

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

October 26, 2026

1. 🧱 Infrastructure Readiness

Saginaw, Mich., Gets $4M From State to Study Autonomous Tech – *Government Technology*
MDOT awarded STARS $4 million to study semi-autonomous transit services, enhance regional mobility, and improve airport connections.
HIGHWAYS UK: Roadside Technologies showcases new Vecta hazard detection – *Traffic Technology Today*
VECTA uses LiDAR and edge AI to detect work zone hazards in real time, generating alerts within seconds and identifying incidents 98% faster than traditional monitoring during a UK motorway trial.
4G can support connected transport now: Austroads – *Australasian Transport News*
New Austroads research found that many connected transportation applications, including hazard alerts, road worker warnings, and freight signal priority, can operate on existing 4G networks without waiting for widespread 5G deployment.
Is America's 'First Autonomous Transit System' Really Dead? – *Streetsblog USA*

Jacksonville Transit Authority suspended its NAVI autonomous shuttle service amid a $39 million budget shortfall, prompting a reassessment of autonomous transit investments and priorities.

Past the Pilot: What It Takes to Put AI to Work on the Roadway – *Roads & Bridges*
Industry leaders say successful AI deployment in transportation depends on quality data, workforce readiness, and system integration, with applications ranging from traffic management to predictive maintenance..

UK council measures speed with data not radar – *ITS International*
Surrey County Council is using connected vehicle data to monitor speeds at more than 1,300 locations, demonstrating how connected transportation data can reduce costs and improve traffic and safety analysis without relying on traditional roadside sensors.

Michelin Tires Now Have RFID Tags, And Here's What They Track – *Car Scoops*
Michelin is using embedded RFID tags to give tires a unique digital identity, improving tire traceability, inventory management, maintenance, and end-of-life recycling without collecting driver location data.

The Role Of Maps In The Age Of Autonomous Vehicles – *Forbes*
High-definition maps remain critical to AVs, providing road and traffic data beyond onboard sensors to support safer and more efficient automated driving.

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2. 📋 Policy & Legislation

Trump's Transportation Department Makes Commonsense Updates to Vehicle Lighting Standards for AVs – *NHTSA*
NHTSA has proposed updates to FMVSS No. 108 that would establish standardized cyan marker lamps for automated driving systems (ADS), providing a consistent way for law enforcement, emergency responders, and other road users to identify when a vehicle is operating autonomously.

Minneapolis will not require human drivers in robotaxis after council fails to override veto – *Route Fifty (check previous)*
The Minneapolis City Council failed to override a mayoral veto of an ordinance that would have required human safety drivers in robotaxis, allowing companies such as Waymo to continue pursuing fully autonomous operations without onboard drivers if service launches in the city.

Despite rising backlash, D.C. robotaxi bill set for council vote – *Axios D.C.*
A proposed robotaxi bill in Washington, D.C. is advancing toward a city council vote, potentially establishing one of the nation's more comprehensive local frameworks for regulating autonomous ride-hailing services.

Bill aims to study how self-driving vehicles can be integrated into public transit – *NPR Illinois*
HB 4663 in Illinois would establish a pilot program to study how autonomous vehicles can be safely tested and integrated into public transportation, helping policymakers evaluate operational, safety, and mobility impacts before broader deployment.

Portland to weigh robotaxi rules as rideshare drivers warn of job losses and safety issue – *KATU 2*
Portland officials are considering regulations for future robotaxi deployments, including fleet caps, testing requirements, safety plans, data-sharing provisions, and worker

support measures, as the city weighs how to integrate autonomous ride services while addressing safety, congestion, and workforce impacts.

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3. 💵 Economic Development

Autonomous vehicle companies say Texas needs thousands of new workers – *Austin American-Statesman*
Industry leaders at Austin's Autonomy Summit 26 said demand for autonomous vehicle-related jobs is rapidly growing, with new roles emerging in fleet operations, maintenance, remote monitoring, and logistics as AV deployments expand across Texas.
Venti Autonomous Truck Fleet Set for U.S. Rail Yard – *Fleet Equipment*
Venti Technologies plans to deploy more than 130 autonomous container-moving trucks across eight U.S. rail yard sites by 2027, expanding the use of driverless freight operations in intermodal logistics.
Waabi and Warrior Logistics partner on autonomous trucking operations in Texas – *Waabi*
Waabi and Warrior Logistics are expanding autonomous trucking operations in Texas, integrating driverless freight deliveries into commercial logistics routes between Dallas and Houston.
Waymo opens driverless rides to everyone in San Antonio, including airport trips – *Fox San Antonio*
Waymo has expanded its fully driverless ride-hailing service in San Antonio, making autonomous rides available to the public, including trips to and from San Antonio International Airport.
Waymo Closes $5 Billion Debt Financing to Accelerate Business Expansion – *Waymo*
Waymo secured a $5 billion term loan to accelerate expansion of its autonomous ride-hailing service, signaling growing investor confidence in the commercial deployment of driverless transportation.
Waymo begins fully autonomous driving in Detroit -- what to know – *WXYZ 7 Detroit*
Waymo has begun operating fully driverless vehicles on Detroit streets without a human behind the wheel. Service is currently limited to Waymo employees as the company continues validating operations before an anticipated public launch.
Waymo's robotaxis are headed to Canada – *TechCrunch*
Waymo is bringing its autonomous vehicle program to Toronto, marking its first expansion into Canada and beginning a phased approach that includes mapping, testing, and eventual robotaxi service deployment.

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4. 🦺 Public Safety & Enforcement

NHTSA may probe Tesla robotaxis over speeding in school zones – *Transport Topics*
NHTSA is reviewing allegations that Tesla robotaxis may exceed posted speed limits in active school zones. The preliminary review covers an estimated 1,000 model-year 2026 Cybercab and Model Y vehicles operating with automated driving systems and could lead to a formal investigation if safety concerns are substantiated.
Tesla confirms Autopilot/FSD was 'engaged' when car crossed a median and killed a man – *Electrek*

A fatal crash involving a Tesla in New Jersey is receiving renewed attention after federal reporting data indicated the vehicle's driver-assistance system was engaged prior to the collision, highlighting ongoing scrutiny of automated driving technologies and safety reporting.

Virginia reckless driving program installs 90 devices in first 3 months – *WTKR Channel 3*

Virginia's reckless driving intervention program has installed about 90 intelligent speed assistance devices, using technology to help curb excessive speeding as an alternative to license suspension for some offenders.

Bosch Repurposes Ultrasonic Parking Sensors to Detect Water Depth on Wet Roads With 0.1 mm Accuracy – *Design News*

Bosch is developing an AI-powered wet-road detection system that uses existing ultrasonic parking sensors to measure water depth, helping improve vehicle safety and driver assistance performance in slippery conditions.

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5. 🔬 Research, Development, Testing & Evaluation

Auve Tech demonstrates Level 4 autonomous shuttle operations without onboard safety operator at Tallinn Airport – *ADAS & Autonomous Vehicle International*

Auve Tech demonstrated Level 4 autonomous shuttle operations at Tallinn Airport without an onboard safety operator, marking a significant step toward scalable, remotely supervised autonomous transportation.

Volvo to integrate new Nvidia tech stack as it moves closer to self-driving – *ADAS & Autonomous Vehicle International*

Volvo is expanding its partnership with NVIDIA to integrate advanced automated driving, safety, and computing technologies into future vehicles, supporting the development of higher levels of vehicle automation.

TIER IV and Technical University of Munich establish Autoware research center to advance the open autonomous driving ecosystem – *TIER IV*

TIER IV and the Technical University of Munich have launched a new Autoware research center to advance open-source autonomous driving technologies and accelerate their deployment in real-world mobility applications.

Uber begins self-driving robotaxi trial in Manchester – *The Guardian*

Uber, Pony.ai, and Verne launched autonomous vehicle testing in Manchester to support future robotaxi services, with safety drivers currently overseeing mapping and trial operations.

No driver, dedicated tracks: Dubai launches four-week Glydways trial – *Gulf Business*

Dubai RTA has launched a four-week trial of the autonomous Glydways transit system, evaluating on-demand electric pods as a potential solution for first- and last-mile transportation and improved transit connectivity.

GM Plans To Test Unmanned Silverado 3500s For The Army Next Year – *Car Scoops*

GM Defense unveiled an autonomous Silverado 3500 HD-based unmanned ground vehicle designed to transport supplies and evacuate casualties, with functional military testing planned for 2027.