



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

June 22, 2026

Infrastructure Readiness

[Atlanta starts first autonomous public transit pilot](#) – ADAS & Autonomous Vehicle International

Atlanta has launched a small autonomous shuttle pilot that links a neighborhood loop to MARTA rail. It is designed to improve first- and last-mile access in areas where running full-size buses is inefficient, using remote supervision and low-speed operations to test how AVs can support, rather than replace public transit.

[How DOTs Are Using Snow Sensors, RWIS and MDSS to Improve Winter Operations](#) – Roads & Bridges

DOTs are sharpening winter response by pairing more accurate snow-depth sensors, RWIS pavement/weather data, and MDSS treatment forecasts so crews know exactly when to plow or salt, cutting material use and improving safety.

[States Take Larger Role in Advanced Transportation Deployment](#) – ACT News

States are tightening control of new transportation tech by increasing oversight of AVs while expanding electric-vehicle charging. California is moving toward stricter rules for commercial AVs, and Texas is creating a statewide authorization and public reporting system to monitor driverless operations.

[Opinion: AVs Can Do More Than Just Serve People Who Can Afford A Cab](#) – Streets Blog USA

The opinion article argues AVs real value is in serving communities with poor transit. With many agencies cutting low-density routes due to driver shortages, AVs could keep these routes running by removing labor costs. Early pilots show AVs can strengthen first- and last-mile transit, and the piece urges the industry to focus on mobility equity, not premium service.

[Utah DOT Helps Save Lives Via Smart Signal Technology](#) – AASHTO Journal

Utah DOT is cutting crashes by using smart signals that detect speeding and red-light-running in real time and adjust intersection timing or warnings to slow drivers and prevent severe collisions.

[California tests smart freeway that could make drivers wait four minutes to merge](#) – TechSpot

California is testing a smart-freeway system that uses sensors and AI to hold cars longer at on-ramps so the main freeway stays faster and safer, reducing bottlenecks and crashes even if ramp waits increase.

Policy & Legislation

[Senate Sends a Clear Signal: Congress Is Ready to Act on AVs](#) – Autonomous Vehicle Industry Association (AVIA)

The Senate signaled strong bipartisan readiness to advance federal AV legislation, underscoring that AVs are now viewed as a national priority for safety, competitiveness, and supply-chain strength. [US Senate Hearing Committee Recording via YouTube "The Need for Speed: How Technological Advances are Driving Transportation Innovation"](#)

[Scoop: House Republicans press D.C. mayor to legalize Waymo](#) – Axios D.C.

House Republicans sent a letter urging D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser to allow Waymo's stalled driverless testing program to move forward, marking the first time members of Congress have pushed the city to legalize AV operations.

[Robotaxis Will Hit London's Notoriously Unruly Roads This Year. Are They Ready for Chaos?](#) – CNET

Waymo and Wayve are preparing robotaxi launches in London, with early testing already underway. The city's dense layout and complex streets make it a major proving ground, and regulators are working with both companies on safety and data-sharing rules ahead of wider deployment.

Economic Development

[PepsiCo and Gatik Announce Multi-Year Agreement to Deploy Autonomous Freight in North America](#) – Gatik

PepsiCo is scaling up with Gatik to use autonomous box trucks for reliable, human-free middle-mile deliveries across its North American network.

[Self-driving tech supplier Mobileye targets U.S. robotaxi launch in 2027](#) – CNBC

Mobileye plans to launch a U.S. robotaxi service in 2027, using its next-generation autonomous-driving system and partnering with automakers to supply purpose-built vehicles. The company says the technology is nearing full readiness and that commercial deployment will focus on geofenced urban zones where demand and safety validation are strongest.

[Uber will bring its premium robotaxi service to Houston in 2027](#) – TechCrunch

Uber plans to launch a premium robotaxi service in Houston in 2027, partnering with an autonomous-vehicle developer to offer higher-end, self-driving rides in select urban zones. The rollout will start in limited areas and expand as safety validation and fleet capacity grow.

[Volvo Autonomous Solutions plans fully driverless operations in Q1 2027](#) – Trucking Dive

Volvo Autonomous Solutions is building out dedicated hubs, remote-operations capability, and a production-ready autonomous truck platform to support the launch, positioning 2027 as its first year of commercial, driver-out hauling.

[GM says its autonomous cars will eventually be capable of running as robotaxis too](#) – TNW

GM's former Cruise co-founder Sterling Anderson says the company is refocusing its autonomous-driving strategy around Super Cruise–based consumer autonomy rather than near-term robotaxis, arguing that supervised highway automation will scale faster and more safely than fully driverless services.

[Kratos Completes Cross-Country Autonomous Tractor-Trailer Deployment Supporting NASCAR Race Logistics](#) – Kratos

Kratos completed a cross-country autonomous truck platooning run for NASCAR logistics, proving its long-haul autonomy is commercially viable and scalable for both freight and defense operations.

Public Safety & Enforcement

[Tesla presented misleading 'Full Self-Driving' safety data to European regulators](#) – Yahoo!Autos

European regulators say Tesla has been presenting misleading safety data to defend FSD, accusing the company of cherry-picking metrics and downplaying real-world crash risks. They're pushing for stricter oversight, standardized reporting, and clearer disclosures as Tesla seeks broader approval for its autonomous-driving features in the EU.

[VIDEO: Waymo vehicle blocks first responders on road following Oak Cliff apartment explosion](#) – WFAA

SA Waymo robotaxi briefly blocked a road in Dallas after a nearby house explosion, stopping in front of emergency crews and forcing firefighters to maneuver around it. Waymo said the vehicle got confused by the scene and is reviewing the incident with local officials.

[Waymo recalls nearly 4,000 robotaxis to stop them driving into highway construction zones](#) – TechCrunch

Waymo is recalling nearly 4,000 robotaxis after discovering they could misinterpret highway construction zones and steer into areas they shouldn't, prompting a software fix to prevent similar incidents.

[The Role of Advanced Driver Assistance Systems in Preventing Distracted Driving](#) – National Distracted Driving Coalition

The report shows how modern ADAS features like automatic emergency braking and lane-keeping can prevent crashes by actively intervening, but the report emphasizes they are not self-driving and still require full driver attention. It urges drivers to keep the systems on, understand their limits, and avoid treating them as autonomous.

['Smart' Construction Equipment Brings Both Brawn, Brains to Job Sites](#) – Construction Equipment Guide

Smart construction equipment is getting more automated, more connected, and more capable, blending heavy-duty machinery with AI-driven features that boost safety, efficiency, and precision on job sites.

[WSP and HAAS Alert Announce Strategic Alliance to Accelerate the Future of Roadway Safety and Connected Mobility](#) – HAAS Alert

WSP and HAAS Alert formed a strategic alliance to accelerate connected-vehicle safety deployments, aiming to give drivers and AVs real-time digital alerts that reduce crashes and make roadways safer for everyone.

[Driverless Cars Could Save Tens of Thousands of Lives. But We Must Treat Them Like Aviation — Not Like Cars](#) – Streets Blog USA

Driverless cars could eventually save tens of thousands of lives, but only if the U.S. regulates them with the rigor of aviation, not traditional auto rules. The article argues that today's car-centric regulatory model is too lax for autonomous systems and that safety, reporting, and oversight standards must be far stricter for AVs to deliver their promised public-health benefits.

[PAVEcast: Economic Engine: The Future of Autonomous Trucking with Matt Blackburn of Aurora](#) – Partners for Automated Vehicle Education

Matt Blackburn of Aurora discussed new findings from a Steer Group economic-impact study showing that autonomous trucking is already contributing billions to the U.S. economy and is positioned to become a major economic engine over the next decade.

Research, Development, Testing & Evaluation

[Fleets cite safety, financial gains with intelligent speed assist](#) – Truck News

Active intelligent speed-assist systems cut speeding, crashes, and costs for trucking fleets, with some reporting 30–50% drops in violations, fewer collisions, lower insurance expenses, and even side benefits like preventing bridge strikes and aiding theft recovery.

[Introducing Waymo's New Reference Model for Human Collision Avoidance](#) – Waymo

Waymo is creating a standardized “reference driver” model to measure and compare AV driving quality using consistent, human-like benchmarks. This matters because it gives the industry a common yardstick for safety, helps regulators evaluate performance, and pushes AVs toward more predictable and trustworthy behavior on real roads.

[How can self-driving cars see better? Make their sensors more human.](#) – Popular Science

Researchers built a tiny “human-eye-like” sensor that helps self-driving cars handle sudden light changes far better than today's cameras.

[Seeking solutions to the unique challenges of AVs on rural roads](#) – University of Minnesota - Center for Transportation Studies

Researchers are testing new positioning methods like advanced GNSS, radar, and lidar to help AVs safely navigate rural roads that lack markings, signage, and clear visibility.

[Bolt, Pony.ai and Stellantis launch autonomous vehicle pilot in Luxembourg](#) – ADAS & Autonomous Vehicle International

Bolt, Pony.ai, and Stellantis are launching a new AV pilot in Luxembourg, using Chrysler Pacifica hybrids equipped with Pony.ai's self-driving system to provide real-world mobility services on public roads.

[Baidu and Swiss Post announce autonomous driving trial in Switzerland](#) – ADAS & Autonomous Vehicle International

Swiss Post will test Baidu's self-driving vehicles for autonomous mail and parcel transport across select Swiss routes.

[Hands-free driving and smarter navigation added to Lucid Gravity](#) – ADAS & Autonomous Vehicle International

Lucid's latest update for the Gravity adds hands-free highway driving, smarter Google-powered navigation, adaptive headlights, and better charging/energy insights.

Upcoming Events

[2026 North American Autonomous Trucking Conference](#)

North Dakota State University, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute
Fargo, North Dakota
July 27-30, 2026

[2026 Automated Transportation Symposium](#)

SAE International
San Diego, California
July 27-30, 2026

Recent Events

Iowa Advisory Council on Automated Transportation Meeting - Meeting Summary coming soon
Wednesday, May 27