zoox issued its second recall in a month after a stopped robotaxi was hit by an e-scooter in San Francisco and began moving unexpectedly. The recall affects 270 vehicles and aims to improve how the system detects nearby road users. It follows a similar incident in Las Vegas and ongoing federal scrutiny.

Research, Development, Testing & Evaluation

[An Investigation of the Factors Surrounding Crashes of ADAS-Equipped Vehicles](#) – Iowa Department of Transportation Departmental Report

A University of Iowa study found that both drivers and police officers have limited and sometimes incorrect understanding of advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS). Drivers reported both benefits and problems with ADAS, while most officers don't consider ADAS in crash investigations due to lack of training. Still, many officers expressed strong interest in training. The findings led to recommendations for improving ADAS education and integration across transportation and enforcement sectors. [Brief](#) [Report](#)

[Waymo recalls 1,200 driverless vehicles for software update](#) – Fox Business

Waymo recalled 1,200 driverless vehicles after 16 minor incidents involving poor detection of barriers like chains and gates. A software update was issued to fix the issue, with all vehicles updated by December 26, 2024. No injuries were reported.

[Commentary: How autonomous vehicles could change cities](#) – Brookings

AVs are beginning to reshape urban life. As they become more common, cities have the chance to redesign streets for safer, faster, and cleaner transportation. AVs can reduce

traffic deaths—most of which are caused by human error—and may lead to less car ownership, especially in urban areas. With smart planning, AVs can help create safer, cleaner, and more walkable urban environments.

Upcoming Events

[ITS America V2X Webinar Series #2: Real World V2X Uses to Improve Vulnerable Road User Safety](#)

ITS America

May 28, 2025

12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Presenters:

Sarah Abel – ITS America

Brad Stertz – Audi

Kirk Neibert – City of Bellevue

Reid Sigety – Spoke

[From National Approaches to EU Ambitions: Shaping the Future of AV Regulation](#)

PAVE Europe

May 28, 2025

4:00 a.m.

Presenters:

Sarah Gates – Wayve

Stephan Liening – ITS Federal Ministry of Transport

Marina Cristina Galassi – European Commission DG GROW

Elsa Lanaud – Automated Road Transport of People French Ministry of Ecological Transition

[ITS America V2X Webinar Series #3: V2X for Policymakers and Non-ITS Professionals](#)

ITS America

June 4, 2025

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Presenters:

Solomon Caviness – City of Atlanta

Brock Aun – HAAS Alert

Xan Traversa – Jacksonville Transportation Authority

[ITS America V2X Webinar Series #4: Factors in Funding, Costing, and Procuring V2X Deployments](#)

ITS America

June 11, 2025
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Presenters:

Blaine Leonard – Utah DOT

Danielle Deneau – Road Commission of Oakland County (MI)

Ryan Huddleston – City of Chattanooga

Recent Events

[Iowa Advisory Council on Automated Transportation Meeting Materials](#)

Iowa Advisory Council on Automated Transportation

Tuesday, April 29th