



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 3, 2026

1. Infrastructure Readiness

[Hundreds of smart traffic intersections coming to the Houston area](#) – Smart Cities Dive

Northwest Harris County, Texas, will deploy smart traffic signals at 437 intersections to give emergency vehicles priority, improving response times and safety as part of a 12-year agreement with Miovision.

[Driverless shuttle program to hit road in metro Atlanta county after commission approval](#) – WSB-TV 2 Atlanta

Cobb County approved a three-year driverless shuttle pilot in the Cumberland area, funded through federal and local partner grants to test autonomous transit service without direct county funding.

[Off the train, into a VW bus: Amazon helps fund free shuttle service for Bellevue light rail riders](#) – GeekWire

Bellevue is launching a free electric shuttle pilot, funded by Amazon and Visit Bellevue, to connect light rail riders with downtown destinations and improve first- and last-mile transit access.

[With Autonomous Vehicles, Cities Can Play Traffic Cop](#) – Government Technology

As robotaxis expand, cities should use policies such as congestion pricing, operating requirements, and accessibility standards to manage increased traffic and ensure AVs serve public goals.

2. Policy & Legislation

[Trump's Transportation Department Cuts Red Tape to Safely Fast-Track Automated Vehicle Innovation](#) – NHTSA

NHTSA is accelerating AV deployment by allowing Zoox to launch commercial robotaxi service, developing national AV safety standards, streamlining exemptions, and updating federal guidance for AV operations.

[Lawmakers push for national safety standards for autonomous vehicles](#) – NBC Bay Area

San Francisco officials and Rep. Kevin Mullin are calling for national AV safety standards, citing robotaxi incidents and first responder concerns, and proposing consistent emergency-response protocols nationwide.

[China to ban the blue autonomous driving indicator lamps](#) – Car News China

China is moving to ban the blue exterior lights used by some automakers to indicate autonomous driving or ADAS activation because current vehicle lighting standards only permit white, red, yellow, and amber lights, prompting manufacturers to modify or disable the feature in future vehicles.

[The Safety Case for Robotaxis Doesn't Really Hold Up in New York City, Report Finds](#) – Next City

A New York City study argues that robotaxis may offer limited safety benefits over existing taxi and rideshare drivers while potentially increasing congestion through additional empty vehicle travel.

3. Economic Development

[Atlas grows Kodiak driverless truck fleet to 100 rigs](#) – Freight Waves

Atlas and Kodiak plan to expand their driverless trucking fleet from 28 to 100 trucks by 2027, scaling autonomous freight operations in the Permian Basin and preparing for public-road deployment.

[Waymo robotaxis are starting to return to freeways](#) – TechCrunch

Waymo is gradually restoring robotaxi service on freeways in Phoenix, Los Angeles, and the San Francisco Bay Area after temporarily suspending those routes and recalling nearly 4,000 vehicles to address software issues related to navigating highway construction zones.

[Uber is building an autonomous vehicle empire, and here's every company it's using to do it](#) – TechCrunch

Uber has built a broad autonomous vehicle network through partnerships with more than 30 companies, positioning its platform as a hub for robotaxis, autonomous delivery, and self-driving freight services worldwide.

[Aurora launches second-gen driverless trucks with hardware built for one million miles](#) – Interesting Engineering

Aurora launched a second-generation driverless truck platform with one-million-mile hardware, enabling broader deployment of autonomous freight operations across its U.S. commercial network.

[Value Truck to Deploy Aurora's Second-Generation Driverless Trucks](#) – Business Wire

Aurora and Value Truck will deploy driverless trucks on key Texas-Arizona freight routes to expand 24/7 freight capacity and support growing cross-border trade.

[Paccar leaves drivers in autonomous trucks for now](#) – Transport Topics

Paccar is taking a cautious approach to autonomous trucking, saying it will keep human drivers in its trucks for now despite ongoing partnerships with Aurora, Kodiak, and Stack.

[Venti Plans Driverless Container Truck Deployment at U.S. Rail Terminals](#) – ACT News

Venti Technologies plans to deploy driverless container trucks at major U.S. rail terminals, with more than 100 autonomous trucks expected across eight sites by 2027 and potential expansion to over 600 trucks by the end of the decade.

4. Public Safety & Enforcement

[Robotaxi Emergency Scenes Still Challenge Driverless Cars](#) – KRQE

Robotaxis continue to face challenges navigating emergency scenes involving smoke, traffic cones, flashing lights, and first responders, prompting increased regulatory scrutiny and software updates to improve emergency response behavior.

[Strong First Responder Engagement is in the DNA of the autonomous vehicle industry](#) – Autonomous Vehicle Industry Association (AVIA)

The AV industry says collaboration with police, firefighters, and EMS is essential to AV deployment, emphasizing first responder training, ongoing coordination, and interaction plans to support safe driverless operations.

[HAAS Alert becomes third DFRS member sharing live hazard data](#) – Traffic Technology Today

HAAS Alert joined BMW and Škoda in sharing live hazard data through Europe's DFRS network, helping improve connected vehicle safety with real-time alerts for emergency vehicles and roadway hazards.

[Say hi to new Ojai in-car experience](#) – Waymo

Waymo's upcoming Ojai robotaxi will feature a Gemini AI assistant and redesigned interface, giving riders more personalized control over their in-vehicle experience.

[Waymo's driverless cars keep getting parking tickets in Austin, and humans aren't the only ones complaining](#) – Digital Trends

Waymo's robotaxis have received 83 parking tickets in Austin since 2024, highlighting ongoing challenges with autonomous vehicle parking and curbside behavior despite the company's strong safety record.

[Tesla remote operator crashed a 'Robotaxi' in Houston, NHTSA data shows](#) – Electrek

NHTSA filings show a Tesla remote operator crashed a robotaxi into a tree stump while attempting to recover a stuck vehicle in Houston, highlighting ongoing challenges with teleoperation and human intervention in AV operations.

5. Research, Development, Testing & Evaluation

[Lyft and Baidu enter London's robotaxi battleground as testing begins](#) – TechCrunch

Lyft, Baidu, and Freenow have begun testing Apollo Go robotaxis in London with safety drivers aboard, positioning themselves for a planned 2027 public launch and intensifying competition with Waymo, Uber, and Wayve in the emerging U.K. robotaxi market.

[Autonomous vehicles could potentially cut DFW congestion](#) – SMU

An SMU-led study found that widespread adoption of AVs could significantly reduce Dallas-Fort Worth traffic congestion by 2045, cutting travel delays by up to 33% and reducing vehicle-hours traveled by at least 19%, primarily through smoother, more coordinated driving and regional travel efficiencies.

[Self-driving trucks will redraw US economic map](#) – Breeze Courier

University of Illinois researchers found that widespread adoption of autonomous trucks could cut transportation costs by about 35%, boost interstate trade, reshape regional economic growth and freight corridors, and create both opportunities and challenges for infrastructure investment and transportation-sector workers.

[HERE Technologies: No such thing as 'mapless' autonomous driving](#) – Wards Auto

HERE Technologies argues that truly “mapless” autonomous driving does not exist, contending that even AI-driven self-driving systems depend on continuously updated maps for routing, lane guidance, traffic rules, and sensor redundancy, making the future of autonomy “map-smart” rather than mapless.

[Autonomous vehicles' blind spot](#) – Axios

An Axios report argues that a major challenge for AVs is the lack of standardized safety reporting, making it difficult to fairly compare robotaxi performance with human drivers and evaluate competing safety claims across companies and jurisdictions.

[Rise of the machines: crash experiences of highly automated vehicles and human drivers](#) – Insurance Institute of Highway Safety (IIHS)

An IIHS study found that Waymo’s Level 4 driverless vehicles had a 68% lower rate of police-reportable crashes per mile than human drivers in the same regions, including 91% fewer rear-end collisions caused by the vehicle, while also concluding that national crash and mileage reporting systems need improvement to better evaluate AV safety at scale.

[Trust vs. takeover: AV attitudes dictate driver control at J-turn intersections](#) – University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies

A University of Minnesota study found that drivers’ willingness to let a Level 3 AV navigate complex rural J-turn intersections depends more on their trust in and familiarity with automation than on the intersection design itself, highlighting the importance of public education and automation literacy for safe AV adoption.