



*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

August 17, 2026

### Infrastructure Readiness

[FTA Touts Support for Utah's FrontRunner 2X Project](#) – AASHTO Journal

*Utah's FrontRunner 2X commuter rail project has advanced to the engineering phase with a proposed \$1.28 billion FTA investment. The project will expand rail capacity and frequency by at least 60% through additional double-tracking, new trains, station improvements, and signal upgrades.*

[Governor Ron DeSantis Highlights Florida's One-of-a-Kind Facility to Advance the Future of Transportation](#) – Florida Government

*Florida's SunTrax facility is expanding testing of autonomous vehicles and eVTOL aircraft, reinforcing the state's leadership in next-generation transportation.*

[Connected vehicle data could help councils identify road safety risks before collisions occur](#) – Road Safety GB

*A UK pilot found that connected vehicle data and AI analytics can help identify roadway safety risks before crashes occur, enabling more proactive transportation safety interventions.*

[How the Texas transportation department has embraced AI](#) – Route Fifty

*The Texas DOT is using AI to support traffic management, crash data analysis, infrastructure monitoring, and administrative processes, helping improve efficiency, reduce congestion, and enhance roadway safety while maintaining governance safeguards for responsible use.*

[Self-driving buses in Cambridge win £3.88m boost](#) – Traffic Technology Today

*The Greater Cambridge Partnership received £3.88 million in UK government funding to expand self-driving bus trials and support the transition of autonomous buses from pilot projects to commercial public transportation services.*

[Utah expands Lidar traffic management deployment](#) – ITS International

*Utah is expanding its lidar-based traffic management system to nearly 300 intersections statewide, using advanced detection technology to improve traffic operations and enhance safety for pedestrians and cyclists.*

[In-car geofencing to enforce speed limits](#) – GoAuto

*Experts are exploring geofencing technology that could automatically limit vehicle speeds in designated areas, such as school zones, to improve road safety.*

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## Policy & Legislation

[NHTSA Announces a Host of Actions on Autonomous Vehicles](#) – Sidley

*NHTSA announced several actions to accelerate autonomous vehicle deployment, including granting the first commercial robotaxi exemption to Zoox, updating exemption rules, developing new AV guidance, and launching a partnership to create national autonomous vehicle safety standards.*

[Autonomous Vehicles Regulatory Landscape Update](#) – Eno Center for Transportation

*An Eno Center for Transportation report highlights ongoing federal, state, and local efforts to update autonomous vehicle regulations as commercial deployments expand.*

[Hearing on D.C. Autonomous Vehicle Bill Highlights Benefits and Concerns](#) – Holland & Knight Transportation Blog

*A Washington, D.C., hearing on proposed AV legislation highlighted both the potential benefits of commercial AV services and concerns about safety, labor impacts, and regulatory oversight. The bill would create a framework for commercial AV operations while debate continues over proposed fees, fleet limits, and operational restrictions.*

[Teamsters sue California DMV over driverless truck rules, say hundreds of thousands of truck driver jobs at risk](#) – CDL Life

*Teamsters California sued the California DMV over regulations allowing autonomous heavy-duty trucks, arguing the agency failed to adequately assess the economic and safety impacts before approving the rules.*

[Self-driving SEPTA buses unlikely soon, but a state bill aims to prepare](#) – Northeast Times

*Pennsylvania lawmaker is proposing legislation that would require licensed drivers to remain onboard any automated transit bus or trolley, as officials, labor groups, and transportation experts debate the future role of autonomous buses in public transit.*

[Virginia moves toward regulating self-driving vehicles amid safety and liability concerns](#) – Virginia Mercury

*Virginia is developing a statewide framework for regulating AVs, with proposed rules addressing safety, liability, privacy, cybersecurity, and commercial AV operations.*

[Tesla faces uphill battle for FSD entry as China rewrites self-driving car rules: analysts](#) – South China Morning Post

*China's new AV rules may make it harder for Tesla to secure higher-level self-driving approvals, with data regulations and stricter safety requirements posing significant challenges.*

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## Economic Development

[100 Kodiak driverless trucks are headed for public roads](#) – Fox News

*Kodiak and Atlas Energy Solutions plan to expand their fleet of fully driverless trucks from 28 to 100 vehicles by mid-2027, with operations on public highways in Texas expected to begin in 2027.*

[TechCrunch Mobility: Zoox prepares for launch and Uber's AV empire](#) – TechCrunch

*Zoox launched commercial robotaxi service in Las Vegas after receiving federal approval for its purpose-built autonomous vehicles, marking a significant milestone for driverless transportation.*

[Uber surprised robotics company Serve by selling its entire stake](#) – TechCrunch

*Uber has sold its stake in Serve Robotics, signaling a strategic shift as the companies diverge on autonomous delivery operations and future partnership plans.*

[Uber and Pony.ai plan to bring 2,000 robotaxis to Europe](#) – TechCrunch

*Uber and Pony.ai plan to deploy more than 2,000 robotaxis across four European cities, expanding their partnership as both companies seek to grow their presence in the emerging autonomous ride-hailing market.*

[PlusAI Reaches Key Commercial Readiness Milestones Ahead of Launching Factory-Built Autonomous Trucks](#) – PlusAI

*PlusAI reported continued progress toward commercial autonomous truck deployment in 2027, achieving 93.4% safety readiness and expanding truck trials and partnerships in the U.S., Europe, and Japan.*

[Uber to operate robotaxis in Los Angeles, San Francisco this year](#) – Smart Cities Dive

*Uber plans to expand robotaxi service to 28 cities worldwide by 2028, with new autonomous ride-hailing operations launching in San Francisco and Los Angeles as part of its broader investment in autonomous mobility.*

[The Las Vegas Raiders and Waymo announce first-ever autonomous ride-hailing partnership at Allegiant Stadium](#) – Raiders

*The Las Vegas Raiders and Waymo have partnered to provide autonomous ride-hailing service to Allegiant Stadium, marking the first such partnership between a professional sports team and an AV company.*

[Waymo announces big CA service expansion across Bay Area, Los Angeles and more](#) – ABC 7 News

*Waymo has received approval to significantly expand its autonomous ride-hailing service across California, with plans to extend operations throughout the Bay Area, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, and additional regions through a phased rollout.*

[Waymo has nearly 1,000 robotaxis waiting at its Arizona factory](#) – Electrek

*Waymo has nearly 700 completed robotaxis ready for deployment at its Arizona factory, signaling a major expansion of its autonomous ride-hailing fleet as the company scales service across multiple cities.*

[The Teamsters' Opposition to Driverless Trucks Is a Road to Economic Oblivion](#) – AEI

*An EI commentary argues that efforts to block autonomous trucks could hinder economic innovation and productivity growth, contending that driverless trucking may help address labor shortages and improve efficiency despite concerns about job displacement.*

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## Public Safety & Enforcement

[49ers' Shanahan crashed his Tesla on Autopilot reaching for his phone](#) – Electrek

*San Francisco 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan said he crashed his Tesla after looking away from the road to retrieve a dropped phone while Autopilot was engaged, underscoring concerns about driver attention and the limitations of advanced driver-assistance systems.*

[Tesla Driver Caught At 64 In A 45 Insists He Wasn't The One Driving](#) – Carscoops

*Colorado driver who was ticketed for speeding while using Tesla Autopilot argued that the vehicle, not the driver, was responsible, highlighting ongoing public confusion about the capabilities and limitations.*

[New Safety Coach app helps Volvo drivers build safer habits and lower insurance rates](#) – Volvo

*Volvo has introduced Safety Coach, a new driver-feedback app that uses driving behavior data to provide personalized safety tips and scores, with the potential to help drivers improve driving habits and qualify for lower insurance rate.*

[Innovative self-driving vehicle could offer independence to individuals with disabilities](#) – Texas Standard

*The Strutt ev1, a voice-activated mobility vehicle with self-driving assistance features, is being tested as a tool to help people with disabilities gain greater independence.*

[I drove Tesla FSD, Rivian Autonomy+ 'hands-free' driving systems. Here's how they compare](#) – CNBC

*A CNBC comparison found Rivian's new Autonomy+ driver-assistance system has made significant advances and now rivals leading hands-free highway driving technologies, but Tesla's Full Self-Driving (Supervised) remains ahead in point-to-point and city-street driving capabilities. Both systems still require drivers to remain attentive and ready to take control at all times.*

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## Research, Development, Testing & Evaluation

### [Key Insights from Summer AV Conferences in the USA Part 1: The 2026 Autonomous Trucking Conference](#) – Richard Bishop

*At the 2026 Autonomous Trucking Conference, industry leaders, regulators, and policymakers highlighted growing momentum for autonomous trucking, emphasizing federal support for commercial deployment, cross-border U.S.-Canada operations, OEM-produced autonomous trucks arriving in 2027, and the need for coordinated regulation, safety oversight, and public trust as the technology scales.*

### [Uber Partners with Hinomaru Kotsu for Robotaxi Pilot Deployment in Tokyo](#) – Uber Investor

*Uber has partnered with Japanese taxi operator Hinomaru Kotsu to support a robotaxi pilot in Tokyo beginning in late 2026, using Nissan LEAF vehicles equipped with Wayve's autonomous driving technology. The pilot will initially include onboard safety drivers.*

### [Musk Called Lidar A Fool's Errand, Waymo's CEO Says Good Luck Without It](#) – Carscoops

*Waymo's CEO argues that camera-only autonomous driving systems have safety limitations, contending that lidar and radar are necessary to achieve the higher levels of reliability and redundancy required for fully driverless vehicles.*

### [Wayve and Uber receive private hire vehicle licences from Transport for London](#) – ADAS & Autonomous Vehicle International

*Wayve and Uber have received approval to begin autonomous ride-hailing trials in London after Transport for London licensed Wayve's AVs. The milestone advances plans to offer autonomous Uber rides in the city, with supervised public testing expected to begin soon.*

### [Tesla unveils first Cybercab with Starlink antenna integrated](#) – Electrek

*Tesla unveiled its first Cybercab with an integrated Starlink antenna, highlighting plans for enhanced vehicle connectivity as it continues development of its purpose-built robotaxi platform.*

### [Self-Driving Cars Have An Aging Problem](#) – Semiconductor Engineering

*A technical analysis warns that AI-driven autonomous vehicle systems may accelerate sensor and hardware aging, creating long-term challenges for safety, reliability, and cybersecurity in self-driving vehicles.*

[OPINION: U.S. Should Scale Autonomous Vehicles Thoughtfully, Not Slam the Brakes](#) – Streetsblog USA

*A Streetsblog opinion piece argues that AVs should be expanded through carefully managed pilot programs and clear safety standards, citing studies that suggest AVs can reduce crashes, improve mobility, and enhance transportation access while continuing to evaluate their real-world performance.*

[OPINION: Could AVs reverse the dangerous rise of larger vehicles?](#) – Traffic Technology Today

*An opinion article suggests AVs could help reverse the trend toward larger vehicles by reducing the need for designs centered on driver preferences, potentially enabling smaller, safer, and more efficient vehicles that improve pedestrian safety.*

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## Upcoming Events

[V2X Accelerator Phase 1 Progress, Insights, and Lessons Learned Series Webinar #1: Texas A&M Transportation Institute](#)

ITS America

August 19, 2026

1:00 p.m.

**Presenters:**

Bob Brydia – TTI

Reza Langari – TTI

Peter Rafferty – TTI

Srinivasa Sunkar – TTI

[V2X Accelerator Phase 1 Progress, Insights, and Lessons Learned Series Webinar #2: Utah DOT](#)

ITS America

August 25, 2026

1:00 p.m.

**Presenters:**

Blaine Leonard & Phillip Castro – Utah DOT

Heather Pickering-Hilgers – Colorado DOT

Darren Weibler – Neaera Consulting Group

Dean Deeter – Athey Creek Consultants

[Midwest AV Policy Summit: An Autonomous Vehicle Workshop for Policymakers and Public Sector Officials](#)

*Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute (UGPTI) and Partners for Automated Vehicle Education (PAVE)*

September 25, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

North Dakota's Gateway to Science, Bismarck, ND