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 31, 2025

Infrastructure Readiness

Utah DOT Equips More Snowplows with V2X Technology – *AASHTO Journal*

The Utah Department of Transportation is adding V2X technology to 100 more snowplows. This tech helps snowplows communicate with traffic signals and other vehicles, improving efficiency and safety on winter roads.

Nashville uses LiDAR technology to improve road safety for all travelers – *News Channel 5 Nashville*

Nashville is using LiDAR technology to monitor real-time traffic conditions and improve road safety. Based on the data collected, NDOT has already initiated safety improvements, such as installing a pedestrian hybrid beacon near the new transit center in North Nashville.

Keep Oregon Moving: ODOT is using technology to become more efficient – *Portland Tribune*

ODOT is enhancing road safety and efficiency with technologies like road sensors that compute travel times, detect ice, water levels, and high winds, and activate warning signs or adjust speed limits accordingly. Additionally, automated flagger assistance devices improve safety by allowing operators to control flagging operations remotely.

Charlotte, North Carolina, debuts truck parking tool – *Trucking Dive*

Charlotte, North Carolina, has launched a mobile app to help truck drivers find safe and authorized parking. The app offers searchable parking lots based on location, includes a survey for parking lot owners, and provides a real-time map of parking violations.

Smarter Highways trial for New South Wales – *ITS International*

The Smarter Highways program is testing several technologies to enhance road safety and traffic management. These include solar-powered signs, machine learning-enabled electronic signage, prism signs, variable message signs, flashing lights, and the Road Pod Vehicle Magnetometer for real-time traffic data collection.

Policy & Legislation

Automakers urge Trump administration to clear way for self-driving cars – *USA Today*

Major automakers and tech groups are urging the Trump administration to expedite the deployment of self-driving cars by addressing regulatory hurdles. They want the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to be the sole regulator of self-driving vehicle hardware and software.

Alphabet's Waymo aims for 2026 self-driving ride-hailing launch in Washington, D.C.– *Reuters*

Alphabet's Waymo plans to launch its fully autonomous ride-hailing service in Washington, D.C., in 2026. The company is working with policymakers to establish the necessary legal framework for operating without a human driver.

Autonomous truck rules move forward at statehouses – *Land Line*

Statehouses in Montana, Virginia, Delaware, North Dakota and Texas are discussing rules for autonomous trucks. More than half of all states have enacted regulations, but some are considered outdated as technology evolves. Some states bills aim to prohibit autonomous trucks without an operator.

Autonomous vehicle reporting can't be voluntary, OOIDA says – *Land Line*

The Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA) advocates for mandatory, rather than voluntary, AV reporting. They argue that mandatory testing, safety, and crash-reporting requirements are crucial for transparency and public safety, as voluntary reporting lacks sufficient data for informed regulatory policies.

Tesla Gets Ride-Hailing Permit In California, But It's Not What You Think – *Inside EVs*

Tesla has received a permit to operate a ride-hailing service in California, but it will initially use human drivers rather than autonomous vehicles. This permit is a step towards Tesla's goal of offering driverless taxi rides in the future.

Waymo coming to San Francisco airport after striking deal with city – *Mission Local*

Waymo received a temporary permit to map roadways at San Francisco International Airport (SFO), a step towards offering driverless pickups and drop-offs. The permit allows up to two manually driven vehicles for mapping, valid for 30 days with an extension option.

Op-Ed: Anti-Speeding Technology Could Have Saved My Son – *Streetblogs USA*

A mother shares a personal tragedy in this op-ed, recounting how her son was killed by a speeding driver. She advocates for Intelligent Speed Assist (ISA) technology, which uses GPS to prevent vehicles from exceeding speed limits. . She supports legislative efforts to mandate ISA for drivers with multiple speeding convictions.

Economic Development

Aurora Plans for Self-Driving Trucks in Harsh Weather in Texas – *Insurance Journal*

Aurora Innovation plans to deploy self-driving trucks in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona by the end of 2025. These trucks will operate without drivers in various conditions and adhere to speed limits from 25 to 75 mph. Aurora is enhancing testing through simulations, closed-track assessments, and performance monitoring on roads before the commercial launch.

Lyft plans to launch fleet of self-driving taxis in Atlanta this summer – *Fox 5 Atlanta*

Lyft plans to launch a fleet of self-driving taxis in Atlanta this summer, partnering with May Mobility to deploy autonomous Toyota Sienna minivans. This initiative marks Lyft's latest step into autonomous transportation, with plans to expand to other cities like Dallas next year.

Volkswagen Draws on Valeo, Mobileye for Driving Assistance Push – *U.S. News & World Report*

Volkswagen announced a collaboration with Valeo and Mobileye to enhance its driver assistance systems. This partnership aims to develop Level 2+ systems for new high-volume models, focusing on features like hands-free driving, traffic jam assist, hazard detection, parking assist, and driver monitoring.

Torc Partners With Flex, Nvidia on Autonomous Trucks – *Transport Topics*

Torc, Flex, and Nvidia are collaborating to develop a scalable AI compute system for autonomous Freightliner Cascadia trucks. Using Nvidia's DRIVE AGX and Flex's Jupiter compute design, they aim for a driver-out launch by 2027.

Gatik to Accelerate Mass Production of SAE Level 4 (L4) Production-Ready Autonomous Trucks, Built on NVIDIA In-Vehicle Compute – *Gatik*

Gatik is collaborating with NVIDIA to develop and deploy the NVIDIA DRIVE AGX platform across its fleet of autonomous trucks. This partnership aims to accelerate the production of Level 4 autonomous trucks, enhancing Gatik's commercial-grade capabilities.

Public Safety & Enforcement

After 50 million miles, Waymos crash a lot less than human drivers – *ARS Technica*

Waymo's self-driving cars have driven over 50 million miles, experiencing 81% fewer injury-causing crashes than human drivers. Most crashes involving Waymo vehicles were caused by human drivers engaging in behaviors like speeding, running red lights, or veering out of lane.

New intelligent speed assistance devices installed in DC school buses as part of pilot program – *WUSA Channel 9*

A pilot program in Washington, D.C., has equipped some school buses with intelligent speed assistance devices. These devices use GPS data to track speed limits and prevent the buses from speeding. A bus driver participating in the program reported feeling more confident and safer with the new system.

Aurora unveils safety blueprint ahead of driverless truck debut – *Freight Waves*

Aurora has released its Driverless Safety Report, outlining its roadmap for deploying self-driving trucks on public highways. The report details safety protocols and

operational strategies to ensure the safe integration of autonomous trucks into commercial operations.

Are Car Safety Systems Driving Motorists To Switch Off? – *Driving Instructors Association (DIA)*

More than half of UK drivers are disabling advanced safety features in their vehicles, according to new research. The most frequently disabled systems include Intelligent Speed Assistance, lane-keeping aids, and emergency braking. Drivers find these features distracting, dangerous, or useless, raising concerns among road safety experts.

Drivewyze nearly doubles critical alert program – *Commercial Carrier Journal*

Drivewyze has expanded its critical alert program to five more states, nearly doubling its reach. The program provides alerts for "sudden slowdown" and "congestion ahead" to commercial truck drivers, leading to a 151% increase in monthly alerts and a 96% growth in unique trucks receiving alerts. These alerts have effectively reduced at-fault crashes and improved driver safety.

Research, Development, Testing & Evaluation

Research reveals the problem with self-driving cars and traffic laws – *Tech Xplore*

A study from Charles Darwin University reveals that current traffic laws don't adequately address self-driving cars, as they are designed for human drivers. The research suggests using passenger transport legislation, which is more vehicle-centric, as a template to adapt road traffic laws for AVs.

What It's Like In A Robotaxi With No Steering Wheel Or Pedals – *MSN*

The article describes riding in a Zoox robotaxi, which lacks traditional controls like a steering wheel and pedals. The vehicle seats four passengers facing each other. The author found the experience futuristic and appreciated the spacious seating arrangement, noting the innovative design and potential of autonomous transportation.

Zoox CTO: Why Self-Driving Cars Are So Hard to Get Right – *PYMNTS*

Jesse Levinson, CTO of Zoox, explains why developing self-driving cars is challenging and expensive. Zoox is redesigning cars by removing traditional elements like the steering wheel and pedals, which has led to technical difficulties. Despite these challenges, Zoox is testing its autonomous vehicles in various cities and plans to launch a paid service in Las Vegas later this year.

Driverless ‘bus of the future’ is tested in Barcelona – *AP News*

Renault and WeRide are testing a driverless mini-bus in Barcelona. The autonomous vehicle runs on a 2.2-km circular route with four stops in the city center. Equipped with 10 cameras and eight lidars, the bus navigates urban environments safely. Commuters can ride for free during the test period.

Developing Technology to Prevent Vehicles from Running Red Lights – *Minnesota's Transportation Research Blog*

Researchers in Minnesota have developed a red light running warning system (RLRWS) to prevent vehicles from running red lights. The system integrates traffic light phasing information with GPS data to warn drivers when they are approaching a red light. On-road testing demonstrated that the RLRWS can provide reliable warnings, potentially reducing the risk of serious crashes.

Upcoming Events

CAV Pilot Development & Deployment in Midwest Winter - CCAT Research Review
Center for Connected and Automated Transportation (CCAT)
Tuesday, April 15
1:00 - 2:00 pm

Presenters:
Prof. Ziran Wang - Purdue University

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

Public Safety & Enforcement Subcommittee Meeting - meeting summary in progress
Iowa Advisory Council on Automated Transportation
Friday, March 28