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

April 27, 2026

Infrastructure Readiness

With driverless cars a reality, what can cities do to prepare for them? – Route Fifty

Driverless cars are scaling quickly in U.S. cities, creating urgent pressure on local governments to manage autonomous pickups, drop-offs, and curb use. Cities need modern curb management, stronger data standards, and updated street designs to prevent congestion and safety issues as AV fleets grow.

Pinellas County using AI to help improve traffic and road safety – Bay News 9

Pinellas County is using AI video analytics to spot dangerous driving behaviors and near-misses at intersections, and it's also using AI to re-time hundreds of traffic signals to ease congestion. Officials plan to expand the technology to more intersections to further improve traffic flow and road safety.

Sidewalk Robots Deliver Burritos, Collect Mobility Data – Government Technology

Sidewalk delivery robots are now bringing food to customers while also collecting street-level mobility data for cities. Their sensors map sidewalks, track obstacles, and observe pedestrian patterns, giving planners insights that traditional tools miss. This makes them both a convenience service and a data-gathering asset for urban mobility planning.

Tyres that talk back: Connected vehicles' real-time network intelligence on Highways Voices – Highways News

Smart tyres use embedded sensors to give vehicles instant alerts about road hazards, and they share that data with highway operators to improve maintenance and safety. This turns connected tyres into a real-time road-condition data source for modern transportation systems.

Policy & Legislation

New Autonomous Vehicle Regulations Strengthen Oversight and Enforcement, Authorize Trucks and Transit – State of California DMV

California's new rules expand AV oversight and open the door for heavy-duty autonomous trucks and transit vehicles. They add stricter safety requirements, new enforcement tools, and geofencing powers for emergency responders, while also setting standards for remote-operations personnel to support broader AV deployment.

Driverless truck fleets could expand with FMCSA exemption – Land Line

Aurora wants an FMCSA exemption to replace roadside warning triangles with cab-mounted beacons so its Level 4 trucks can operate without a human. Public comments are open until May 15 as FMCSA evaluates whether the alternative meets an equivalent safety level for expanding driverless freight operations.

City of Austin push for new driverless vehicle legislation – KXAN

Austin is asking Texas lawmakers for new AV legislation including higher penalties, a digital ticketing system, and mandatory 1,000-foot geofencing around emergencies. Some proposals duplicate powers the state DMV already has, but the city wants clearer, faster enforcement tools.

Waymo, Zoox and AV leaders ask Ted Cruz for national self-driving car rules – MSN

Several AV companies are urging Senator Ted Cruz to push for national self-driving car regulations, arguing that the current patchwork of state rules is slowing deployment and creating safety inconsistencies. The companies say a unified federal framework would

help standardize testing, clarify liability, and accelerate commercial rollout, while critics warn that overly permissive rules could weaken oversight.

FTA Transit Bus Automation Policy FAQs – Federal Transit Administration

The document is an FTA FAQ explaining that automated transit buses must still follow all existing federal rules, including ADA, civil-rights, safety, and Buy America requirements, with no exemptions for automation.

UN Regulation and GTR on Automated Driving Systems: Current State of Play – Global Policy Watch

UN regulators are nearing adoption of the first global safety standards for Automated Driving Systems, requiring proof that ADS can perform as safely as a competent human driver. The framework pushes the industry toward harmonized international rules and clearer expectations for ADS compliance across markets.

What happens if an autonomous vehicle causes death or serious injury? Government minister outlines criminal liability framework – Taxi Point

A UK minister says that when an autonomous vehicle causes death or serious injury, the operating company, not the passenger can face criminal liability. The law will treat the automated system as the “driver,” placing responsibility on operators under the UK’s emerging AV liability rules.

Multiple US States Are Considering Mandating Speed-Limiting Devices - Here's How They Work – BGR

U.S. states are beginning to require speed-limiting devices that cap how fast certain vehicles can travel, using GPS, engine controls, and onboard sensors to enforce limits. These systems can automatically slow a vehicle when it exceeds the posted limit and log violations for regulators.

Economic Development

Gatik’s driverless trucks are now running real deliveries at scale – Transportation & Logistics International

Gatik has moved beyond pilots and is now running driverless middle-mile deliveries at commercial scale, with autonomous box trucks operating daily for major retailers. The company reports high on-time performance, strong safety metrics, and growing route density.

Berkshire-owned distribution giant to deploy driverless big rigs across U.S. Sun Belt – CNBC

McLane is expanding its use of Aurora's driverless trucks on the Dallas–Houston corridor, with the autonomous system handling the long-haul middle-mile while human drivers continue warehouse and last-mile work. It's one of the largest real-world deployments of autonomous freight so far and signals accelerating adoption of middle-mile autonomy.

Kodiak and Roehl Transport begin autonomous freight operations between Dallas and Houston – Robotics & Automation News

Kodiak and Roehl Transport have begun autonomous freight runs between Dallas and Houston, marking one of the first active commercial deployments of Kodiak's Level 4 trucking tech. Roehl is integrating Kodiak's system into its fleet as the companies move toward fully driverless freight operations, part of the broader industry shift toward autonomous long-haul trucking.

Humanless big rig completes its first US freight run – Fox News

Bot Auto completed the first fully humanless commercial truckload in the U.S., sending a driverless big rig 230 miles from Houston to the Dallas area with no safety driver, no remote operator, and no staged conditions. The company says its system can independently handle unexpected situations and delivered the load for under $2 per mile, a cost advantage that improves with scale.

Hertz ventures into autonomous vehicles, partners with Uber – Travel Weekly

Hertz launched Oro Mobility to become the operations backbone for Uber's upcoming driverless fleet. Oro will handle maintenance, charging, cleaning, and logistics for Uber's autonomous vehicles, built with Lucid and Nuro.

WeRide and Lenovo announce ambition to deploy 200,000 autonomous vehicles by 2031 – ADAS & Autonomous Vehicle International

WeRide and Lenovo plan a massive global scale-up: 200,000 Level 4 autonomous vehicles deployed from 2026–2031, including robotaxis, minibuses and sanitation AVs. The partnership links cloud-to-vehicle computing and global supply-chain strength to accelerate worldwide L4 autonomous mobility.

Waymo Eyes Portland for Robotaxi Expansion, With Testing Already Underway – CNET

Waymo is expanding to Portland, beginning with human-driven mapping runs before launching full robotaxi service. The mayor supports the move as part of Portland's Vision Zero goals, though some residents oppose it over safety, accessibility, and job impacts.

Zoox expands autonomous robotaxi testing to Miami – ADAS & Autonomous Vehicle International

Zoox is expanding its autonomous robotaxi testing to Miami, adding one of the country's most complex urban environments to its deployment map.

Nuro approved to test its driverless Uber robotaxis on California roads – Engadget

Nuro, backed by Uber, received a new California DMV permit allowing its Lucid Gravity robotaxis to test without a human driver at up to 45 mph in two Bay Area counties.

Geely Introduces China's First Purpose-Built Robotaxi – Car Scoops

Geely has unveiled the EVA, a purpose-built Level 4 robotaxi designed for large-scale autonomous fleets. It uses a centralized computing architecture, redundant safety systems, and an ultra-low-cost design to support mass deployment under China's expanding robotaxi regulations.

Public Safety & Enforcement

U.S. opens probe into startup Avride self-driving crashes in Texas – CNBC

NHTSA has opened a probe into Avride after a series of self-driving crashes in Dallas and Austin, where its robotaxis reportedly made over-aggressive lane changes and failed to respond properly to hazards. All incidents happened in autonomous mode with safety drivers, and Avride says it has already issued software fixes.

How Connected Vehicles Are Redefining Modern Investigations – AI Journal

Connected-vehicle data is turning cars into high-resolution investigative tools. Telematics, event recorders, and cloud logs now give investigators precise, time-stamped insight into speed, braking, steering, seatbelt use, and driver-assist activity before a crash. Infotainment systems and OEM apps add even more digital traces. This shift is making investigations far more data-driven while raising major privacy concerns.

CR Comments to NHTSA on Crash Reporting for Automated Driving Systems and Level 2 ADAS – Consumer Reports

Consumer Reports is pushing NHTSA to tighten and broaden crash-incident reporting for Automated Driving Systems and Level 2 systems, arguing that current data is incomplete and inconsistent. They want more crash types included, clearer definitions, stronger transparency, and fewer loopholes.

Trump's Transportation Department Announces Tesla Model Y Is the First Vehicle to Pass NHTSA's New 'Advanced Driver Assistance System' Tests – National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

The revamped tests evaluate how well driver assistance systems prevent crashes in scenarios like cut-ins, sudden braking, and pedestrian conflicts. Model Y's system met all required performance thresholds, marking the first official validation under NHTSA's updated framework.

First Responders Say Waymo's Confusion With Emergency Vehicles Is Getting Worse – Yahoo! Auto

Fire crews report Waymo vehicles blocking engines, stopping on hoses, freezing near active scenes, and failing to respond to hand signals, forcing responders to work around them. Officials say the incidents are becoming more frequent, even as Waymo points to software updates and improved training data.

How Truck-Mounted Attenuators Are Improving Safety in High-Speed Work Zones – Roads & Bridges

Automated TMAs are reshaping high-speed work-zone safety by removing human drivers from the strike zone. With integrated telematics and cameras, agencies can track deployments, review near-misses, and strengthen work-zone safety practices.

Research, Development, Testing & Evaluation

Trends in U.S. Drivers' Perceptions and Attitudes Toward Vehicle Automation, 2019–2025 – AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety

Drivers' trust in vehicle automation has fallen or flatlined from 2019–2025. More people now say they're afraid of self-driving cars, fewer feel excited, and most remain comfortable only with basic driver-assist features. Misunderstanding of what systems can actually do remains widespread, slowing acceptance of higher-level automation.

Wearable Tech Could Help to Keep Highway Work Crews Safe – Government Technology

Maryland researchers are testing wearable alerts that warn highway workers when fast-moving vehicles get too close. Using sensors and predictive algorithms, the devices trigger haptic, audio, and visual warnings to cut struck-by risks.

Kodiak AI bringing autonomous trucks to Canada's forestry sector – Truck News

Kodiak AI will launch its first international autonomous trucking pilot in Alberta this year, hauling logs from remote forest sites to a West Fraser processing facility. The project tests whether the Kodiak Driver Level 4 system can handle rugged resource roads, extreme weather, and heavy timber loads.

GM's Next-Gen Super Cruise Is Training On '100 Years Of Human Driving' Every Day – Inside EVs

GM claims Super Cruise delivers safety benefits comparable to giving a human driver 100 years of experience. Internal data shows the system sharply reduces hard braking, close calls, and lane-keeping errors, suggesting supervised automation can meaningfully cut crashes long before full autonomy arrives. It's GM's latest argument for the value of advanced driver-assistance systems.

20 Cool Automated Car Features You Didn't Know Your Vehicle Could Do – Motor Trend

Modern cars automate far more than most drivers realize, using features like predictive shifting, adaptive high beams, traffic-jam assist, driver-monitoring cameras, and energy-optimizing cruise control to make driving smoother and reduce errors. Many of these functions operate quietly in the background as part of advanced driver assistance.

4D Radar Advances: Improved Situational Awareness for Autonomous Vehicles – Electronic Design

New 4D imaging radar can boost AV perception by delivering higher-resolution object detection and more reliable tracking in challenging conditions.

Upcoming Events

Under Construction: Challenges and Opportunities for AVs in Work Zones
Partners for Automated Vehicle Education (PAVE)
May 14, 2026
1:00 p.m.

Presenters:
Chris Posch – Teledyne FLIR
John Miller – Nexar
Katherine Rios – PrePass

CCAT Distinguished Lecture: Rare Failures, Public Perceptions, and Automated Driving
Center for Connected and Automated Transportation (CCAT)
June 16, 2026
1:00 p.m.

Presenter:
Daniel McGehee – University of Iowa

Iowa Advisory Council on Automated Transportation Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, May 27, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.