

Traffic Topics Webinar

Self-Driving Vehicles: Current Status and Policy Implications for Minnesota

Tuesday, November 18, 2014, 2-3 p.m.

Water's Edge, conference rooms A&C

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1950's self-driving vehicle



Google autocar

Presentation Overview

Whether you call them self-driving, driverless, automated, or autonomous, these vehicles are on the move. While safety improvements remain the most visible justification for implementation of these technologies, recent announcements by Google and other major automakers indicate these vehicles have the potential to be a “disruptive technology” with the ability to transform transportation infrastructure, expand access, and deliver benefits to a variety of users. This presentation will include an examination of the current status of this technology, the implications for road safety, capacity, travel behavior and cost.

In particular, this research presents a Minnesota perspective. As the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) implements the 20-Year Minnesota State Highway Investment Plan and establishes priorities for the next several decades, state officials need information about the potential for this technology to transform Minnesota’s transportation system. The Metropolitan Council also needs to pay serious attention as self-driving cars can potentially change the way we live and travel

within the Council's planning horizon. The presentation will close with a brief discussion of how the state might move forward to derive the greatest benefits from these technologies.

Presenters:

Frank Douma



Frank Douma is a Research Fellow and Associate Director of the State and Local Policy Program at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs and a Research Scholar at the Center for Transportation Studies, both located at the University of Minnesota. He manages research projects related to several different areas of transportation policy, including impacts of developments in information and communications technologies (ICT), planning alternative transportation options in both large and small communities, and understanding the impacts of freight transportation.

In addition to working at the Humphrey School, Mr. Douma has worked for the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Metropolitan Airports Commission and the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Mr. Douma has a Master's Degree in Public Affairs and a Law Degree from the University of Minnesota, and a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Grinnell College.

Adeel Lari



Adeel Lari is the Director of Innovative Financing in the State and Local Policy Program at the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs. He joined the University after more than 30 years with the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Lari's education includes a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering (M.Sc.) and a Master of Business Administration (M.B.A) in Real Estate and Urban Land Economics from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He has earned certificates in Mediation from the William Mitchell College of Law and in Strategic Public Sector Negotiations from Harvard University.

Lari's Career in MnDOT started at one of the first Traffic Management Centers in the world as a System Design and Traffic Research Engineer. He has spent years studying, championing and implementing innovative transportation initiatives in Minnesota. His initiatives have won numerous awards including the President's Modal Award from AASHTO and the Distinguished Project Award from the National Council for Public-Private Partnerships.

For More Information

Visit: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/trafficeng/topics/index.html>

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