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

June 23, 2025

1.1. Infrastructure Readiness

Autonomous Shuttles Are Popping up Across America in Time for the World Cup – Newsweek
Autonomous shuttles are launching in U.S. cities ahead of the 2026 World Cup, including a pilot in Atlanta. Four self-driving Beep shuttles will run a two-mile loop near the Beltline, operating every 15 minutes with onboard attendants. The year-long, $3 million program aims to improve transit and gather data for future planning.
Seattle outlines 7 priorities for autonomous vehicle adoption – Smart Cities Dive
Seattle is preparing for AVs by prioritizing equity, safety, and accessibility through community-driven planning. A diverse working group helped the city develop seven key priorities, including fair pricing, accessible vehicle

design, safety standards, workforce retraining, and partnerships with underserved communities.

UK government brings forward self-driving pilots to spring 2026 – ADAS & Autonomous Vehicle International

Starting spring 2026, the UK will begin self-driving vehicle pilots on public roads without safety drivers. Enabled by the new Automated Vehicles Act, the goal is to improve safety, boost mobility, and grow a projected £42 billion industry by 2035, creating up to 38,000 jobs.

How the Texas DOT uses AI – Smart Cities Dive

Texas DOT has launched a 3-year AI strategy (2025–2027) to enhance traffic management, emergency response, project planning, and cybersecurity. With 230 identified use cases, AI is already active in 22 areas and will expand as more data is integrated.

City, partners announce July 7 return of “The Connect" AV Shuttle with autonomous service – City of Detroit

Detroit’s free Connect AV shuttle service will resume July 7, 2025, with expanded routes and full autonomous operation beginning in August. Backed by a $1.67 million MDOT grant, the electric, wheelchair-accessible shuttles will run weekdays and include onboard safety operators during the transition.

1.2. Policy & Legislation

NHTSA to streamline exemption to allow OEMs to sell automated vehicles– Repairer Driven News

The NHTSA is streamlining its exemption process to allow automakers to sell up to 2,500 AVs per year that don’t meet all traditional safety standards, like having steering wheels or mirrors. These vehicles must still prove they’re as safe as conventional ones. The goal is to speed up innovation and bring purpose-built AVs to market more efficiently.

'Big Beautiful Bill' AI provisions could halt state driverless bans – Overdrive

The “Big Beautiful Bill” includes a provision that could block states from restricting AI technologies, including AVs, for 10 years. A Senate version ties this restriction to broadband funding—states that regulate AI could lose federal internet grants.

Pennsylvania lawmaker proposes green-lighting vehicles with self-driving capabilities – ABC Channel 27

Pennsylvania Rep. Nelson is proposing a bill to allow Level 3 self-driving cars in Pennsylvania, aiming to modernize laws and boost AV innovation.

The bill would permit use of vehicles with conditional automation, where the car handles driving but a human must be ready to take over.
Which States Are Self-Driving Trucks Legal in? 2025 Guide – Tech.co
Self-driving trucks are legal in several U.S. states, including Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, and Texas, with others like Indiana and Ohio launching pilot programs. While adoption varies, states are gradually updating laws to accommodate autonomous freight transport, though some still require human oversight or limit operations to specific conditions.
Automated vehicles: statement of safety principles – UK Department of Transport
The UK's Automated Vehicles Statement of Safety Principles sets the foundation for regulating self-driving cars. It requires AVs to be as safe or safer than competent human drivers, aiming to reduce accidents caused by human error.
Q&A: How can the autonomous industry be insured? – Zag Daily
AVs require a new insurance model focused on product liability rather than driver error. As AVs remove human drivers, responsibility shifts to manufacturers and software developers. The industry is still adapting, with early efforts like Tesla's self-insurance facing challenges. Delivery robots are typically insured under general or product liability, not auto insurance.

1.3. Economic Development

Waymo expands robotaxi services into more parts of San Francisco Bay Area – Reuters
Waymo is expanding its robotaxi service across more of the San Francisco Peninsula, Silicon Valley, and Los Angeles. New areas include cities like South San Francisco, Palo Alto, and Echo Park. Waymo now runs 250,000+ rides weekly across four U.S. cities, remaining the only company offering paid robotaxi rides.
Tesla robotaxi launch hits major speed bump – The Street
Tesla's robotaxi launch is delayed due to safety concerns with its Full Self-Driving (FSD) system. A viral video showing a Cybertruck making a dangerous maneuver raised public skepticism, 60% of consumers view FSD as unsafe. Regulatory hurdles in California also complicate expansion plans. The rollout will begin cautiously in Austin, Texas.
Waymo has set its robotaxi sights on NYC – Tech Crunch
Waymo has applied for a permit to test its AVs in New York City, marking its first step toward operating robotaxis there. The permit requires a human safety driver, $5 million in insurance, and strict training. While commercial

driverless service isn't yet allowed under current state law, Waymo is lobbying for legal changes and building community partnerships to support future deployment.
Driverless disruption: Tech titans gird for robotaxi wars – Yahoo! Tech
Waymo, Zoox, and Tesla are competing in the robotaxi space. Waymo leads with active services in major cities, Zoox is preparing to launch with custom vehicles, and Tesla faces safety concerns in its Austin trials. Experts say full adoption is still at least 15 years away.
Inside the Zoox robotaxi serial production facility – Zoox
Zoox has launched the first U.S. facility dedicated to mass-producing purpose-built robotaxis. These vehicles, designed without steering wheels or driver seats, will support upcoming commercial deployments in cities like Las Vegas and San Francisco.
Musk launches Tesla AI robotaxi in Austin with flat fees under $5 – Fox Business
Tesla has launched its CyberCab robotaxi service in Austin with flat fares of $4.20. The invite-only service operates in a limited area using Model Y vehicles with onboard safety monitors. Expansion to Los Angeles and San Francisco is planned, with full-scale production of steering wheel–free vehicles expected in 2026.

1.4. Public Safety & Enforcement

How Much Safer Do Active Safety Systems Make Cars, Really? – Car and Driver
Advanced Driver Assistance Systems like Automatic Emergency Braking, Blind Spot Monitor and Land Departure Warning improve safety, but slow adoption limits their impact. While crash and injury rates are down, fatalities have risen since 2014, likely due to distracted driving, speeding, and other behavioral factors.
First Responder Interactions with Automated Vehicles: An Identification of Needs and Strategies – Texas A&M Transportation Institute
A Texas A&M-led project developed guides to help first responders safely interact with automated vehicles, identifying key knowledge gaps, operational challenges, and policy needs to support emergency response and public safety.
Tesla blows past stopped school bus and hits kid-sized dummies in Full Self-Driving tests – Engadget
A recent demonstration, organized by critics of Tesla, raises serious concerns about the safety and readiness of Full Self-Driving (FSD)

technology. The test showed a Tesla Model Y using FSD repeatedly failed to stop for a school bus with flashing lights, hitting child-sized dummies each time.

Photos show Waymo vehicles on fire during LA protests as company cuts downtown service – CNBC

During protests in Los Angeles over federal immigration raids, at least five Waymo self-driving cars were vandalized and set on fire. Protesters spray-painted anti-ICE messages on the vehicles and threw objects like e-scooters into the flames. The fires released toxic gases from the lithium-ion batteries, prompting Waymo to suspend service in the area.

Torc Joins the Stanford Center for AI Safety to Conduct Joint Research on AI Safety for Level 4 Autonomous Trucking – Torc Robotics

Torc Robotics has partnered with the Stanford Center for AI Safety to advance research on Level 4 autonomous trucking. The collaboration focuses on improving AI safety and reliability as Torc prepares to commercialize its self-driving trucks by 2027.

Robotaxi stopped for no reason? It'll move again soon – KXAN

In early June 2025, several Waymo robotaxis in Austin briefly stopped due to a low-hanging tree branch detected by their sensors. Though human drivers ignored it, the robotaxis paused and then carefully navigated around it. Waymo confirmed the vehicles were operating as designed, and the branch was later trimmed.

1.5. Research, Development, Testing & Evaluation

65% of Freight Pros Expect Self-Driving Trucks on US Roads by 2050 – Tech.co

About 65% of U.S. freight professionals believe self-driving trucks will be on roads by 2050, with 42% expecting it by 2040. They see the most promise in long-haul highway routes and off-peak hours, while support for short-haul use remains low. Adoption depends on how well the technology fits real-world logistics.

Safe to Deploy: How We Know The Waymo Driver Is Ready For The Road – Waymo

Waymo uses 12 safety criteria and a structured governance process to ensure its AVs are ready for deployment, focusing on performance, reliability, and adaptability to real-world conditions.

H-E-B pilots autonomous vehicle delivery in Austin – Grocery Dive

H-E-B is piloting autonomous grocery deliveries in Austin using small delivery robots from local startup Avride. Operating from the Mueller H-E-B

store, the bots deliver select items via the Favor app within a one-mile radius. The pilot reflects growing interest in autonomous delivery tech.
Uber brings forward trialling driverless taxis in UK – BBC
Uber will begin testing fully driverless robotaxis in London in 2026, partnering with UK AI firm Wayve. The trial follows new UK government rules accelerating autonomous vehicle deployment. While it's unclear if the cars will be available to the public during the trial, Uber plans to offer them via its app once legally permitted.
Enhanced Perception with Cooperation Between Connected Automated Vehicles and Smart Infrastructure (Research Report) – Institute of Transportation Studies, University of California
UCLA's Mobility Lab demonstrated how smart infrastructure and LiDAR data enhance cooperative perception for AVs, while also testing the system's resilience to V2X data spoofing attacks from compromised onboard units.
Nearly 75% of Riders Fear Robotaxi Safety – Yet Pay More for Waymo's Driverless Experience – Yahoo! Finance
Nearly 75% of riders express safety concerns about robotaxis, yet many still choose and even prefer Waymo's higher-priced driverless service. A study by Obi found that despite safety worries, 70% of riders who tried Waymo preferred it over traditional rideshares, and many were willing to pay more for the experience. The report also noted that Waymo rides cost 31–41% more than Uber or Lyft, especially during peak hours.

1.6.

1.7. Upcoming Events

Beyond the State Line: Smart Freight, Smarter Corridors
ITS America
Wednesday, June 25
1:00 p.m.
Presenters:
Dr. Jianming Ma – Texas DOT
John Fell – Arizona DOT
Mark Savage – Drivewyze