

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

November 9, 2026

1. 🧱 Infrastructure Readiness

Vectigo launches in-road safety platform in Colorado – *Traffic Technology Today*
Vectigo has launched a roadway-embedded safety platform in Colorado that uses in-road sensors to detect hazards such as black ice, wrong-way vehicles, and crashes while sharing real-time roadway data with transportation agencies and AV operators.
Connected technologies may improve ped and bike safety in roundabouts – *Center for Transportation Studies, University of Minnesota Twin Cities*
Researchers in Minnesota are exploring how AI-powered roadside sensors and connected vehicle technologies can improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety at roundabouts by providing AVs with enhanced awareness of vulnerable road users.
Small Robots, Big Steps Toward a More Accessible South City – *City of South San Francisco*
The City of South San Francisco is using Daxbot sidewalk-mapping robots to collect accessibility data for its ADA planning efforts, demonstrating how automated technologies can support infrastructure assessment and mobility improvements.
Derq joins USDoT safe intersection project – *ITS International*

Derq has been selected for the USDoT's Intersection Safety Systems initiative, where it will test AI- and V2X-enabled technology designed to predict and prevent vehicle and pedestrian conflicts at intersections in real time.
Britain's driverless dream hits a roundabout of awkward questions *– The Register*
A report from the Institute for Driverless Transport (IfDT) calls on UK policymakers to better prepare for the workforce, infrastructure, and resilience impacts of autonomous vehicles as robotaxi deployments expand.
Are Waymo's driverless cars the next step in accessibility? *– WUSF*
A recent article highlights how Waymo robotaxis may improve mobility and independence for older adults and people with disabilities, underscoring the potential accessibility benefits of autonomous transportation services.

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2. 📋 Policy & Legislation

First international standard for trusted simulation for automated vehicles published *– Highways News*
The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has released ISO/PAS 34506:2026, the first global standard for validating simulation environments used in AV testing, helping improve trust in virtual safety assessments and supporting AV deployment.
New Orleans proposes regulations for Waymos, robotaxis *– The Tulane Hullabaloo*
New Orleans officials have proposed permitting, inspection, and safety requirements for robotaxi operators as Waymo prepares for a planned 2027 launch, highlighting ongoing efforts by cities to establish local oversight of AV services.
DOT clearing path for driverless vehicles *– Land Line*
The NHTSA has proposed updates to federal vehicle lighting standards to support vehicles designed for automated driving systems, including optional marker lamps that identify when a vehicle is operating autonomously.
California Lawmakers and Drivers Pressure Regulators to Reign In Autonomous Vehicles *– KQED*
California local officials and labor groups are pressing the California Public Utilities Commission to give cities more authority over robotaxi deployments, citing concerns about safety, local oversight, and workforce impacts.
Tesla forced to rename 'misleading' Full Self-Driving technology in the UK and Europe — as BMW readies its own automated driving rival for 2027 *– Tech Radar*
Tesla has rebranded Full Self-Driving as Tesla Assisted Driving in Europe and the UK following regulatory concerns about the term "self-driving," reflecting increasing scrutiny of how advanced driver-assistance technologies are marketed.

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3. 💵 Economic Development

Driverless 18-wheelers are on a few highways, but widespread use is a long way down the road *– The Conversation*
Driverless trucks are beginning to operate on select highway routes, but experts note that widespread deployment remains years away due to technical, regulatory, infrastructure, and public acceptance challenges.
Kodiak delivers first Western Star 49X trucks to Atlas *– Automotive World*

Kodiak AI delivered the first autonomous Western Star 49X trucks to Atlas Energy Solutions, advancing the expansion of driverless trucking operations from private sites onto public roads.

AVs are Back: The New Wave is Bigger – *Trucks*

A new analysis from Trucks Venture Capital finds that autonomous vehicle startup creation is accelerating, driven by advances in AI and foundation models that are making AV development faster and more accessible.

This startup's self-driving excavators help dig up $600M in new funding – *TechCrunch*

Bedrock Robotics raised $600 million to expand deployment of its autonomous excavators, highlighting growing investment in automated construction equipment as the industry faces workforce shortages.

Kodiak lands first commercial deal to supply driverless trucks for public highways – *TechCrunch*

Kodiak AI has secured its first commercial deal to supply 75 driverless trucks to DTL Transport, marking a significant step toward large-scale deployment of autonomous freight operations on public highways.

Aurora targets 30K driverless trucks, $5B revenue in 2030 – *Trucking Dive*

Aurora Innovation outlined plans to scale to 30,000 driverless trucks and more than $5 billion in annual revenue by 2030, signaling growing confidence in the commercialization of autonomous freight operations.

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4. 🦺 Public Safety & Enforcement

Aftermarket Self-Driving Devices Face Federal Investigation Following Five Crashes, Three Deaths – *Yahoo! Autos*

The NHTSA is investigating aftermarket driver-assistance systems from comma.ai following five crashes, including two fatal incidents, highlighting ongoing safety and oversight questions.

Tesla Driver Told CHP the Car Was in Full Self-Driving When It Hit a Pedestrian on I-80 in Vallejo, Then Another Vehicle Didn't Stop – *The Auto Wire*

A fatal crash in California involving a Tesla whose driver reported using Full Self-Driving (Supervised) is under investigation, adding to ongoing scrutiny of advanced driver-assistance systems and their real-world performance.

Tesla drivers used plug-in devices to unlock Full Self-Driving and face up to two years in prison – *The Cool Down*

South Korean authorities are investigating Tesla owners who used aftermarket devices to illegally unlock Full Self-Driving, highlighting ongoing safety, compliance, and enforcement challenges related to advanced driving technologies.

No driver, no ticket: Denver looks to close Waymo loophole – *The Denver Gazette*

Denver officials are examining ways to close a legal loophole that currently prevents police from issuing moving violations to fully driverless robotaxis, highlighting emerging enforcement and accountability challenges as autonomous vehicle deployments expand.

Tesla in self-driving mode loses control, crashes in L.A. County: deputies – *KTLA*

A Tesla reportedly operating in self-driving mode crashed into a fire hydrant in Los Angeles County, prompting another investigation involving advanced driver-assistance technology and real-world vehicle performance.

5. 🔬 Research, Development, Testing & Evaluation

Self-driving cars are coming to Alaska to practice in the snow – *Alaska News*
Waymo will conduct winter testing in Alaska to improve autonomous vehicle performance in snow, ice, and extreme cold, highlighting ongoing efforts to expand AV capabilities in challenging weather conditions. *How the Waymo Driver Manages Severe Winter Weather*

Autonomous vehicles could bridge transportation gaps for people living in rural areas – *UGA Today*
The University of Georgia and University of Wisconsin-Madison are leading a $15 million USDOT-funded initiative to explore how AVs can improve mobility, safety, and transportation access in rural and tribal communities.

Forterra and May Mobility Advance to Phase III of DIU's ROADS Challenge, Bringing Autonomous Rides to Soldiers on Military Bases – *Forterra*
Forterra and May Mobility advanced to Phase III of the ROADS challenge, where they will pilot autonomous transportation services on military bases to improve mobility and fleet efficiency for military personnel.

Volkswagen launches full-scenario Level 2++ ADAS as part of VEGA technology stack – *ADAS & Autonomous Vehicle International*
Volkswagen Group China unveiled its in-house Hyper Sense 8 Level 2++ driver-assistance system as part of the new VEGA technology stack, expanding advanced navigation and parking capabilities while supporting the company's goal of achieving Level 3 automated-driving readiness by 2027.

BMW to Expand Urban Driver Assistance Functions from 2027. – *BMW*
BMW announced plans to expand its advanced driver-assistance capabilities to urban driving environments starting in 2027, marking another step toward more capable hands-free driving systems beyond highway use.

From Driver Monitoring to Context-Aware Cockpits – *SAE Mobility Engineering*
Automakers are moving beyond traditional driver-monitoring systems toward context-aware cockpits that combine in-cabin sensing with roadway and vehicle data, enabling smarter ADAS responses, improved safety, and more personalized in-vehicle AI experiences.

Rivian buys world model startup to accelerate self-driving ambitions – *TechCrunch*
Rivian acquired AI startup Third Dimension to enhance simulation and validation of its autonomous driving systems, supporting the company's long-term robotaxi and self-driving ambitions.