



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

December 8, 2025

Infrastructure Readiness

[Adjustable speed limits popping up on Texas highways – Fox 4 KDFW](#)

Texas is adding adjustable electronic speed limits to major highways, allowing officials to lower speeds during bad weather, heavy traffic, or hazards. The change follows a 2023 law passed. The new signs are already appearing on I-35W in Fort Worth and U.S. 54 in El Paso.

[SH 130 ‘Smart Corridor’ prepares for launch this month – KXAN-TV](#)

Texas is activating a “smart corridor” on SH 130, adding sensors and cameras that send real-time hazard and traffic data to TxDOT and connected vehicles. Early AI tools are already cutting crash clearance times and reducing secondary crashes. The first four-mile segment goes live soon, with plans to expand along SH 130 and eventually to I-35.

[December at Minnesota CAV – Minnesota Department of Transportation](#)

MnDOT's December CAV update spotlights several efforts: testing geofenced mobile ads for work-zone alerts, checking the accuracy of 511 traveler-information data, gathering youth perspectives on AVs, releasing a new AV policy guide, and sharing details on upcoming CAV events and conferences.

[Free-to-use self-driving bus trial begins in Cambridge](#) – ADAS & Autonomous Vehicle International

Cambridge has launched a free weekday 26-seat autonomous bus service as part of the Connector trial, expanding on an earlier smaller shuttle. The UK-built Level 4 electric buses use AI, lidar, radar and cameras, operate with safety drivers, and are funded through the government's CAM Pathfinder program.

[Beep Announced Shared AV Deployments Set for Orlando and World Cup in Atlanta](#) – West Orlando News

Beep is rolling out two major autonomous-shuttle deployments in 2026; one in Orlando/Altamonte Springs and another in Atlanta for the World Cup. The services will use Karsan's e-JEST shuttles with ADASTEC's Level-4 tech, managed through Beep's AutonomOS platform, to demonstrate scalable, mixed-traffic autonomous transit.

[As Raleigh grows, the city uses AI to rethink traffic management](#) – WRAL

Raleigh is piloting an AI system that analyzes live camera feeds to optimize traffic signals, cut congestion, and improve safety. It uses anonymous data, keeps humans in control, and focuses on fixing intersections without widening roads.

Policy & Legislation

[SAE International Unveils Newly Revised ADS Lighting Standard to Improve Road Safety and Public Trust in Automated Vehicle Technology](#) – SAE International

SAE has updated its J3134 standard for the blue-green light that shows when a vehicle's automated driving system is active. Mercedes-Benz plans to adopt the lamp on future ADS vehicles, and the standard is designed to support worldwide consistency while allowing regional variations.

[Several New Laws Impacting California Drivers Take Effect January 1](#) – Carrier Management

California is implementing several new driving-related laws on January 1, 2026. SB 480 allows AVs to use ADS marker lamps (the new blue-green lights) to signal when automated driving is active.

[Connected Commercial Vehicle Protocol: Building the digital backbone for India's smart and electric highways](#) – Telematics Wire

India is creating a national Connected Commercial Vehicle (CCV) protocol to standardize how trucks and buses share data with highways, charging stations, enforcement systems, and fleet platforms. It will support electric freight corridors, real-time safety alerts, intelligent traffic management, and secure data exchange.

Economic Development

[Beyond the highway: Waabi's bet on door-to-door autonomy](#) – FreightWaves

Waabi is pursuing full door-to-door autonomous trucking, arguing that highway-only autonomy still requires human drivers and adds cost and complexity. A partnership with Volvo Autonomous Solutions will validate the full driverless model, including redundant hardware needed for safe driver removal.

[Convoy – electric semi brand SANY pairs autonomy with human experience](#) – Electrek

SANY and Pony.ai are deploying a “1+4” platooning system where one human-driven truck leads up to four autonomous electric semis. The approach eases regulatory hurdles, handles edge cases, and still delivers big gains. SANY says it can cut freight costs 29%, boost profits up to 195%, and reduce emissions by about 60 tons per truck each year.

[Robotaxis went viral in 2025. These maps show where you can ride in 2026.](#) – Business Insider

Robotaxis were everywhere in 2025, but public trust didn't keep up. Waymo grew real driverless service while Tesla pushed hype without true autonomy, and a string of close calls, blackout-related stalls, and viral clips of Teslas navigating dark intersections amplified safety concerns.

[Verizon connectivity to enable autonomous Driver as a Service for Kodiak trucks](#) – ADAS & Autonomous Vehicle International

Verizon and Kodiak AI are partnering to equip Kodiak's driverless trucks with Verizon's low-latency 5G, LTE, and IoT connectivity, enabling remote human assistance, real-time communication and updates, and fleet management through Verizon's ThingSpace platform.

[These Driverless Toyotas Just Took Control At Japan's Busiest Airport](#) – Carscoops

Toyota is rolling out Level 4 autonomous towing tractors at Haneda Airport, using LiDAR, sensors, and remote monitoring to haul up to 13 tons along a 1.5 km route. Six electric units will be in service by early 2026, managed by a new system that handles routing, dispatch, and traffic-light coordination.

Public Safety & Enforcement

[Waymo to update robotaxi software after San Francisco power outage](#) – CBT News

Waymo is updating its software after a San Francisco blackout left some robotaxis stalled at dark intersections. The outage triggered a spike in human-confirmation requests, slowing fleet response, and regulators are now reviewing the incident amid renewed concerns about AV performance during major emergencies.

[Zoox issues software recall over lane crossings](#) – TechCrunch

Zoox issued a voluntary recall after its robotaxis were found occasionally crossing center lines or stopping in crosswalks near intersections. The company logged 62 such cases since August, with no crashes, and has already pushed software fixes.

[Waymo Autonomous Vehicle Enters Active Fire Scene](#) – Yahoo!Tech

A Waymo robotaxi mistakenly entered an active fire scene after missing a flare-marked closure, lingering about 10 minutes before leaving. No one was hurt, but the incident underscores how AVs still struggle with fast-changing, human-directed emergencies.

[Waymo sues Santa Monica for trying to stop it charging driverless cars overnight](#) – Yahoo!Finance

Waymo is suing Santa Monica after the city restricted overnight use of two robotaxi charging sites following noise complaints, with some neighbors even blocking access. Waymo says the stations aren't a nuisance and filed suit after talks with the city fell apart.

[Tesla Sued After Model X Crash Kills Family of Four](#) – Autoblog

Tesla is being sued over a fatal Model X crash in Idaho that killed four family members. The lawsuit claims Tesla's driver-assistance features particularly Autopilot/Autosteer failed to keep the vehicle in its lane, causing it to cross into oncoming traffic and collide with a semi-truck.

[Waymos Are Parking In One- and Two-Hour Spots Around SF, and Car Owners Are Bound to Start Fuming About This](#) – SFist

Waymo robotaxis have been idling in one- and two-hour parking spots around San Francisco, frustrating residents who already struggle to find parking. Locals say the cars rotate through the same limited-time spaces while waiting for rides, fueling worries that expanding AV fleets will crowd out scarce curb space.

Research, Development, Testing & Evaluation

[FMCSA offers details on new warning-device study plans](#) – Commercial Carrier Journal

FMCSA plans to study how well roadside warning devices work when trucks are stopped, using 256 drivers and modern tools like sensors, eye-tracking, and instrumented vehicles. The results could shape future rules and decisions on alternative warning devices, following recent exemptions such as Aurora's use of cab-mounted beacons.

[China pilots L3 vehicles on roads](#) – China Daily

China has started testing Level 3 AVs on public roads, a key step in its intelligent-mobility push. The tech can handle driving in set conditions, like highways, but still requires a ready human backup. Analysts call the move important while noting ongoing hurdles around liability, infrastructure, and scaling to commercial use.

[The road to self-driving cars that think and behave like humans](#) – Autocar

Bosch and Cariad are building an AI-driven system for Level 2 and 3 automated driving that aims to mimic human-like perception and decision-making. Targeted for 2026, it will learn from massive data, eventually handle more complex traffic situations, and keep its decisions safe and explainable.

[VW Group to test Gen.Urban autonomous vehicle in Wolfsburg](#) – ADAS &

Autonomous Vehicle International

Volkswagen is trialing its Gen.Urban AV on real city streets to see how people react to a car with no wheel or pedals. The study looks at comfort, usability, and how riders use their time, supported by personalized settings and AI-driven interiors. A safety driver remains on board.

[Waymo is testing Gemini as an in-car AI assistant in its robotaxis](#) – TechCrunch

Waymo is testing a Gemini-based in-car assistant that can greet riders, answer questions, and adjust limited cabin settings, while staying separate from the Waymo Driver and avoiding commentary on driving or incidents. It personalizes interactions but can't perform real-world tasks.

[Self-driving cars could prevent over 1 million road injuries across the US by](#)

[2035](#) – Tech Xplore

Self-driving cars could prevent more than 1 million road injuries in the U.S. between 2025 and 2035, according to a new JAMA Surgery study. Even modest adoption of AVs would cut traffic-related injuries by about 3.6% over the decade.

Upcoming Events

[TRB Annual Meeting 2026](#)

January 11 - 15

Washington DC

SAE Government/Industry Meeting

January 22 - 22

Washington DC