Automated Vehicles Comprehensive Plan
(AV Comprehensive Plan)

On January 11, 2021, the Department of Transportation published the Automated Vehicle (AV) Comprehensive Plan. The plan provides an overview of the role of the U.S. Government in the Automated vehicle industry, as well as the future of transportation. The AV Comprehensive Plan builds on three prior publications - ADS 2.0, AV 3.0, and AV 4.0.

While the government supports advancements and innovation in the Automated Vehicle industry, there are policy concerns that will need to be addressed. The government must ensure that AV technology is being monitored for safety, and supported across industries.

The Government's Role in the AV Industry:
- Implement regulations to ensure the safety of AVs
- Ensure cybersecurity of AVs as well as pedestrians and AV occupants - including personal data rights
- Ensure AVs include accommodations where needed
- Provide funding for advancements
- Protect American innovation
- Promote nationwide consistency in AV regulations
- Review & adapt outdated regulations that may interfere with advancement

Opportunities for Small Businesses and Startups:
- Temporary exemptions
- Funding opportunities
  - Automated Driving System Demonstration Grants ($60 million in 2019)
  - Integrated Mobility Integration Grants
  - Accelerating Innovative Mobility (AIM) Initiative
  - Inclusive Design Challenge (up to $5 million prize)

Spaces to Watch:
- *Transit Automation Community Practice* - facilitates meetings with grant recipients to pilot/demonstrate bus automatic technologies
- *Automated Vehicle Transparency & Engagement for Safe Testing Initiative* - workshops discussing AV safety
- *Transit Bus Automation Market Assessment* - regularly updated report on the automated transit bus industry
- *Emerging Automated Urban Freight Delivery Concepts State of the Practice Scan* - regularly updated report on the automated delivery vehicle industry
- *CARMA* - an open source platform for research and development of cooperative driving automation (CDA)
- *Virtual Open Innovation Collaborative Environment for Safety (VOICES) Proof of Concept (PoC)* - will be a distributed virtual platform to enable stakeholder collaboration
- *Partnership for Analytics Research in Traffic Safety (PARTS)*- safety related data sharing partnership

Industries to Watch:
- Electric and Autonomous Vehicles (Tesla, Motional, Waymo)
- Cooperative Driving Tech
- RideShare (Uber, Lyft, Via)
- Public Transportation (Optimus Ride)
- Global supply chain and delivery

Potential Policy Concerns:
- *Liability and insurance* - who is liable in an accident? The company? The State? The occupants?
- *Funding for infrastructure updates* - how will we pay for infrastructure updates to better support AVs? Use of the motor fuel tax? Will traffic fees decline?
- *Cybersecurity* - How do we protect the systems that AVs run on as well as the shared data?

U.S. Government Automated Vehicle Technology Principles

The White House and the U.S. Department of Transportation developed AV 4.0, building upon previous versions of Federal AV guidance, to coordinate efforts across the Federal government and provide high-level guidance for Federal agencies, innovators, and the public on the U.S. posture towards AVs. AV 4.0 establishes Federal principles for the development and integration of automated vehicles, consisting of three core focus areas: protect users and communities, promote efficient markets, and facilitate coordinated efforts.

PROTECT USERS AND COMMUNITIES

- Prioritize Safety
- Emphasize Security and Cybersecurity
- Ensure Privacy and Data Security
- Enhance Mobility and Accessibility

PROMOTE EFFICIENT MARKETS

- Remain Technology Neutral
- Protect American Innovation and Creativity
- Modernize Regulations

FACILITATE COORDINATED EFFORTS

- Promote Consistent Standards and Policies
- Ensure a Consistent Federal Approaches
- Improve Transportation System-Level Effects

Sources:
- The Congressional Research Service Report # IF10658
  - Autonomous Vehicles: Emerging Policy Issues
- US Department of Transportation
  - https://www.transportation.gov/av/avcp/5

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