IOWA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AUTOMATED TRANSPORTATION

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. Learn more at iowadrivingav.org/

Articles and upcoming events

March 17, 2025

Infrastructure Readiness

Smoother running on Florida's I-4 – ITS International

The I-4 Frame Project in Florida, now in phase two, aims to enhance traffic safety and mobility using Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) technology. Roadside units (RSUs) started being installed along the I-4 corridor in mid-2024 and will continue through May 2025. Data from these units will be analyzed to identify areas for improvement..

Fort Bend County to deploy C-V2X tech to improve safety around schools – Traffic Technology Today

Fort Bend County in Texas is deploying Cellular Vehicle-to-Everything (C-V2X) technology to improve safety around schools. This includes installing School Zone Safety Beacons and Pedestrian Crosswalks at about 120 schools to alert drivers when students are present, enhancing roadway safety.

New app aims to improve traffic safety around N.C. State University – Spectrum News 1

A new traffic app, YU2X, has been launched around N.C. State University to enhance safety for drivers, bikers, and pedestrians. Using multimodal connected vehicle technology, the app gathers real-time data from sensors at over two dozen intersections.

City of Clarksville Enhances Transportation Safety with Cutting-Edge LiDAR Technology – Clarksville Online

This initiative involves deploying LiDAR sensors to create detailed 3D models of traffic patterns. The data collected will help optimize traffic flow, reduce vehicle crashes, and inform future planning for multi-modal pathway.

Driverless electric bus with L4 autonomy runs on Barcelona streets filled with cars – Interesting Engineering

Barcelona is testing a driverless electric bus on a 2.2-kilometer route through the city. This pilot project, involving two autonomous minibuses, aims to improve urban mobility and reduce traffic congestion. The bus can carry up to 12 passengers and operates on predefined route.

Policy & Legislation

The road ahead for connected vehicle policy – Reuters

The article emphasizes the need for updated regulations to keep pace with rapid vehicle technology advancements. Key points include cybersecurity, data privacy, and integrating connected vehicle systems with existing infrastructure. Policymakers are working on a framework to ensure safety and innovation while addressing potential risks.

Robotaxis without a brake pedal or mirrors? Not so fast, feds say – The Detroit News

Federal inspectors have raised safety concerns about Amazon-backed Zoox's self-driving taxis, which lack basic features like brake pedals and rearview mirrors. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration found "apparent noncompliances" with eight safety rules.

British Government Blocks Tesla from Launching Full Self-Driving in the U.K. – Road Track

The British government has blocked Tesla from launching its Full Self-Driving system in the UK due to safety concerns. Current regulations only allow basic highway maneuvers

and require drivers to keep their hands on the wheel, reflecting a cautious approach towards autonomous driving technology.

Washington House passes bill that could majorly redefine ‘excessive speeding’ – My Northwest

House Bill 1596 introduces a two-tiered threshold: driving 10 mph or more over the limit on roads with a posted speed limit of 40 mph or less, and 20 mph or more over the limit on roads with higher speed limits. The bill also mandates Intelligent Speed Assistance (ISA) devices for certain drivers to prevent speeding.

Economic Development

Gatik Head of Operations on SiriusXM’s Women in Trucking (YouTube) – Women in Trucking

Gatik's Head of Operations, Brenda Mejia, sat down with Women In Trucking’s President and CEO Ellen Voie for a YouTube interview. Topics discussed included job openings, employee benefits, middle mile delivery, and the importance of safety at Gatik.

Waabi Says Virtual Robotrucks Give Real-World Results – Transport Topics

Waabi, a Canadian startup, uses advanced virtual simulations to validate the safety of its autonomous trucks, minimizing the need for extensive real-world testing. By employing a digital twin with real sensor data, Waabi compares performance in simulations and on actual roads. The company plans to launch fully driverless operations later this year.

Self-driving sand-hauler trucks roll into the Texas Basin: A look at the new AI fleet – KXAN

Self-driving sand-hauler trucks are now operating in the Texas Basin, marking a significant shift for the oil industry. Atlas Energy Solutions partnered with Kodiak Robotics to launch the first fully autonomous sand-hauling operation in the U.S. oil and gas sector. These trucks use advanced sensors and real-time driving decisions to improve efficiency and reduce crashes in the Permian Basin.

Waymo’s Impact on the Tourism Economy – Waymo

Waymo One, Waymo's fully autonomous ride-hailing service, is boosting tourism in cities like San Francisco, Phoenix, Los Angeles, and Austin. With hundreds of thousands of trips weekly, it has added nearly $40 million to San Francisco's economy

alone. Tourists are increasingly using Waymo One to explore city attractions, benefiting the local economy.

The Case for Autonomous Vehicles in Goods Transportation and Logistics (white paper) – PAVE Europe

AVs have the potential to improve efficiency, safety, and sustainability. The document serves as a comprehensive guide for stakeholders in logistics and transport, while also providing valuable insights for the general public, policymakers, and technology users.

Automotive News Video: A driverless ride around Ann Arbor, Mich. with May Mobility CEO Edwin Olson – Automotive News

A video of a driverless ride around Ann Arbor, Michigan, with Edwin Olson, CEO and co-founder of Toyota-backed May Mobility. Additionally, Olson also discusses the company's upcoming deployment plans in a podcast interview.

Public Safety & Enforcement

Tennessee now providing slowdown alerts to truck drivers through Drivewyze Smart Roadways – Fleet Owner

Tennessee has launched a new initiative to improve road safety by providing real-time slowdown alerts to truck drivers. Using the Drivewyze Smart Roadways system, the state offers sudden slowdown alerts and a virtual sign network to help reduce traffic accidents and fatalities

These driverless taxis got 589 parking tickets in San Francisco last year – Washington Post

In 2024, Waymo's driverless taxis received 589 parking tickets in San Francisco for violations such as parking in prohibited areas, obstructing traffic, and disobeying street cleaning restrictions. Waymo is working to improve its vehicles' ability to avoid parking citations while prioritizing safety during pick-ups and drop-offs.

Mercedes Cars Will Use Turquoise Lights When Driving Autonomously – Car Scoops

Mercedes-Benz has received approval to use turquoise lights on its autonomous vehicles in Germany. These lights will be illuminated when the Drive Pilot system is activated, allowing other road users and authorities to easily identify when the vehicle is operating autonomously. This initiative aims to enhance safety and trust in autonomous driving technology.

I've tried Nissan's latest advanced driverless technology – and it handles 60mph on rural roads better than most humans – Tech Radar

Nissan's latest advanced driverless technology has been tested on rural roads at speeds up to 60 mph, demonstrating impressive performance. The system uses a combination of cameras, radars, and LiDAR sensors to navigate and handle driving conditions better than most human driver.

Research, Development, Testing & Evaluation

New Smartphone App Uses GPS Technology to Warn Drivers of Lane Departures – Crossroads, Minnesota's Transportation Research Blog

A new smartphone app developed by researchers in Minnesota uses GPS technology to warn drivers of lane departures. This app aims to prevent vehicles from drifting out of traffic lanes, addressing a significant safety risk. The current phase of the project has improved the app's effectiveness by adding GPS and enhancing lane departure detection.

Insights for the Future of Car Rental and Ridesharing: Driving Behavior Across Different Levels of Automation (report)– San Jose State University, Mineta Transportation Institute

This study explores human behavior towards AVs, focusing on differences in driver behavior across various levels of automation (Levels 0, 3, and 5) and assistance feature styles (risky and conservative modes).

New research delves into how pedestrians can more safely interact with AVs – Tech Brew

Kean University researchers are using virtual reality (VR) to study pedestrian interactions with AVs. The goal is to find effective communication methods, such as signals or lights, to improve pedestrian safety around AVs.

The distraction potential of driving a partially automated vehicle through a construction zone (paper) – Scientific Reports

The study found no differences in cognitive workload between manual driving and partial driving automation. However, during partial automation, drivers tended to glance more at the vehicle's touchscreen and less at the forward roadway, even in construction zones. This suggests that partial automation might increase safety risks by diverting drivers' attention away from the road.

Self-driving vehicles not ready for prime time, study suggests – Land Line

A study by George Mason University Professor Missy Cummings indicates that self-driving vehicles are not yet ready for widespread use due to issues like "phantom braking" and difficulties in navigating human driving behavior, leading to a high number of crashes, especially rear-end collision.

Upcoming Events

Autonomous Vehicles for All: Seattle's Community-Driven Approach
Partners for Automated Vehicle Education (PAVE)
March 19
1:00 p.m.

Presenters:
Armand Shahbazian – Seattle Department of Transportation
Charlotte Jernick – Uncommon Bridges
Nico Larco – University of Oregon

Automated and Connected Vehicles Digital Summit
SAE International
March 25 and 26

Iowa Advisory Council on Automated Transportation Meeting
Tuesday, April 29 from 10 am - 1 pm

Recent Events

Policy & Legislation Subcommittee Meeting - meeting summary in progress
Iowa Advisory Council on Automated Transportation
Thursday, March 14