



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

April 13, 2026

Infrastructure Readiness

[Questions about robotaxis? Ask Nacto](#) – ITS International

The National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) has released a 16-page guide urging cities to take a more active role in managing robotaxis, arguing that AV fleets already affect streets but cities lack the data, authority, and resources to oversee them. The guide is meant to help officials prioritize oversight efforts despite scarce funding.

[Waymo robotaxis are tracking potholes and sharing that data with Waze users](#) – TechCrunch

Waymo is using its robotaxis to automatically spot potholes and send reports to Waze and city governments. The pilot spans five metro areas and has already logged hundreds of potholes. Waymo says it shows how robotaxis can help improve road

safety and infrastructure as the service grows. (Additional links: [Waze for Cities](#), [Waymo blog](#))

[Clearing The Roadblocks To Transportation Innovation](#) – Federation of American Scientists (FAS)

The report argues that U.S. transportation innovation is held back less by technology and more by outdated government structures that make it hard to test and deploy new systems. FAS recommends fully funding ARPA-I, strengthening USDOT's national coordination role, and building regional research networks so promising ideas can move into real-world use.

[The Tennessee Department of Transportation Names Firm to Lead Smart Freight Corridor Pilot Between Memphis and Blue Oval City](#) – Tennessee DOT

The Tennessee DOT has chosen Cavnue to lead a multi-year Smart Freight Corridor Pilot on I-40 between Memphis and Blue Oval City. The project will test connected and autonomous freight technologies to improve safety, reduce congestion, and guide the state's long-term freight strategy.

[Transit Agencies Should Prepare Now for the Inevitability of Autonomous Transit Fleets](#) – Beep

Beep says autonomous transit fleets are inevitable, and agencies should prepare now. AV shuttles are already proving reliable in controlled settings, and early planning will help with procurement, workforce training, safety standards, and infrastructure. The company argues autonomy will expand service, not replace workers, and agencies that plan ahead will transition more smoothly.

Policy & Legislation

[NYC Hits Pause On Autonomous Vehicle Testing](#) – Autoweek

NYC has halted all AV testing after Waymo's permits expired, leaving no active robotaxis in the city. Officials say any renewal will hinge on safety and the impact on taxi-driver livelihoods, while Waymo hopes to resume testing and can only collect data with human drivers for now.

[Are driverless semi-trucks coming to Missouri roads?](#) – Fox 4 Kansas City

Driverless semi-trucks aren't on Missouri roads yet, but lawmakers are debating whether to allow them. A bill moving through the state legislature would legalize fully autonomous vehicles, including semis without a human driver, while unions and some officials warn the move could threaten jobs and safety.

[Waymo begins testing in Chicago as bill seeks to legalize autonomous vehicles](#) – ABC 7 Chicago

Waymo has started supervised AV testing in downtown Chicago, while Illinois lawmakers debate a bill that would allow fully driverless vehicles in several major counties. The proposal is stalled amid concerns about safety, winter performance, insurance, and job impacts.

[AVIA State Policymaker Toolkit](#) – Autonomous Vehicle Industry Association (AVIA)

The AVIA State Policymaker Toolkit translates years of technical, operational, and policy expertise into accessible guidance tailored to the needs of policymakers and their teams.

[Legislation would use technology to force Rhode Island's bad drivers to take it slow](#) – Rhode Island Current

Rhode Island is weighing a proposal that would let judges require chronic speeders to use tech that prevents their cars from going over the limit. Supporters call it a safety measure, while critics worry about privacy and cost.

[What will it take for driverless taxis to come to Boston?](#) – WGBH

Boston's fight over driverless taxis boils down to jobs vs. safety and accessibility. Waymo wants to operate in the city, but unions and some officials oppose it over fears of displacing thousands of drivers. Supporters highlight strong AV safety data and major benefits for disabled riders.

Economic Development

[Waymo opens robotaxi service in Nashville, partners with Lyft](#) – TechCrunch

Waymo has launched robotaxi service in Nashville, its 11th city, starting with a phased rollout across a 60-square-mile area. The company is also partnering with Lyft, which will eventually let riders hail Waymo vehicles through the Lyft app while Lyft handles charging and fleet support.

[Kodiak expands driverless trucking beyond Sun Belt to Ohio and Indiana](#) – Freight Waves

Kodiak has expanded its driverless-trucking work beyond the Sun Belt, completing runs in Ohio and Indiana along the I-70 freight corridor. The tests showed its Level 4 system handling Midwest conditions, including construction zones and complex merges.

[Ryder, International launch autonomous LT near Laredo](#) – Fleet Owner

International and Ryder have begun an autonomous-trucking pilot in Texas, running a self-driving International LT with Plus's Level 4 system on freight routes between Dallas and Houston. Ryder handles maintenance and support as the companies test how autonomous trucks fit into large commercial fleets.

[Waymo to expand San Antonio services to SAT](#) – KENS 5

Waymo is now offering fully autonomous rides to and from San Antonio International Airport. The expansion builds on its 60-square-mile service area in the city and responds to strong rider demand for airport trips.

[Einride inks deal to develop autonomous freight corridor along Texas toll road](#) – Trucking Dive

Einride is partnering with the SH 130 Concession Co. to turn a 41-mile stretch of Texas' SH-130 between Austin and San Antonio into an autonomous freight corridor. The project adds charging-equipped "next-gen" rest stops and expanded connectivity, backed by new NHTSA approval for Einride's cab-less, remotely supervised autonomous trucks to operate in Austin.

[Rivian's E-Bike Spinoff Will Make Autonomous Delivery Bots For Bike Lanes](#) – Inside EVs

Rivian's micromobility spinoff "Also" is expanding into autonomous delivery, partnering with DoorDash to develop self-driving electric delivery bots designed for bike lanes. The company, which debuted its first e-bike based product last year, plans to build compact, zero-emission robots tailored for dense urban areas where full-size AVs struggle.

[Driverless delivery cars transform courier sector](#) – China Daily

China has rapidly expanded autonomous delivery, now running 10,000+ unmanned vehicles nationwide and 1,150+ in Qingdao alone. Companies report nearly 50% lower last-mile costs, and government support is pushing deployments into 100+ cities and rural areas. Officials say the goal is to support human workers, not replace them.

Public Safety & Enforcement

[NTSB Finds Automation Overreliance Contributed to Two Fatal Ford BlueCruise Crashes](#) – National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)

The NTSB says driver overreliance on Ford BlueCruise contributed to two fatal 2024 crashes where the system didn't brake for stopped vehicles. Investigators found weak driver-monitoring, the ability to disable key safety features, and poor data recording. The agency is urging stronger federal standards and changes to Ford's system to keep drivers attentive and reduce speeding.

[Robotaxi companies refuse to say how often their AVs need remote help](#) – TechCrunch

Sen. Ed Markey pressed AV companies to disclose how often their vehicles need remote human intervention, but none shared the data. His probe found major transparency gaps, inconsistent safety practices, and remote-assist work often outsourced overseas with no federal standards. He's urging NHTSA action and drafting legislation to regulate remote-assist operations. [AV company responses](#)

[NTSB investigating another incident of Waymo passing Austin ISD school bus](#) – KVUE

Federal investigators are examining another Waymo incident in Austin after a driverless vehicle reportedly passed a stopped Austin ISD school bus on March 25. Austin ISD previously documented 24 illegal passes, prompting the district to ask Waymo to halt operations during school pickup and drop-off times.

[Mass robotaxi malfunction halts traffic in Chinese city](#) – China Daily

A system glitch in Wuhan caused over 100 Baidu robotaxis to freeze in traffic, with some blocking lanes and one video showing a possible highway crash. Police say no one was hurt, and the cause is still under investigation.

[Why safety regulators closed their investigation into Tesla's remote parking feature](#) – TechCrunch

NHTSA closed its probe into Tesla's "Actually Smart Summon" after finding the reported crashes were rare, low-speed, and caused no injuries. Most problems stemmed from limited camera visibility, and Tesla has since pushed software updates to improve detection. Regulators said they could reopen the case if new evidence emerges.

Research, Development, Testing & Evaluation

[A School District Tried to Help Train Waymos to Stop for School Buses. It Didn't Work](#) – Wired

A school district in Arizona tried to help Waymo teach its robotaxis to properly stop for school buses, but the effort failed. Even after staged practice runs, the cars still didn't behave correctly around buses with flashing lights or stop-arms.

[Quantifying the effectiveness of digital alert systems on Move Over compliance](#) – University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Illinois Center for Transportation

An Illinois study found that digital alerts make drivers slow down and change lanes earlier, boosting compliance with the Move Over Law. Pairing alerts with flashing emergency lights improved safety even more, giving officials clear evidence that the technology works. [Final Report](#)

[NI group wins grant to develop self-driving buses](#) – BBC

Wrightbus and Queen's University received UK funding to study phased, evidence-based steps toward self-driving buses, not immediate deployment. The grants are part of a wider push that also backs autonomous freight and NHS shuttle studies.

[Wayve Wants to Take On Waymo—and Put Self-Driving Tech in Every Car](#) – Time

Wayve is pitching itself as a cheaper, more scalable alternative to Waymo, aiming to put its AI into ordinary cars with low-cost sensors instead of expensive, custom robotaxis. The company hopes this approach will let it gather data faster and generalize across many car models and countries.

[US-led team introduces framework to make networks of robots, self-driving cars safer](#) – Interesting Engineering

Cy-trust is a tool that helps robots and self-driving cars tell good data from bad data. It gives each data source a trust score and compares shared info with what the vehicle's own sensors see. That lets the system ignore fake or faulty data so robots can keep operating safely.

[Uber and Volkswagen's Self-Driving Vans Are Hitting the Streets. Here's When You Can Ride](#) – CNET

Uber and Volkswagen have started on-road testing their autonomous ID Buzz vans in Los Angeles, with human operators still inside. The plan is to offer robotaxi rides through the Uber app later this year. VW's AV unit expects testing to grow to 100+ vehicles, with long-term ambitions to deploy thousands across multiple U.S. cities.

[Aptiv and Hyundai's venture has developed an end-to-end autonomous driving system that challenges conventional approaches to self-driving technology](#) – AI Magazine

Motional is preparing to launch a fully driverless Level 4 robotaxi service in Las Vegas, using an AI-heavy, end-to-end driving system designed to make its cars drive more naturally and adaptively. Its IONIQ 5 robotaxis rely on 30+ sensors and a phased safety-testing process. A commercial rollout with Uber is scheduled for December 2026.

Upcoming Events

[How's My Driving? AV Safety, Human Drivers, and Public Trust](#)

Partners for Automated Vehicle Education (PAVE)

April 30, 2026

1:00 p.m.

Presenters:

Michelle Fowler – TRC

Kristofer Kusano – Waymo
Michael Wagner – Edge Case