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

February 2, 2026

Infrastructure Readiness

Iowa DOT Using Road Mapping System for Snowplows – AASHTO Journal
Iowa DOT is rolling out a new John Deere engineered road-mapping guidance system on its snowplows, giving operators precise, by-the-inch lane positioning even in whiteout conditions. The technology improves safety, reduces crashes and stranded vehicles, and helps roads reopen faster during winter storms.

Honda vehicles used to proactively report road safety issues in nation-first pilot – Engadget
Honda and DriveOhio tested a sensor-based system that spots road defects and sends repair orders automatically. The 3,000-mile pilot showed high accuracy and potential multimillion-dollar savings, and Honda aims to scale it and eventually gather anonymous road-condition data from customer vehicles.

Streetline Deploys its Smart TPAS Solution Along the I-10 Corridor in California – EIN Presswire

Streetline has deployed its Smart TPAS system along California's I-10, using sensors and analytics to give real-time truck-parking availability, aiming to cut unsafe roadside parking, boost freight efficiency, and improve planning for drivers and agencies.

South Carolina Deploys Virtual Weigh Stations Using Sensors – Transport Topics
South Carolina is rolling out virtual weigh stations that use sensors and cameras to spot overweight or unsafe trucks without stopping traffic, improving safety and cutting delays for compliant drivers, with major expansion planned next year.

Sensors in Utah's roads aim to improve commercial vehicle safety and efficiency – Route Fifty
Utah is deploying new roadside sensors and AI-powered systems to improve commercial vehicle safety and freight efficiency, using real-time data to identify unsafe trucks, reduce congestion at weigh stations, and support better enforcement.

Variable speed limit signs go live along the I-70 Mountain Corridor in Dowd Canyon – Colorado DOT
Colorado has activated 18 variable speed limit signs on I-70 in Dowd Canyon, replacing static signs with real-time, weather- and traffic-based speeds to reduce crashes. The system went live in mid-January 2026 after extensive testing and is now monitored through statewide operations centers.

Minnesota targets tech upgrades for parking areas – Trucking Dive
Minnesota is investing $1.7 million to upgrade sensors and add safety cameras at seven state-run truck parking areas, aiming to give drivers more accurate, real-time information about available spaces.

New truck parking system added to all six Kansas Turnpike service areas – KSNT 27 News
Kansas has added a real-time truck-parking system at all six Turnpike service areas, using sensors and cameras to show open spaces and reduce unsafe shoulder parking, with availability displayed on highway signs and online.

No More E-ZPass? Your Car May Soon Be Able to Pay Its Own Tolls – MotorTrend
A new built-in tolling technology called C-V2X could eventually replace E-ZPass, letting cars automatically pay tolls through their onboard cellular systems with far better reliability, security, and privacy. It uses a new SAE standard (J3217) that enables direct car-to-roadside communication without a toll tag.

Policy & Legislation

Limits on city, state authority over AVs proposed in new federal bill – Smart Cities Dive
Lawmakers are considering a federal autonomous vehicle bill that would require automakers to submit a "safety case" for their self-driving systems to NHTSA, allow manufacturers to self-certify those safety cases, and limit state and local authority to regulate AVs once a safety case is on file.

Federal Bill Proposes the Use of AI, Telematics to Improve Road Safety – JD Supra
A bipartisan federal bill would let states use highway safety funds for AI- and telematics-based tools that identify dangerous road conditions before crashes occur. The goal is to shift agencies toward proactive, data-driven safety management, using predictive analytics and anonymous vehicle data to spot risks early.

Robotaxi Legislation Would Give Autonomous Semis an On-Ramp – Government Technology
Missouri's new robotaxi bill would also clear the way for autonomous semitrucks, triggering strong pushback from truck drivers and safety advocates even as disability-rights groups and Waymo lobby hard for passage.

Driverless, not ruleless: Why 2026 is the year for federal AV standards – Aurora
Aurora argues that 2026 must be the year Congress establishes national autonomous-vehicle standards, especially for trucking, to replace today's patchwork of state rules and enable safe, large-scale driverless deployment.

Autonomous vehicles the driving force behind warning device study – LandLine
OOIDA warns regulators not to relax safety rules for autonomous trucks, arguing AVs shouldn't get exemptions from warning-device requirements until they prove they're as safe as human drivers and provide full data transparency. AAMVA, meanwhile, supports updating the rules, saying the current triangle-placement requirement is outdated and puts drivers at risk.

Why DMVs and Digital Titles Could Help Gov Tech in 2026 – Government Technology
DMVs are becoming a major growth area for government technology in 2026 as states replace aging systems and rapidly adopt digital vehicle titles, boosted by big private-sector investments and the rise of online car buying.

When cars drive themselves: Robotaxis, regulations & reality – The Street
Robotaxis are progressing, but widespread autonomous driving is arriving slower than promised, with major regulatory, technical, and economic barriers pushing large-scale adoption into the 2030s.

Economic Development

Autonomous Trucking Firm Gatik Inks Contracts Worth $600M – Transport Topics
Gatik has signed new autonomous-trucking contracts that boost its total committed revenue to $600 million over five years, marking one of the largest commercial deployments of driverless freight to date. The company plans to scale from 10 to 60 fully driverless trucks by the end of 2026, expanding operations with major retailers across the U.S. and Canada.

Will Self-Driving Cars Short-Circuit Urban Public Transit? – Governing
Self-driving cars are advancing fast, but they remain an uncertain substitute for urban public transit, and cities risk worsening congestion and inequity if they rely on AVs instead of building reliable mass-transit systems.

Clear skies and autonomous Waymo rides at SFO – Waymo
Waymo has begun offering fully autonomous rides to and from San Francisco International Airport (SFO), starting with a limited group of riders and expanding to all Bay Area users in the coming months. Pickups and drop-offs begin at the SFO Rental Car Center, with plans to add terminal access later.

Waymo launches limited driverless ride service in Miami – Axios Miami
Waymo has launched a limited driverless ride-hailing service in Miami, allowing some residents to begin hailing fully autonomous Waymo vehicles across a 60-square-mile service area.

Tesla Announces Cybertruck Line Shift to 'Fully Autonomous,' Hints at Fleet Customer – EV
Tesla is shifting the Cybertruck program toward a fully autonomous, fleet-oriented future after weak sales, recalls, and market pressure, positioning the vehicle as a potential player in local delivery and automated logistics.

Nvidia and Mercedes Advance Robotaxi Partnership – Transport Topics
Nvidia, Mercedes-Benz, and Uber are deepening their partnership to launch a global robotaxi service built on the Mercedes S-Class and the new MB.OS software platform, though no launch date has been announced. The companies aim to combine Mercedes' vehicle platform, Nvidia's autonomous-driving stack, and Uber's ride-hailing network into a unified service.

McLeod Completes Autonomous Truck Integration With Aurora – Transport Topics
McLeod Software has finished integrating Aurora's autonomous-truck "virtual driver" directly into its LoadMaster and PowerBroker TMS platforms, allowing trucking carriers to book, tender, track, and manage autonomous loads just like human-driven freight.

Waabi raises $1B and expands into robotaxis with Uber – TechCrunch
Waabi has raised $1 billion and struck an exclusive partnership with Uber to deploy more than 25,000 robotaxis powered by its "Waabi Driver" AI system thus marking its first major expansion beyond autonomous trucking.

Public Safety & Enforcement

A Waymo hit a child near an elementary school. The NHTSA is investigating– CNBC
A Waymo driverless car struck a child who ran into the street during school drop-off, causing minor injuries. NHTSA has opened a preliminary investigation to determine whether the vehicle used proper caution, followed speed limits, behaved safely around children, and responded appropriately, as well as how its automated system is designed to operate in school-zone conditions.

Tesla gets 5-week extension in US probe of Full Self-Driving traffic violations – MSN
U.S. auto safety regulators have given Tesla an extension to respond to an investigation into whether vehicles using Full Self-Driving committed traffic violations. NHTSA granted the delay after Tesla said it needed more time to manually review over 8,000 remaining records.

Tesla discontinues Autopilot in bid to boost adoption of its Full Self-Driving software – TechCrunch
Tesla has dropped Autopilot amid a California ruling that it misled consumers, shifting entirely to its Full Self-Driving (Supervised) system, now offered only as a subscription. The change comes as Musk pushes for wider FSD adoption despite low uptake and Autopilot's history of crashes and fatalities tied to overconfidence in the system.

The Next Auto Safety Mandate Won't Be About Crashes — It'll Be About Escapes – Business Insider
Vehicles are getting safer at avoiding crashes, but experts warn the next big safety issue is post-crash escape, especially as EV fires, power failures, and submerged vehicles make it harder for occupants to get out. Insurers and regulators are beginning to focus on whether cars have fail-safe evacuation systems. New patented technologies aim to address this gap, and analysts expect future safety mandates to shift from impact protection to ensuring occupants can escape after a crash.

Congressman wants answers on train-vs.-delivery-robot incident – Trains
A Brightline train crushed a delivery robot in Miami, and Rep. Jimmy Patronis is urging the NTSB to treat it as a real safety issue. He's asking whether the agency is investigating and how autonomous robots are being evaluated at rail crossings, saying the incident exposes gaps in how robots interact with transportation infrastructure.

Research, Development, Testing & Evaluation

Volkswagen to use data from customer cars to optimise ADAS – Business Motoring
Volkswagen will begin using real-world data from customer vehicles to improve its driver-assistance systems (ADAS), focusing on safety-critical moments like evasive maneuvers and hard braking. The program has launched in Germany and is expanding to 40 European countries with customer consent required.

Uber launches an 'AV Labs' division to gather driving data for robotaxi partners – TechCrunch
Uber is creating Uber AV Labs to collect and share real-world driving data with more than 20 AV partners. Instead of building its own robotaxis again, Uber will deploy sensor-equipped cars to gather the massive, diverse data AV companies need to train modern reinforcement-learning systems and solve rare edge cases.

Physical AI: Lessons in building trust from self-driving cars – World Economic Forum

Physical AI like self-driving cars and robots can deliver major benefits, but only if people trust them. Trust comes from two kinds of dialogue: open collaboration among developers, regulators and communities, and clearer communication between humans and AI systems through explainable technology. A broader framework emerges for all physical AI: show real public benefit, prove reliability with transparent data and standards, and ensure systems can explain their decisions.

Mobility's Great Reboot: How Shared Rides and Robotaxis Will Reshape Cities by 2045 – WebProNews
By 2045, shared rides and robotaxis are expected to sharply reduce private car ownership, freeing cities to replace parking and car-centric infrastructure with walkable, transit-connected, people-focused urban design.

Upcoming Events

Road Features for Automated Driving Systems Readiness Feasibility Assessment, Methods, and Tools
National Operations Center of Excellence (NOCoE)
February 4, 2026
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
Presenters:
Heather Monteiro
Saeid Soleimaniamiri

Guidance for Sustainable Integration of Automated Transportation Technologies Research Results Presentation
AV Pooled Fund Study
February 17, 2026
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Presenters:
TBD