



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

August 18, 2025

1.1. Infrastructure Readiness

[History Made in Kansas as RAMP Brings Autonomous Tractors to U.S. Public Roads](#) – Precision Farming Dealer

Kansas launched the first autonomous tractors on U.S. public roads through the RAMP program, aiming to tackle rural labor shortages and reduce equipment costs. Led by Kelly Hills Unmanned Systems and partners like Sabanto, the initiative allows tractors to travel between fields without drivers, with pilot testing continuing through 2026.

[Aurrigo all-season medium-speed autonomous shuttle launches on Canadian public roads](#) – ADAS & Autonomous Vehicle International

Aurrigo has launched its all-season, medium-speed autonomous shuttle, the Auto-Shuttle, on public roads in Kanata, Canada. This marks the first deployment of such a vehicle in the country, designed to handle harsh weather and support inclusive transit with features like ASL for deaf riders.

[Autonomous Holon Urban minibus launches in Hamburg](#) – ADAS & Autonomous Vehicle International

Hamburg has introduced its first autonomous Holon Urban vehicle, designed for safe, comfortable, and accessible city transport. This launch supports the city's push toward integrating autonomous mobility into public transit systems.

[Market Street opening to robotaxis and rideshares](#) – Axios San Francisco

San Francisco is reopening part of Market Street to select rideshare services like Waymo, Uber Black, and Lyft Black during off-peak hours. The move aims to boost downtown activity but has raised concerns about pedestrian safety and transit efficiency.

[No-one left behind: How inclusive tech and autonomous shuttles are redefining mobility](#) (podcast) – Highways News

Inclusive technology and autonomous shuttles are reshaping mobility by improving access for underserved and disabled communities. Innovations like accessibility apps and shuttle deployments aim to ensure no one is left behind, while experts emphasize the importance of cybersecurity and scalable solutions for broader adoption.

1.2. Policy & Legislation

[Texas Chapter 220: Automated Motor Vehicles](#) – Texas Department of Motor Vehicles

Texas' proposed Chapter 220 regulations establish a formal framework for authorizing the operation of automated motor vehicles (AMVs) on public roads for commercial purposes.

[Texas to enforce new autonomous vehicle rules amid safety concerns](#) – The Daily Texan

Texas will begin enforcing new autonomous vehicle rules on September 1 under Senate Bill 2807. The law requires AV companies to obtain permits and create safety plans for first responders, addressing concerns about AVs navigating emergency situations. Despite local limitations on regulation, the bill strengthens state oversight to improve public safety.

[Waymo gets first permit to test autonomous vehicles in New York City](#) – Reuters

Waymo received its first permit to test autonomous vehicles in New York City. The company will begin with manually driven vehicles equipped with autonomous tech to map and collect data in Manhattan, preparing for future AV testing in one of the nation's most complex urban environments.

[The threat of autonomous vehicles](#) – Land Line

The Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association warns that AVs could threaten driver livelihoods, especially without fair pay and protections. While AVs may handle highway driving, human drivers are still essential for complex tasks like navigating tight docks and urban areas.

[UK launches self-driving consultation](#) – Land Line

The UK has launched a public consultation to guide the rollout of self-driving vehicles by 2026. It focuses on safety, accessibility, and regulation under the new Automated Vehicles Act. The goal is to enable driverless services like taxis and shuttles, with input from industry, councils, and the public.

1.3. Economic Development

[Aurora and McLeod Partner on New Autonomous Transportation Management System](#) – HDT Trucking Info

Aurora and McLeod Software have teamed up to launch the first transportation management system designed for autonomous trucks. This integration streamlines operations like load planning and dispatch for fleets using Aurora's self-driving technology, with a full rollout expected in 2026.

[Will AVs be part of the Messy Middle?](#) – Commercial Carrier Journal

Autonomous trucks can lower fleet costs by cutting driver wages, boosting fuel efficiency, and enabling nonstop operation. Though expensive upfront, they offer long-term savings and safer driving through advanced technology.

[Tensor redefines driving with first consumer-ready autonomous car](#) – ADAS & Autonomous Vehicle International

Tensor has introduced the first consumer-ready autonomous car, featuring Level 4 autonomy, over 100 sensors, and AI that mimics human cognition. Designed for private ownership, it includes features like autonomous parking and charging, with deliveries expected to begin in late 2026 across the U.S., Europe, and UAE.

[How Tesla and Waymo's radically different robotaxi approaches will shape the industry](#) – Reuters

Tesla and Waymo are taking different paths in the robotaxi race: Tesla plans a consumer-owned fleet using existing vehicles and software updates, while Waymo is building a commercial service with custom vehicles and strict safety protocols. These approaches reflect contrasting priorities scalability vs. safety and will shape how autonomous mobility evolves.

[Lyft to develop self-driving bus as autonomous vehicle hype builds](#) – USA Today

Unlike smaller robotaxis from Waymo and Tesla, Lyft's shuttle will transport multiple passengers and could redefine mass transit within ridesharing platforms. The company emphasizes safety and plans to test the vehicles with community and policymaker input.

[Honda Taps US Startup in Self-Driving Software Deal](#) – Transport Topics

Honda has partnered with U.S. startup Helm.ai to develop advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS) for its mass-market vehicles by 2027. The collaboration focuses on creating partially automated driving capabilities for both highways and regular roads.

[Self-driving trucks transport goods on Texas freeways in expansion push, could lead to job losses](#) – ABC 7 News

Aurora Innovations is using driverless trucks to move goods in Texas and plans to expand to other states. These trucks operate without safety drivers and use advanced sensors for navigation. While promising efficiency and cost savings, they raise concerns about trucking job losses and road safety.

1.4. Public Safety & Enforcement

[Autonomous trucks touted to boost Permian Basin safety, cut costs](#) – MRT

Autonomous trucks in the Permian Basin aim to boost safety and cut costs by reducing accidents and addressing driver shortages. They're ideal for long, repetitive oilfield routes and can operate continuously with fewer errors.

[NHTSA opens investigation into Tesla missing crash report submission deadlines](#) – Repairer Driven News

The NHTSA has opened an investigation into Tesla for allegedly missing deadlines in submitting crash reports involving vehicles equipped with driver assistance systems, such as Autopilot and Full Self-Driving. Tesla reportedly submitted many reports months late, either in bulk batches or on a rolling basis, raising concerns about compliance.

[Trucking Fleets Adopt ADAS to Improve Highway Safety](#) – Transport Topics

Trucking fleets are adopting Advanced Driver Assistance Systems to improve safety and reduce crashes. Features like emergency braking and lane departure warnings have led to fewer collisions and lower insurance costs. While some drivers resist at first, many accept the technology after seeing its benefits.

[Tesla facing major class-action lawsuit for allegedly misleading vehicle buyers: 'Tesla's distinctive advertising strategy warrants a departure'](#) – Yahoo News!

Trucking fleets are adopting Advanced Driver Assistance Systems to improve safety and reduce crashes. Features like emergency braking and lane departure warnings have led to fewer collisions and lower insurance costs. While some drivers resist at first, many accept the technology after seeing its benefits.

1.5. Research, Development, Testing & Evaluation

[Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology; Request for Information-Research Ideas To Support Nationwide Automated Vehicle \(AV\) Deployment](#) – Federal Register

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology (OST-R) issued a Request for Information (RFI) to gather input for shaping national research efforts that support the deployment of Automated Driving Systems (ADS) across U.S. roadways.

[Active Driving Assistance: Promising Technology, Lingerin Challenges](#) – AAA Newsroom

AAA's 2025 study found that Active Driving Assistance (ADA) systems still require frequent driver intervention, about every 9 to 15 minutes, due to issues like poor lane centering and failure to respond to merging vehicles. Hands-on systems needed more corrections than hands-off ones. AAA urges drivers to stay alert and automakers to improve system reliability.

[Tesla FSD turns off more U.S. consumers than it attracts, survey finds](#) – CNBC

A recent survey found Tesla's Full Self-Driving (FSD) feature is more likely to deter U.S. buyers than attract them. Only 14% said FSD made them more likely to buy a Tesla, while 35% said it made them less likely. Safety concerns and Tesla's declining brand reputation are key factors.

[How many self-driving vehicles can one person monitor at the same time?](#) – Tech Xplore

One person can safely monitor up to five self-driving vehicles at once, according to Coventry University research. This setup is ideal for services like driverless buses and robotaxis, improving efficiency and safety. Monitoring fewer vehicles led to over-alertness, while more than seven caused performance to drop. Clear, timely alerts help, but too many can distract, suggesting voice notifications may improve focus. [Full paper](#)

[WeRide offers WePilot AiDrive one-stage, end-to-end ADAS solution](#) – ADAS & Autonomous Vehicle International

WeRide's WePilot AiDrive is a new, end-to-end ADAS system that combines sensing and decision-making in one stage for faster, human-like driving responses. It supports various sensor setups, adapts to different vehicle platforms, and learns from real-world driving data.

[Atlanta Riders Are So Desperate To Try Waymo, They're Reportedly Canceling Rides With Human Drivers](#) – Jalopnik

In Atlanta, some Uber riders are canceling multiple human-driven rides to get matched with a Waymo robotaxi, which can't be directly requested. Waymo's limited fleet and high demand make it a challenge, turning the process into a game for some users.

[How do the drivers react to different C-V2X-based communication conditions in dilemma zones? A driving simulator study](#) – Accident Analysis & Prevention

Drivers face risks in dilemma zones at intersections, where poor timing can lead to crashes. This study explores how C-V2X (cellular vehicle-to-everything) technology affects driver decisions by simulating four communication scenarios. Results show that perfect or interrupted communication reduces risky behavior like red-light running, while loss of communication increases it. The findings highlight the need for context-aware deployment of C-V2X to improve safety.

1.6. Upcoming Events

[Data Rich, Insight Poor? Making Transportation Intelligence Work](#)

ITS America

September 17

1:00 p.m.

Presenters:

Dara Wheeler – Caltrans

Elise Feldpausch – WSP

Lori Pepper – STV

Preeti Choudhary – Drive Ohio

[UMTRI Distinguished Speaker Series: Making Autonomous Vehicle Safe](#)

UMTRI Center for Connected and Automated Transportation

September 19

1:00 p.m.

Presenter:

Ragunathan "Raj" Rajkumar – Carnegie Mellon University

[2025 Autonomous Trucking Conference](#)

September 15-16, 2025

Grand Forks, North Dakota

[Automated Transportation Symposium](#)

November 3-6, 2025

Tempe, Arizona