



FLORIDA AUTOMATED VEHICLES INITIATIVE FACT SHEET



Automated Vehicles Summit Gives Glimpse of Transportation Future

Third Annual Florida Automated Vehicles Summit Kicks Off with a Focus on Preparing for New Technologies while Wednesday's session at the JAXPORT Cruise Terminal will showcase automated vehicles for land, air and water.

Monday, Dec. 1, 2015

JACKSONVILLE – More than 350 government officials, transportation agency leaders, academic researchers and private sector representatives spent the first of two days discussing the potential of automated vehicles to improve safety, mobility and economic possibilities.

It was far from a theoretical exercise because many of those same leaders will be planning, designing and building the infrastructure that will allow vehicles in the near future to communicate with intelligent roadways as well as other cars and trucks.

It's part of an array of fast developing technologies aimed at assisting drivers and allowing cars to travel closely together and brake automatically while preventing accidents and even eliminating congestion.

"We understand that semi-autonomous vehicles and connected vehicle communications are likely to be commonplace within the next 5-10 years," said Rich Biter, Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) Assistant Secretary of Intermodal Systems Development. "In response, we are engaging transportation industry stakeholders statewide to gain a shared understanding of the impacts so that, together, we can create the framework for implementation of automated vehicle technologies."

The events are part of the Third Annual Florida Automated Vehicles (AV) Summit taking place in Jacksonville on Dec. 1-2 to show what the future will likely hold and to create dialogue between researchers, government agencies and the private sector.

The Florida Institute of Consulting Engineers (FICE) is hosting the summit with the assistance of FDOT at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront on Tuesday and at the JAXPORT Cruise Terminal on Wednesday.

"Radical change is coming," said State Senator Jeff Brandes, who chairs the Florida Senate's Committee on Transportation. Brandes pointed out that instead of minimizing distractions for drivers while they concentrate on the road, the next generation of cars with automated systems will have to be able to distract drivers who might be emailing while the car is essentially on autopilot and alert them to take back the controls.

Speakers and exhibitors at the summit emphasized that these fast advancing technologies can benefit both the public and private sectors by preventing driver errors, by saving costs through moving cargo more efficiently and by providing driver assistance or fully automated vehicles to aid those with mobility issues and needs. Many noted

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that Florida is working diligently to stay on the leading edge of the technological advancement that can increase personal safety and corporate efficiency.

One of the places that may be proved is at the Tampa-Hillsborough Expressway Authority (THEA), which is one of just a handful of sites in the nation that can test automated or connected driving systems in real world conditions.

Many pointed out that the technology will change driving sooner than the average motorist might imagine. Cadillac, for instance, has committed to including vehicle-to-vehicle communications in its 2017 CTS. That will allow the vehicles to receive information about the speed and location of other vehicles and alert drivers of impending problems.

On Wednesday: The JAXPORT Cruise Terminal will be the spot for a glimpse into the future of transportation technology, as an array of demonstrations showcase the power of automated vehicles for land, air and water. Although open only to registered attendees and media, the demonstrations serve to remind everyone of just how quickly transportation technology is evolving.

Among the developments in AV technology on display will be unmanned vehicles that not only hold promise to improve safety on roadways, but also could move freight to or from cargo ships in a very efficient manner. Other demonstrations include automated boats that can inspect bridges and piers and aerial drones that can monitor operations on docks or survey any damage that follows a hurricane or tropical storm. Information gleaned from aerial inspections could prevent workers from venturing into damaged areas without knowing the potential risks.

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