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

November 10, 2025

1. 🧱 Infrastructure Readiness

Using Data to Connect the Roadway with Vehicles – *AASHTO Journal*

State transportation agencies are advancing vehicle-to-everything (V2X) technologies by integrating real-time data from vehicles and infrastructure to improve safety and mobility. At the 2025 AASHTO Safety Summit, leaders from Georgia, Texas, and Iowa DOTs highlighted efforts in cross-state data sharing, standardization, and public-private partnerships.

Waco MPO launches AI-controlled traffic system to improve downtown efficiency – *KWTX*

The Waco Metropolitan Planning Organization introduced a new AI-driven traffic management system that uses real-time data from sensors and cameras to adjust traffic lights dynamically, reducing delays and enhancing safety. Officials expect the AI system to significantly improve commute times and support future smart city initiatives.

Securing the Road Ahead in the Transition to AVs – *EE Times*

As vehicles become more autonomous and connected, cybersecurity is a growing concern. In 2024, nearly 60% of vehicle-related cyber incidents were severe. While Waymo has reached Level 4 autonomy, most automakers remain cautious due to liability and security risks. The increasing complexity of vehicle systems and infrastructure like EV chargers requires strong, multilayered cybersecurity across hardware, software, and supply chains to ensure safe mobility.

Durham, N.C., Looks to AI to Boost Transit Performance– *Government Technology*

GoDurham, the city's transit provider, is testing an AI-powered "traffic service priority" system that uses onboard technology to collect data like GPS and schedule adherence. This data helps adjust traffic signals in real time to reduce delays in high-traffic areas. The goal is to enhance on-time performance and streamline operations.

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2. 📋 Policy & Legislation

Boston Weighs Clampdown on Robotaxis in Threat to Waymo – *Transport Topics*

City councilors have proposed legislation requiring companies to include a human operator in all self-driving cars operating in Boston. The ordinance also mandates a study on the impact of AVs on ride-share employment and sets permitting requirements before deployment. If passed, Boston could become the first major city to restrict AVs in this way.

1 big thing: Why unions are becoming a problem for self-driving cars – *Axios*

Unions are pushing back against AV deployment, citing job loss and safety concerns. Groups like the Teamsters and Transit Workers Union oppose driverless services from companies like Waymo and Tesla, calling for regulations requiring human operators.

House Chairman Wants Highway Bill That Looks to Technology – *Transport Topics*

House Transportation Chair Sam Graves plans a future-focused highway bill that embraces emerging technologies while reinforcing core infrastructure needs.

California Bans 'Defeat Devices' Because Privately Owned Self-Driving Cars Are Still Not A Thing – *Jalopnik*

California has banned "defeat devices" that fool advanced driver-assistance systems like Tesla Autopilot, making it illegal to sell or use gadgets that bypass driver monitoring. The law aims to improve safety and accountability as automation expands.

Waymo faces protests in Seattle amid concerns over impact on local rideshare drivers – *KOMO News*

Waymo is launching driverless car tests in Seattle, drawn by the city's tough traffic, frequent rain, and steep terrain to refine its autonomous technology. While Seattle offers a valuable proving ground, residents and experts have raised safety concerns, especially in pedestrian-heavy areas.

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3. 💵 Economic Development

Kodiak AI and ZF Expand Autonomous Partnership – *Trucking Info*

Kodiak AI is expanding its partnership with ZF by purchasing 100 advanced steering systems to support its autonomous truck fleet. The partnership supports Kodiak's sixth-gen fleet rollout, with production help from Roush in Michigan.

Lyft CEO says robotaxis could create a new role for humans: the 'car tender' – *Business Insider*

In a recent interview, Lyft CEO David Risher emphasized that while AVs may reduce traditional driving roles, they may open up new roles like "car tenders," or workers who clean, charge, and reposition robotaxis between rides. Risher argues this shift will still offer flexible, entry-level work.

Uber partners with Lucid, Nuro for ambitious robotaxi program – *Arizona Tech Council*

Uber is launching a global robotaxi program with Lucid and Nuro, aiming to deploy 20,000 autonomous vehicles over six years. The partnership combines Lucid's EV platform with Nuro's Level 4 self-driving system, creating a fleet of robotaxis exclusively for Uber.

Waabi unveils autonomous truck made in partnership with Volvo – *TechCrunch*

Waabi has unveiled a new autonomous truck built with Volvo, aiming to scale driverless freight across the U.S. without human safety drivers. The truck features Waabi's AI-powered Waabi Driver system, designed for scalable operations on highways and surface streets.

Glīd is building an autonomous shortcut to move freight from road to rail — catch it at TechCrunch Disrupt 2025 – *TechCrunch*

Glid is developing autonomous technology to streamline freight transfers from trucks to trains, aiming to reduce emissions and boost efficiency.

Driverless trucks surpass 100,000 miles in Texas – *Land Line*

Aurora has logged over 100,000 miles with its autonomous trucks, now running a 600-mile route between Fort Worth and El Paso. Operating five driverless trucks, the company plans to upgrade its fleet in 2026. Safety advocates continue to call for stricter federal oversight.

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4. 🦺 Public Safety & Enforcement

Kodiak's virtual drivers ace a human safety test – *Freight Waves*

This third-party validation shows Kodiak's "virtual driver" performs at elite human levels, using visual data to assess behaviors like tailgating and stop sign compliance. Unlike traditional safety cases, VERA offers a more robust benchmark by analyzing real-world driving risks.

Independent Audits of Waymo's Safety Case and Remote Assistance Programs – *Waymo*

Waymo is the first AV company to pass independent audits of its safety case and remote assistance systems, confirming alignment with top standards and validating its driverless and support protocols.

Beloved Mission cat's death sparks call for local robotaxi oversight – *Axios San Francisco*

The death of a beloved cat struck by a Waymo robotaxi in San Francisco has sparked calls for local control over autonomous vehicles.

Waymo's co-CEO on the challenge of scaling robotaxis safely – *TechCrunch*

Waymo co-CEO Tekedra Mawakana believes expanding robotaxi services is vital for safer roads, but emphasizes that public trust depends on transparency. She notes Waymo's AVs outperform human drivers in safety, yet insists accountability is crucial when incidents occur, such as the recent school bus event in Atlanta.

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5. 🔬 Research, Development, Testing & Evaluation

Creating an all-weather Driver – *Waymo*

Waymo's all-weather autonomous driving strategy centers on four key pillars: understanding winter's diverse challenges through extensive testing in snowy regions; designing adaptable solutions using advanced sensors and real-time fleet data sharing; validating performance via real-world trials, closed-course tests, and simulations; and

scaling responsibly by refining operations and expanding to cold-weather cities like Detroit and Denver.

‘Eyes-off driving’ is coming, and we’re so not ready – *The Verge*

Level 3 automated vehicles let drivers take their eyes off the road, but they must remain ready to intervene at any time. This blurs the lines of crash responsibility. Automakers like Mercedes and GM accept limited liability, yet drivers are often held accountable. Although sensor data can clarify who was in control, drivers frequently struggle to respond safely when abruptly prompted to take over.

New UK study reveals how pedestrians react to self-driving cars – *Traffic Technology Today*

Coventry University found that pedestrians hesitate around AVs due to missing human cues like eye contact. To build trust and ensure safety, AVs need clear external signals to communicate intent in busy, unpredictable environments.

Google Maps ‘Lane Guidance’ Feature Now Live For Cars – *Find Articles*

Google Maps’ new live lane guidance uses your car’s camera and AI to read lane markings and signs, offering real-time, lane-specific navigation. Launching with the Polestar 4 in the U.S. and Sweden, it helps drivers stay in the right lane well before turns or exits.

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6. 📅 Upcoming Events

Automation in Adverse Conditions: Are AVs Ready for Winter Weather?
PAVE
Wednesday, November 12
1:00 p.m.

Presenters:
Justin Johnson – PLUM Catalyst
Philip Du Toit – Kodiak Robotics
Dr. Timothy Seitz – Transportation Research Center (TRC)

Building the Framework: Standards, Interoperability, and Accountability
ITS America
Thursday, November 13
12:00 p.m.

Presenters:
Madeline Cheah – Cambridge Consultants

Megan Brock – Cavnue
Steve Griffith – NEMA
Karl Kopper – California State Transportation