



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 06, 2016

Autonomous Vehicles Task Force Releases Recommendations for Safety, Testing

Transportation Officials to Review Task Force Recommendations in Online Public Meeting

Harrisburg, PA – The state’s Autonomous Vehicles Testing Policy Task Force has delivered recommended guidance to PennDOT Secretary Leslie S. Richards for developing policies to oversee testing of highly automated vehicles (HAVs) and has scheduled an on-line public forum for Dec. 12 to review the report.

The task force’s goal is to create a framework for testing HAVs in Pennsylvania that balances public safety with innovation and provides for the flexibility required to keep the state in the forefront of the development of this emerging and potentially transformative technology.

“Autonomous and connected vehicles will change transportation and could bring benefits of safer travel and greater ease of mobility for all if rules are in place to ensure passenger and pedestrian safety,” Richards said. “This guidance shows Pennsylvania’s understanding of public concerns and our commitment to being a leader in the research and testing of these technologies in ways that are both safe and innovative.

“Since HAVs will bring major changes to our transportation system, it is vital for Pennsylvanians to be informed and engaged in this process, so I encourage the public to participate in the Dec. 12 on-line forum,” she added.

The guidance is the result of months of collaboration among state, federal, and private-industry officials, such as the Federal Highway Administration, AAA, Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), General Motors, Uber, the University of Pennsylvania, SAE and the Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association. PennDOT chaired the task force.

Safety was paramount in the Task Force’s approach. Among its recommendations:

- Testers of highly automated vehicles (HAVs) must submit testing proposals to PennDOT and enter contracts attesting that the vehicles meet all federal and state safety standards and meet the policies adopted by PennDOT.
- PennDOT has to be notified prior to any HAV being used without an operator in fully self-driving mode.
- PennDOT and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission may temporarily restrict HAVs from certain routes. Otherwise, HAVs may be tested on any road in the state. Municipalities can also ask PennDOT to temporarily restrict HAVs on local routes.
- Platooning of HAVs will be restricted to two commercial or three passenger vehicles. However, testers can ask to use more HAVs in platooning, but PennDOT can ask for a safety demonstration first.

- The HAVs must be able to record data that can be used to investigate crashes involving the HAVs. PennDOT will have access to the data.
- Testers must certify that cybersecurity protections are in place for the HAVs.
- PennDOT will collect data on total miles operated by HAVs, total number of hours of operation, and size of HAV fleets. PennDOT may also ask for other information such as counties where HAVs are being tested and percentage of testing done on limited access highways.

Adoption of policies will be contingent on the enactment of authorizing legislation in the next session in 2017.

The public is invited to participate in the online public meeting on Dec.12, from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The public may join the meeting by visiting PennDOT's automated vehicle testing page, and clicking on the webinar link at the time of the meeting.

During the live Webcast, Richards will join department Deputy Secretary for Driver & Vehicle Services Kurt J. Myers and Policy Director Roger Cohen, task force co-chairs, as well as the authors of the draft policy, to present the recommendations. They will also answer questions submitted before and during the meeting. The public is encouraged to review the policy on PennDOT's website, and is welcome to ask questions of the panelists during the online meeting. Email questions to penndotav@pa.gov.

Following the online meeting, the task force's final recommendations will be posted on the PennDOT website, www.penndot.gov. Through January 12, 2017, the public may submit feedback by emailing penndotav@pa.gov.

MEDIA CONTACT: Alexis Campbell, 717-787-0485; Rich Kirkpatrick or Erin Waters-Trasatt, 717-783-8800

Following is a list of Autonomous Vehicles Testing Policy Task Force members:

Commonwealth Representatives

Kurt J. Myers, Deputy Secretary for Driver and Vehicle Services, PennDOT, Co-chair
Roger Cohen, Policy Director, PennDOT, Co-chair
Glenda Ebersole, Policy Director, Department of Insurance,
Steve D'Ettore, Policy Director, Department of Community and Economic Development
Major Ed Hoke, Bureau of Patrol, PA State Police
Lieutenant Brian Ianuzzi, Bureau of Patrol, PA State Police
Stacia Ritter, Director of Policy and External Affairs, PA Turnpike Commission
Captain Bruce Williams, Bureau of Patrol, PA State Police

Stakeholder Representatives

Ted Leonard, Executive Director, AAA
Robert C. Pitcher, Vice President, State Laws, American Trucking Association
Kevin Stewart, President, PA Motor Truck Association
Dr. Raj Rajkumar, Carnegie Mellon University

Phil Bobitz, Assistant Safety Engineer/Transportation Federal Highway Administration
Engineer

Jeffrey Perry, Director, Public Policy, General Motors

Erika Strassburger, Chief of Staff, City of Pittsburgh Council District 8

Larry Coben, PA Trial Lawyers Association

Bill Gouse, Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE)

Ashwini Chhabra, Head of Policy Development, Uber Technologies

Shari Shapiro, Head of Public Affairs for Pennsylvania and Delaware, Uber Technologies

Erick Guerra, Professor of City and Regional Planning, University of Pennsylvania

#