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.

Articles and upcoming events

Articles and upcoming events
August 4, 2025

1. 🧱 Infrastructure Readiness

Smartphone, connected vehicle data could help states comply with DOT's 'Safe Roads' demand – Smart Cities Dive
The USDOT's Safe Streets and Roads for All program requires states to identify dangerous arterial roads by August 30, 2025. Companies like INRIX provide anonymized traffic data such as speeding and hard braking from smartphones and vehicles to help meet this mandate.

North Carolina installs 2,500 AI-based traffic signals – Smart Cites Dive
North Carolina has installed 2,500 AI-powered traffic signals, the largest active deployment in the U.S. These signals use data and machine learning from Flow Labs to help traffic engineers monitor and improve intersection performance without needing new hardware or field studies.

Chattanooga tests traffic tech to improve safety, speed up emergency response – Chattanooga Times Free Press
Chattanooga is testing AI-powered traffic tech that uses lidar and vehicle-to-infrastructure communication to improve safety and speed up emergency response. Fire trucks can trigger green lights, and sensors alert drivers to hidden pedestrians and cyclists. Funded by federal and state grants, 128 units are planned, with potential future use for school buses and ambulances.

Local governments use GIS to find and fix inaccessible sidewalks, curb ramps – StateScoop
Lawrence, Kansas and Douglas County, Nebraska are using GIS, AI, and lidar to identify and fix inaccessible sidewalks and curb ramps. The tech helps them comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act while saving over 1,000 hours of manual labor.

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2. 📋 Policy & Legislation

Federal autonomous vehicle legislation introduced – Landline Media
A new federal bill, the America Drives Act, aims to create a national framework for autonomous trucks, allowing Level 4 and 5 vehicles to operate without human drivers and bypass certain human-specific regulations. Supporters say it will boost commerce, while critics warn of safety risks and call for more oversight.

NHTSA Accelerates AV Rules, Impacting Collision Repair – Autobody News
NHTSA is accelerating rules for AVs, aiming to standardize regulations and support wider deployment. This shift will impact the collision repair industry, requiring new tools, diagnostics, and technician training to handle advanced AV systems.

Stanton Introduces Bipartisan Bill to Make Self-Driving Cars More Accessible to Disabled Passengers – Cactus Politics
A bipartisan bill the Autonomous Vehicle Accessibility Act aims to make self-driving cars more accessible to disabled passengers, ensuring legal protections and directing federal agencies to improve transit infrastructure for AV access.

Tesla fights two court battles over claims it misled consumers about automated driving – The Washington Post
California regulators are trying to suspend Tesla's license to sell vehicles in the state, claiming its Autopilot and Full Self-Driving branding misleads consumers into thinking the cars are fully autonomous. A related Florida lawsuit over a fatal crash also challenges Tesla's marketing.

Boston Hearing Surfaces Concerns About Self-Driving Cars – Government Technology
At a Boston City Council hearing, officials and labor leaders voiced concerns about self-driving cars, citing safety risks and potential job losses in the rideshare and taxi

sectors. The discussion was prompted by Waymo's mapping activity in the city, with critics calling for more transparency and regulation.

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3. 💵 Economic Development

Gatik Unveils Arena™: Next-Generation Simulation Platform to Accelerate Commercialization of Its Autonomous Trucking Solution, Built on NVIDIA Cosmos – Gatik
Gatik has launched Arena™, a next-gen simulation platform built on NVIDIA Cosmos, to accelerate the development of its autonomous trucking systems. Arena creates photorealistic, controllable synthetic data to train and validate AVs safely and efficiently especially for rare or risky scenarios reducing reliance on real-world testing.

Aurora Begins Nighttime Autonomous Operations – Heavy Duty Trucking Info
Aurora has begun nighttime autonomous trucking between Dallas and Houston, using long-range lidar to improve safety in low-visibility conditions. The move doubles truck utilization and supports faster deliveries, while a new Phoenix terminal expands its operational footprint.

Self-driving truck company to expand operations, combatting nationwide trucking shortage – Fox Business
Gatik is expanding its self-driving truck operations to help address the U.S. trucking shortage, deploying over 100 autonomous vehicles in regions like Texas, Arkansas, and Canada, with plans for hundreds more to support major retailers and improve delivery efficiency.

Lyft to Add Self-Driving Shuttles Next Year – IOT World Today
Lyft will launch self-driving electric shuttles in late 2026, partnering with Benteler Mobility and Mobileye to serve airports and cities. The shuttles will carry up to 15 passengers, supported by a new U.S. manufacturing facility and global expansion plans.

Waymo to launch autonomous ride-hailing in Dallas next year – Reuters
Waymo will launch its autonomous ride-hailing service in Dallas in 2026. Testing begins later in 2025, marking its expansion beyond Phoenix, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

Autonomous Trucks Will Change Fleet Operations, But Not In The Way You Think – Fleet Equipment
Autonomous trucks are set to transform fleet operations far beyond removing drivers. Full deployment will require a new transport ecosystem including specialized terminals, virtual drivers, uptime services, and certified inspection roles. Terminals near highways will simplify operations, and removing drivers who account for ~40% of operating costs could unlock economic benefits.

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4. 🦺 Public Safety & Enforcement

A jury orders Tesla to pay more than $240 million in Autopilot crash – NPR
A Miami jury found Tesla partly liable for a fatal crash involving Autopilot, awarding $243 million. The driver was distracted, but Tesla's tech and marketing were blamed. The case revealed Tesla withheld key data and could set a precedent for future lawsuits. Tesla plans to appeal.

US closes probe into Waymo self-driving collisions, unexpected behavior – Reuters
The U.S. government has closed its investigation into Waymo's self-driving vehicles after reviewing several collisions and incidents of unexpected behavior. Regulators concluded that Waymo had taken sufficient corrective actions and that no further enforcement was necessary. This decision clears a regulatory hurdle as Waymo continues expanding its autonomous ride-hailing services.

Seattle among cities looking to prevent robotaxis from rolling into emergencies – KUOW
Seattle is working to prevent robotaxis from interfering with emergency responses. Currently, emergency alerts are emailed to robotaxi companies, but integration with vehicles is unreliable. Seattle is partnering with the Open Mobility Foundation to use real-time data standards already used for bikes and scooters to directly connect 911 dispatch data with AVs.

California allows robotaxis to expand and emergency responders aren't happy – KUOW
California regulators have approved the expansion of robotaxi services, despite strong opposition from emergency responders. Critics argue the vehicles lack real-time coordination with emergency systems, posing safety risks.

Two driverless Waymo cars collide at Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport – Teslarati
Two driverless Waymo vehicles collided at Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport. The crash occurred at low speed, with no passengers inside either vehicle. While damage was minimal, the cause remains under investigation. The incident highlights ongoing challenges in AV operations, especially in complex environments like airports.

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5. 🔬 Research, Development, Testing & Evaluation

Australian study finds one in five drivers disable vehicle safety features – Repairer Driven News
An Australian study found that 1 in 5 drivers disable vehicle safety features, mainly due to annoyance or distraction. Commonly disabled systems include lane assist, adaptive cruise control, and automatic emergency braking despite their proven role in reducing accidents.

AutoPacific's Newest Future Attribute Demand Study (FADS) Shows Increase in Demand for Autonomous Driving and ADAS Features – AutoPacific

AutoPacific's 2025 study shows rising consumer interest in autonomous and ADAS features, with 43% of buyers wanting hands-off highway driving and rear automatic emergency braking. Demand for lane change assist and full autonomy also reflects growing trust in vehicle automation.

Steves & Sons to launch autonomous trucking pilot with Bot Auto – Freight Waves
Steves & Sons is launching an autonomous trucking pilot in Texas with Bot Auto and J.B. Hunt. The program will use Level 4 autonomous trucks to transport freight between San Antonio, Dallas, and Houston, aiming to boost delivery reliability and modernize logistics.

Data on autonomous vehicles reveals serious concerns – Landline Media
A recent study by George Mason University's Missy Cummings reveals serious safety concerns with autonomous vehicles. Waymo's cars reportedly experience nearly twice as many rear-end crashes as human drivers. Issues like phantom braking and mode confusion raise doubts about the technology's readiness, especially for large-scale deployment in trucking.

China reports 24.41 million km of autonomous vehicle testing across a citywide program, with 17 companies participating – Car News China
China's citywide AV testing in Guangzhou has logged over 24.41 million kilometers across 2,600 km of public roads, involving 17 companies and 508 vehicles. Supported by extensive 5G infrastructure and legal frameworks, the program positions Guangzhou as a major hub for smart mobility.

Pony.ai L4 domain controller surpasses two million kilometers of on-road testing – ADAS & Autonomous Vehicle International
Pony.ai's Level 4 autonomous driving controller has completed over two million kilometers of road testing. It features high reliability, a 10-year lifecycle, and powerful computing via multiple Nvidia OrinX chips. The system integrates key vehicle functions, includes fail-operational safety, and has reduced costs by 80% while boosting performance.

Upcoming Events

Early Workforce Impacts of AI to ITS
ITS America
August 19
12:00 p.m.
Presenters:
Dara Wheeler – Caltrans
Erica Kemp – TxDOT
Jennifer Holmes – Accenture
Rebecca Middleton – Cambridge Consultants
Jim Broderick – ITS America

Spotlight on Simulation: A Fireside Chat with Gatik's Co-Founder on their new Arena Platform
Partners for Automated Vehicle Education (PAVE)
August 20
1:00 p.m.
Presenter:
Apeksha Kumavat - Gatik

ITS World America
August 24-28, 2025
Atlanta, Georgia

2025 Autonomous Trucking Conference
September 15-16, 2025
Grand Forks, North Dakota

Automated Transportation Symposium
November 3-6, 2025
Tempe, Arizona