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

March 2, 2026

Infrastructure Readiness

Atlanta to host first fully automated on-demand public transit system – *New Atlas*
Glydways will launch a 0.5-mile Atlanta pilot in 2026 using small autonomous pods on narrow dedicated guideways to provide cheap, high-capacity, on-demand transit; the project tests whether the system can scale economically for cities.

Made in Europe but wanted elsewhere: Is the EU at a crossroads over self-driving vehicles? – *Euro News*
European companies are building strong self-driving tech, but slow, fragmented EU regulations are pushing them to deploy in places like the US, Middle East, and Asia instead; the EU must streamline rules or risk losing its own autonomous-vehicle industry.

Designing for Everyone: Accessibility Leads the Conversation at the AV & Public Transport Conference – *ACES Mobility Coalition*

The AV Public Transport Conference emphasized that accessibility must be the foundation of autonomous transit design. Disability advocates, transit agencies, and AV developers agreed that autonomous public transport will only succeed if vehicles, infrastructure, and digital tools are built to serve riders of all abilities from the start and not added later as an afterthought.

UDOT Expands Smart Technology Across Snowplows on key Winter Routes – *Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT)*
Utah is expanding smart-technology systems across its snowplow fleet on major winter routes, adding sensors, cameras, and real-time data tools that help operators see through storms, track road conditions, and improve safety. The upgrades aim to make winter maintenance faster, more efficient, and more predictable for drivers across the state.

Waymo Starts Mapping Chicago Streets for Potential Deployment – *Government Technology*
Waymo has begun mapping Chicago with about 10 human-driven vehicles to prepare for a future robotaxi service, but it cannot deploy autonomous cars yet because Illinois still lacks enabling legislation. The mapping effort comes as state lawmakers debate new AV bills.

Policy & Legislation

Autonomous cars in Iowa would need human drivers under proposed bills – *Iowa Capital Dispatch*
Iowa lawmakers advanced two bills from House subcommittees that would limit the commercial operation of self-driving vehicles and assign liability to the owners of autonomous vehicles.

Written Testimony of Professor Bryant Walker Smith for the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee's Hearing on Automated Driving – *U.S. Senate Commerce Committee*
Bryant Walker Smith's testimony argues that Congress should support autonomous-vehicle innovation while ensuring companies remain transparent, accountable, and subject to ongoing safety oversight rather than sweeping federal preemption.

AASHTO Comments on Automated Vehicle Rule Review – *AASHTO Journal*
AASHTO urged NHTSA to clarify how federal safety rules apply to automated vehicles while warning that broad federal preemption would undermine states' essential role in managing roadway safety and operations.

Consumer Reports provides comments on global regulation of autonomous vehicles – *Repairer Driven News*
Consumer Reports urges NHTSA to adopt stricter, independently verified safety rules fo r self-driving vehicles, arguing that ADS should be held to clear, measurable standards equal to or better than a competent human driver. They call for stronger transparency, o

ngoing incident reporting with meaningful context, access to operational data for regulat ors, and continued compliance with federal safety standards, reflecting broad public sup port for tougher oversight of autonomous vehicles.
New York halts robotaxi expansion plan – *Fox News*
New York has paused a planned expansion of robotaxi testing, citing safety concerns and unresolved regulatory issues. State officials say they need clearer standards before allowing wider deployment, while AV companies argue the halt slows innovation and limits mobility options.

Economic Development

Partnering with TechForce to support the workforce behind fully autonomous ride-hailing – *Waymo*
Waymo is partnering with the TechForce Foundation to fund 28 scholarships and create new training resources to help students and working technicians enter careers supporting autonomous and electric vehicle fleets across major U.S. cities.

Uber Unveils Uber Autonomous Solutions to Accelerate Autonomous Mobility & Delivery Worldwide – *Uber Investor*
Uber launched "Uber Autonomous Solutions," a new business unit designed to scale autonomous ride-hailing and delivery globally by integrating AV partners directly into Uber's marketplace and providing tools for fleet operations, routing, and commercialization.

BMW Removes Level 3 Self-Driving Tech From New 7-Series – *Carscoops*
BMW is dropping its Level 3 "Personal Pilot" system from the refreshed 2027 7-Series and replacing it with a far cheaper Level 2 setup, citing high costs, regulatory complexity, and the fact that most drivers use only Level-2-type features anyway.

Waymo robotaxis are now operating in 10 US cities – *TechCrunch*
Waymo now operates robotaxis in 10 U.S. cities, adding Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, and Orlando as it rapidly scales its autonomous ride-hailing network.

Robotaxis are coming to London. The city's famed black-cab drivers are skeptical – *AP*
London is preparing for major robotaxi trials as companies like Wayve, Waymo, and Baidu test AVs on the city's complex, congested streets. But many of London's black-cab drivers remain deeply skeptical, arguing that robotaxis won't cope with the city's chaotic layout, heavy pedestrian traffic, or the human judgment and personal service that cabbies provide.

Ryan Transportation, Bot Auto Team Up for Driverless Lane – *Transport Topics*
Ryan Transportation is partnering with Bot Auto to begin fully driverless freight runs this spring on the overnight Houston–Dallas–Fort Worth lane, using Level-4 autonomous trucks to cover a route that's difficult to staff with human drivers.

May Mobility's Expanding Autonomous Footprint in Japan – *May Mobility*

May Mobility is rapidly scaling its autonomous transit operations in Japan, now active in nine cities through partnerships with Toyota, MONET, NTT, and SoftBank. Japan's aging population and driver shortages are accelerating adoption, and the company is using these deployments to validate its autonomous system on increasingly complex public roads as it moves toward Level-4 service.

Public Safety & Enforcement

Waymo response letter to Senator Markey – *Waymo*
Waymo tells Sen. Markey that its vehicles are fully autonomous and never remotely driven, with Remote Assistance (RA) providing only brief, non-control guidance when requested by the ADS. The company highlights its strong safety record, outlines strict training and oversight for its RA workforce, and stresses that RA is a safety backup and not a substitute for driving.

Waymo Robotaxi Appears To Block Ambulance During Austin Sixth Street Shooting Response – *Yahoo!News*
Tesla is suing the California DMV to overturn a ruling that found the company misled consumers. Tesla argues the DMV overstepped its authority and that its marketing is protected speech, while the DMV maintains the company exaggerated the capabilities of its systems.

Tesla sues California DMV to reverse ruling that company engaged in false advertising on FSD – *CNBC*
Tesla is suing the California DMV to overturn a ruling that found the company misled consumers. Tesla argues the DMV overstepped its authority and that its marketing is protected speech, while the DMV maintains the company exaggerated the capabilities of its systems.

Kodiak taps HAAS Alert for real-time safety alerts – *Truck News*
Kodiak is adding HAAS Alert's Safety Cloud to its autonomous trucks so nearby drivers get digital warnings when a truck is stopped, helping reduce speeds and improve roadside safety. The companies plan to expand the system to enable broader vehicle-to-vehicle and first-responder alerts.

Carmakers Push Toward 'Eyes-Off' Driving, Raises Safety, Liability Questions – *Carrier Management*
Ford, GM, and Honda still plan Level-3 launches, yet several companies including Mercedes-Benz and Stellantis have paused or scaled back development due to high costs, limited operating conditions, and uncertain consumer demand. Experts warn that Level-3 handoff requirements create safety and legal challenges, while Chinese automakers' rapid progress in advanced driver-assistance features is adding competitive pressure.

Tesla Robotaxis Aren't Hitting California Streets Any Time Soon, Says Data – *PCMag*
New California data shows Tesla is nowhere close to deploying robotaxis in the state, with virtually no recorded autonomous-driving miles and no permit for driverless testing.

Regulators say Tesla's "Full Self-Driving" remains a driver-assist system, not an autonomous one, making a near-term robotaxi launch in California highly unlikely.

Research, Development, Testing & Evaluation

Public-road testing in Michigan marks next step in Torc's growth, technology development and path to commercialization – *Torc Robotics*
Torc has begun testing its latest-generation autonomous Freightliner Cascadia trucks on public roads in Michigan, expanding beyond its Dallas–Fort Worth and Blacksburg routes. The move lets Torc validate new hardware and software in varied environments and seasonal conditions, deepen its Ann Arbor engineering presence, and advance toward commercializing autonomous long-haul trucking.

Coming Soon to Newark Airport: Self-Driving Shuttle Buses – *Government Technology*
Newark Airport is preparing to test small electric self-driving shuttle buses that won't carry passengers yet but will undergo harsh winter and obstacle-detection trials. The goal is to see whether autonomous shuttles could eventually link terminals with the new AirTrain system opening in 2030.

Huang, W., Li, Y., Chai, S., Zhao, S., & Chen, Y. (2025). *Shared autonomous vehicles: Travel decision-making behavior under comprehensive risk*. Journal of Transportation Engineering, Part A: Systems, 152(1).
The study examines how different types of risk influence travelers' willingness to use shared autonomous vehicles (SAVs). The paper recommends dedicated SAV/AV lanes to maintain a speed threshold and support broader policy and technology development.
Perez-Rapela, D., Riexinger, L. E., Kidd, D. G., Mueller, B. C., & Jermakian, J. S. (2025).

P-AEB performance and limiting factors for superior-rated P-AEB systems based on simulations of real-world pedestrian crashes: A simulation study on the VIPA database. Accident Analysis & Prevention.
The study investigates why current production pedestrian automatic emergency braking (P-AEB) systems sometimes fail in real-world vehicle-to-pedestrian crashes. Unlike earlier research that used hypothetical models to estimate potential benefits, this work focuses on identifying shortcomings in actual, rating-specific P-AEB systems used in consumer safety testing.

America needs autonomous trucks. Here's why. – *Kodiak*
Kodiak says autonomous trucks are essential because regions like the Permian Basin f ace severe driver shortages and hazardous conditions. Its fully driverless operations wit h Atlas Energy show AV trucks can deliver safer, more reliable, 24/7 freight movement where human drivers are scarce.

Upcoming Events

Revisiting the Road Ahead: Navigating AV Policy and Progress in 2026
PAVE
Wednesday, March 4
1:00 p.m.
Presenters:
Hillary Cain - Alliance for Automotive Innovation
Finch Fulton - K&L Gates
The Connected West: Scaling Lidar for Statewide Mobility & VRU Safety in Utah
ITS America
Thursday, March 19
10:00 a.m.
Presenters:
Aimee Loudenslager – Utah DOT
Mark Taylor – Utah DOT
Humberto Pompa – Econolite
Kyle Othmer – Ouster