An Introduction to Automated Vehicles

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March 8, 2018
Topics

1. What Are Automated Vehicles?
2. What Could This Mean for Our Nation’s Roads?
3. What Are Transportation Agencies Doing to Prepare for Automated Vehicles?
What Are Automated Vehicles?
What Are Automated Vehicles?

- **Automated Vehicles (AVs)** are vehicles in which at least one element of vehicle control (e.g., steering, speed control) occurs without direct driver input.

- AVs work by gathering information from a suite of sensors:
  - Cameras.
  - Radar.
  - Light detection and ranging (LiDAR).
  - Ultrasonic.
  - Infrared.

- AVs may combine sensor data with other inputs (e.g. detailed map data & connected vehicle data.)
How Do Automated Vehicles Work?

• AVs may combine sensor and map data, can detect and classify objects in their surroundings, and may predict how they are likely to behave with:
  • Other moving vehicles.
  • Pedestrians and cyclists.
  • Stationary objects (e.g., signs, trees, traffic cones).
• Based on what an AV can “see” and what it predicts nearby objects are likely to do, it can make decisions about speed and steering inputs.

Source: Federal Highway Administration
# Varying Levels of Automation (SAE J3016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAE Level</th>
<th>SAE Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>No Automation</td>
<td>Full-time performance by the human driver of all aspects of dynamic driving task.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Driver Assistance</td>
<td>Driver assistance system controls either steering or speed while the human driver performs all remaining aspects of dynamic driving task.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Partial Automation</td>
<td>Driver assistance system(s) controls both steering and speed while the human driver performs all remaining aspects of dynamic driving task.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Conditional Automation</td>
<td>Automated driving system performs all aspects of dynamic driving task with the expectation that human driver will respond to a request to intervene.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>High Automation</td>
<td>Automated driving system performs all aspects of dynamic driving task, even if a human driver does not respond to a request to intervene.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Full Automation</td>
<td>Automated driving system performs all aspects of dynamic driving task under all roadway and environmental conditions that can be managed by a human driver.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Full definition available at: [www.sae.org/misc/pdfs/automated_driving.pdf](http://www.sae.org/misc/pdfs/automated_driving.pdf)
Most major manufacturers currently offer Level 1 systems (e.g., lane keep assist, adaptive cruise control) and some offer Level 2 systems.

Source: Federal Highway Administration
Automated Vehicles Are... in Testing

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has conducted research into connected Level 1 applications, including:

- Cooperative Adaptive Cruise Control (CACC).
- GlidePath.
- Connected/Automated Truck Platooning.
- Lane Change/Merge.

Source: Federal Highway Administration
Manufacturers and technology companies are also testing AVs, including passenger vehicles, heavy duty commercial and small transit-like vehicles.
Many manufacturers are targeting 2020 (or potentially sooner) to introduce Level 3 and 4 automated vehicles...
Vehicle Fleet Turnover

Expected Survival Rate of Model Year 2017 Vehicles

AVs Could Introduce Significant Benefits

Potential Benefits
- Reduction in vehicle crashes.
- Improved mobility for elderly, disabled and those unable to drive.
- Improved convenience of travel.

Potential Challenges
- Less efficient operations of the highway system.
- Increases in VMT and congestion.
- Land use implications and increased sprawl.
Connectivity May Enhance Automated Vehicle Benefits

Connectivity may enhance the safety and efficiency of AVs by providing greater situational awareness and efficiency.

What is Connectivity?

- The ability to transmit data and information to and from the vehicle.
- May include the ability for a vehicle or driver to receive and use broadcasted information about traffic, travel, roadway condition, and other information. (Example: vehicle is aware of work zone in advance.)

- May include the transmission of critical information from the vehicle. (Example: crash notification.)
Connectivity May Enhance Automated Vehicle Benefits (cont.)

What is Connectivity? (continued)

• May include the exchange of safety-critical information between vehicles or between vehicles and infrastructure.

Examples:

• An equipped vehicle sends a defined message packet with vehicle location, heading and speed - transmitted ~10 times per second.

• Other nearby vehicles and roadside equipment receive and process the messages.

• Drivers receive warnings and information to avoid potential crashes.

• May also enhance mobility and efficiency.

Examples:

• Facilitate vehicle platoons.

• Enable vehicle to travel at ideal speed to minimize stopping at signalized intersections.
What Could This Mean for Our Nation’s Roads?
Physical Infrastructure

- Unclear infrastructure requirements for AVs (signs, signals, markings).
- Possible need for adaptations to design standards for greater consistency.
- Implications for maintenance and investment.

Source: Federal Highway Administration
Digital Infrastructure

- AVs as potential sources of roadway data.
- Data updates on construction and road closures.
- Maintenance of digital infrastructure.

Source: Federal Highway Administration
Roadway Operations

- Short-term challenges of managing a mixed traffic environment (AVs, CVs, non-AVs, bike/ped and other road users).
- New challenges in harmonizing traffic flow.
- Potential travel demand changes.
- Likely long-term efficiency and congestion benefits.

Source: Federal Highway Administration
Programs and Practices

- Accounting for AVs and potential land use impacts as well as uncertainty in long-range planning process.
- Implications of shared vehicle fleets and new mobility models on travel demand modeling/forecasting.
- Revenue and budget implications.

Source: Federal Highway Administration
What Are Transportation Agencies Doing to Prepare for Automated Vehicles?
Arizona and Massachusetts governors signed executive orders supporting AV testing.

Virginia’s governor endorsed the Virginia Automated Corridors Initiative through a proclamation.

Texas has welcomed AV testing to Austin without specific legislative action.

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures, March 1, 2018
National Associations

- Numerous activities by national associations to assess issues and support their memberships.
- Coordination events held in January 2017 and 2018, hosted by American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and American Association of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers (AAMVM).
U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT) Automated Vehicle Initiatives

- Federal Automated Vehicle Policy (FAVP) 1.0 and 2.0.
- FAVP 3.0 anticipated in 2018.
- Roundtable on Data for Automated Vehicle Safety - December 2017.
- Requests for information and comments.
- Ongoing outreach and engagement.
USDOT Automated Vehicle Initiatives

- Replaces 2016 Federal Automated Vehicles Policy with...
  - Section I: Voluntary Guidance for Automated Driving Systems.
  - Section II: Technical Assistance to States.
- More information available on NHTSA website: https://www.nhtsa.gov/technology-innovation/automated-vehicles
Requests for Information/Comments (RFI/RFC):

- Federal Highway Administration

- Federal Transit Administration
  - RFC on Automated Transit Buses Research Program (Closed 3/2/18).
  - RFC on Removing Barriers to Transit Bus Automation (Closed 3/2/18).

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
FAVP 3.0 FHWA RFI Topics

1. Roadway characteristics.
2. Non-uniformity in traffic control.
5. Role of digital infrastructure and data.

https://www.transportation.gov/AV
FAVP 3.0 FHWA RFI Topics (cont.)

6. Concerns of state and local agencies.
7. Current research and activities on infrastructure-vehicle interface.
8. Priority issues for road owner/operators.
9. Traffic information needed by ADS.
10. Issues during mixed fleet transition.

https://www.transportation.gov/AV
National Dialogue on Highway Automation

• Stakeholder engagement activities to discuss the role of FHWA in automation and explore issues of concern to FHWA and its stakeholders.

• Focus on topics related to highway infrastructure systems, highway information systems, planning, traffic operations, and other provisions to be ready for the safe and efficient integration of automation.

• Inform research, policy support, implementation assistance, and national transportation community development.
Stakeholders of the National Dialogue

• State and local agencies.
• Automotive industry and new developers.
• ADS hardware and software developers.
• Road hardware and ITS industry.
• National transportation organizations.
• Telecommunications industry.
• Data and analytics companies.
• User groups and the general public.
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Questions?
For More Information Please Contact:

https://www.transportation.gov/AV

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