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

March 16, 2026

Infrastructure Readiness

[March at Minnesota CAV](#) – *Minnesota Department of Transportation*
The bulletin highlights Minnesota's recent work on connected and automated vehicles, including new AV policy recommendations, results from a statewide CAV sentiment survey, and findings from a study on lane-keeping systems in work zones.
[North Carolina to Test Connected Tolling on Private Vehicles](#) – *Government Technology*
North Carolina will test connected-car tolling by letting 100 Volvo drivers pay tolls directly through their vehicle's infotainment system, a system built with partners like Kapsch and Mastercard that also supports real-time safety alerts and could expand to broader in-car payments.
[US telematics player seeks road safety improvements](#) – *Mobile World Live*
Cambridge Mobile Telematics has updated its StreetVision platform to help authorities identify dangerous road junctions by combining crash data with driver-behavior insights. The company argues this deeper telematics analysis can guide safety improvements and also benefit insurers by clarifying crash causes and rewarding safer driving.

[Smart Intersection Test Facility Advances Transportation Safety](#) – *North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University*
North Carolina A&T opened a Smart Intersection Test Facility that uses sensors and connected-vehicle tech to study safer, more efficient traffic movement. It gives researchers and students a real-world site to test systems like cooperative perception and emergency-vehicle prioritization.

Policy & Legislation

[DRIVING THE NEWS: Trump's Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy Hosts First-Ever National AV Safety Forum to Empower AV Innovators to Build Safely and Affordably in U.S.](#) – *U.S. Department of Transportation*
Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy hosted the first USDOT AV Safety Summit bringing together state leaders, safety experts, and industry groups to address rising roadway fatalities and promote safer driving behaviors.

[Duffy Touts Safety Potential for Autonomous Vehicles](#) – *Transport Topics*
Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy says the DOT will issue new AV rules this year to create a unified national framework, especially for long-haul trucking, arguing that clearer federal standards will help companies scale autonomous tech while improving road safety.

[US seeks comment on Zoox petition to deploy robotaxis without steering wheels](#) – *Yahoo! Autos*
NHTSA is weighing Zoox's request to deploy 2,500 steering-wheel-free robotaxis each year, a sign the agency is finally moving toward approving fully driverless designs after years of stalled petitions.

[Lots of questions, but little pushback on Maryland bill to allow driverless cars](#) – *Route Fifty*
Maryland lawmakers are considering a bill to allow fully driverless cars, with supporters highlighting major accessibility and safety benefits while labor groups warn of job losses and unresolved technology risks.

[Labor advocates try to put the brakes on unregulated, self-driving Waymo cars](#) – *Route Fifty*
Minnesota labor groups want the state to pause AV deployment until clear safety rules and a permit system are created. They fear Waymo's expansion could threaten ride-hail jobs, while a new bill would let MnDOT authorize and regulate AVs, a framework critics say is too permissive.

[CCT Statement on Autonomous Vehicles](#) – *Sierra Club*
Minnesota's Coalition for Clean Transportation warns the proposed AV bill could worsen traffic, emissions, and inequity unless strengthened, urging electric-only AV fleets, local regulatory power, per-mile fees on empty trips, and mandatory safety and data reporting.

[Don't take the driverless trucking company's word for it, OOIDA says](#) – *Land Line*
OOIDA is urging Congress to reject the SELF DRIVE Act, arguing it would allow autonomous trucks on U.S. roads without verified safety, transparency, or cybersecurity requirements. They say the bill relies too heavily on industry self-attestation, lacks meaningful data-reporting rules, and ignores recent incidents involving driverless vehicles.

[Virginia lawmakers explore autonomous technology for transportation](#) – *Virginia Mercury*
Virginia lawmakers are studying how autonomous and connected-vehicle technologies could improve transportation, including transit, freight, and roadway safety. They're considering pilot programs, regulatory updates, and partnerships with universities and private companies to prepare for wider deployment.

[How Autonomous Driving Tech Will Impact Your Car Insurance Payment In The Future](#) – *Car Buzz*
Autonomous-driving tech is reshaping car insurance as liability shifts from drivers to manufacturers, especially at higher automation levels. Insurers will need access to vehicle data to price risk, prompting automakers to launch their own insurance products while regulators grapple with new questions around data-sharing, cybersecurity, and responsibility in crashes.

Economic Development

[Torc backs Virginia workforce training effort for autonomous vehicles](#) – *Truck News*
Torc Robotics is supporting a new Virginia workforce-training initiative to prepare technicians, CDL drivers, and maintenance staff for jobs in autonomous-truck operations. The program was developed with community colleges, workforce agencies, and industry partners.

[Zoox expands testing to Dallas and Phoenix, adds hub](#) – *Automotive World*
Zoox is expanding testing to Dallas and Phoenix with retrofitted Toyota Highlanders and opening a Scottsdale Fusion Center for fleet and remote-support operations, bringing its U.S. presence to ten cities.

[Here's why Ford, GM are approaching autonomous vehicles differently](#) – *GM Today*
GM is doubling down on full robotaxis through Cruise, while Ford is focusing on advanced driver-assistance systems (ADAS) like BlueCruise after shutting down its AV unit Argo AI. Their divergent strategies reflect different views on risk, timelines, and what consumers will adopt first.

[PlusAI Unveils SuperDrive 6.0 With Night Driving and Construction Zone Autonomy](#) – *EV Magz*
PlusAI's SuperDrive 6.0 adds night-driving and construction-zone autonomy, boosting the system's ability to handle complex real-world trucking conditions.

[San Diego weighs autonomous cars' effects on jobs, society](#) – *Fox 5/KUSI San Diego*
The analysis warns that without strong regulation, AV companies could cut wages, shrink driving jobs, and quickly reshape the transportation workforce.

[Tesla builds a car with no steering wheel. Now what?](#) – *Fox News*
Tesla's development of a car without a steering wheel raises major regulatory, safety, and liability questions, since U.S. rules still require traditional controls and no clear federal framework exists for fully driverless consumer vehicles.

[Torc Launches Autonomous Truck Testing Operations in Greater Ann Arbor](#) – *D Business*
Torc Robotics has begun autonomous-truck testing in the greater Ann Arbor area, expanding its Midwest footprint. The company is partnering with local institutions and using the region's mix of highways, logistics hubs, and research assets to advance safety validation and real-world performance testing.

Public Safety & Enforcement

[Questions about self-driving cars amplify after one blocked an ambulance responding to Austin shooting](#) – *Route Fifty*
A brief Austin incident where a Waymo car blocked an ambulance heightened public concern about autonomous vehicles, even though officials say it didn't delay care and AVs remain far safer than human drivers.

[Ohio, Indiana Launch Automated Truck Testing Program](#) – *WOWO Radio*
Ohio and Indiana are testing automated freight trucks in real weather with human drivers supervising. The project uses federal funding to study safety systems like braking and lane-keeping.

[New report provides road map for fleets to roll out anti-speeding tech](#) – *IIHS*
The IIHS report gives fleets a clear roadmap for adopting anti-speeding tech, outlining how to choose systems, train drivers, and use data to cut speeding-related crashes.

[360-degree cameras eliminate blind spots for intercity bus drivers](#) – *Smart Cities Dive*
Coach USA equipped its buses with AI-driven, multi-camera systems from Samsara. Coach USA and Samsara report major safety gains: a 92% drop in preventable crashes, a 35% reduction in speeding, and a 50% decrease in tailgating, with all driving events automatically uploaded for training and review.

[Orange-sized roadside radar 'eyes' aim to reduce self-driving vehicle blind spots](#) – *Interesting Engineering*
EyeDAR is a tiny roadside radar unit that gives AVs a clearer view in bad weather and around obstacles by capturing radar reflections that cars normally miss and sending that information back to them in real time.

Research, Development, Testing & Evaluation

[One Model, All Roads: Zero-Shot Autonomy in Tokyo](#) – *Nuro*
Nuro proved its universal driving model can handle Tokyo's roads without local training, showing real zero-shot adaptability. The company validated safety through testing and simulation, then quickly set up Japan operations to support its globally scalable autonomy strategy.

[Making Way for Robotaxis](#) – *Governing*
Robotaxis are gradually proving themselves in cities like Phoenix, where years of staged deployment have shown strong safety performance, but widespread adoption remains slow due to public distrust, regulatory gaps, and the complexity of integrating AVs into real-world traffic.

[Americans Don't Just Fear Driverless Cars Will Crash — They Fear Mass Job Losses](#) – *UC San Diego Today*
Americans fear driverless cars not only because of crash risks but also because they expect widespread job losses, with new UCSD research showing that economic anxiety now outweighs safety concerns in shaping public attitudes toward AVs.

[Qualcomm and Wayve join forces to accelerate AI-powered driver assistance systems](#) – *Telematics Wire*
Qualcomm and Wayve are partnering to integrate Wayve's AI-driven "embodied intelligence" driving model into Qualcomm's automotive chips, aiming to accelerate

next-generation driver-assistance systems that can learn and adapt more like human drivers.

Addressing Spatial Mismatch in Labor and Transportation Access with Connected Automated Shuttles to Meet the Needs of Low-Income *– Center for Connected and Automated Transportation (CCAT)*
Researchers are studying how connected, automated shuttles could reduce the "spatial mismatch" that keeps many low-income workers far from jobs, exploring whether AV transit can fill gaps in existing transportation and improve access to employment.

CAV Pilot Development and Deployment in Midwest Winter *– Center for Connected and Automated Transportation (CCAT)*
Purdue researchers developed a new CAV system that uses vision-language models to improve autonomous driving in harsh Midwest winter conditions, cutting driver takeovers by up to 76.9% in testing.

Upcoming Events

The Connected West: Scaling Lidar for Statewide Mobility & VRU Safety in Utah
ITS America
Thursday, March 19
10:00 a.m.
Presenters:
Aimee Loudenslager – Utah DOT
Mark Taylor – Utah DOT
Humberto Pompa – Econolite
Kyle Othmer – Ouster

Accessibility in Motion: How SAE and GM are Empowering Students to Innovate for Equitable Mobility
Partners for Automated Vehicle Education (PAVE)
Thursday, March 19
1:00 p.m.
Presenters:
Alicia Bott – SAE
Michele Lee – Serve Robotics
David Sander – SAE
Jessica Swan – GM