

Governor's Advisory Council on Connected and Automated Vehicles

May 26, 2020

Minnesota Department of Transportation, Skype

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Council members present: Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Amber Backhaus, Rep. Connie Bernardy, Amber Backhaus, Todd Biewen (on behalf of Laura Bishop), Ryan Daniel, Robin Hutcheson (on behalf of Jacob Frey), Councilmember Tina Folch, Mayor Jason Gadd, Michael Gorman, John Hausladen, Dan Chen, Phil Magney, Kevin McKinnon, Laurie McGinnis, Myrna Peterson, Mark Phillips, Randy Sanford, Edward Reynoso, Damien Riehl, Patrick Weldon, Charlie Zelle.

Others present:

Sharad Agarwal, John Beck, Kevin Chan, Nancy Daubenberger, Gary Dirlam, Frank Douma, Margaret Donahoe, John Dukich, Patrick Duff, Rep. Steve Elkins, Skip Foster, Steven Frich, Les Sundra Ford, Gordon Glass, Michael Gorman, Jane Gherity, Chris Hadfield, Tom Hoene, Kevin Hogle, Joseph Holmes, Cathy Huebsch, Michael Kronzer, Cory Johnson, Ben Lowndes, Jim McCarthy, Keith Mensah, Tammy Meehan-Russell, Mayor Kim Norton, Sarah Psick, Tara Olds, Mel Reeder, Landon Richardson, Wayne Sandberg, Steve Truebner, Andrea Vaubel, Kristin White, Joan Willshire.

I. Welcome, Review Council Visioning, Mission and Priorities

Chair Margaret Anderson Kelliher welcomed council members, guests and the public to the fourth Governor's CAV Advisory Council meeting under Executive Order 19-08. Minutes from the February 18th meeting were approved. Goals of the meeting were to: (1) understand how the CAV industry is reacting to COVID-19 and pivoting to the future; (2) Learn how the council can more directly support the state's CAV Office goals; and (3) Discuss an innovation alliance model and subcommittees.

II. The State of CAV in a COVID Era

Co-Chair and VSI Labs CEO, Phil Magney kicked off the meeting with an overview of how the novel COVID-19 pandemic is impacting CAV. COVID-19 has setback original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and automated vehicle developers. Many startups are not expected to survive the financial impacts due to COVID-19. Many companies and institutions are making drastic cuts to research and development. Members discussed whether a potential shift towards more connected vehicles (rather automated vehicles), specifically with vehicle-to-infrastructure applications.

III. Rochester Autonomous Shuttle project and EasyMile's national work

Sharad Agarwal from EasyMile discussed EasyMile's partnership with MnDOT on a 12-month automated shuttle pilot in Rochester, Minnesota. EasyMile is a six-year-old company headquartered in France, focusing on AV software solutions. The shuttle they are deploying in Rochester has 6 seats with seatbelts and runs on 16 hours of autonomy. The vehicle is pre-mapped after the route is thoroughly analyzed for potential safety risks and threats. At the time of the meeting, EasyMile has piloted shuttles in Utah, Dallas Fort-Worth, New Jersey, the Houston metro area and Florida. Due to COVID, the EasyMile pilot launch in Rochester has been postponed to 2021.

IV. MnDOT CAV-X Strategic Priorities

CAV-X Office Director Kristin White presented to the council and attending audience members developments of the CAV Strategic business and work plan. White highlighted the major priorities for the CAV 2-year business plan including:

1. Communication, education, and outreach
2. Partnership and collaboration
3. Strategic alignment and performance measurements
4. Strategic staffing and process improvement

The Council discussed ways they can help support CAV-X execute their priorities, including meeting with Grand Rapids stakeholders on the CAV-X fiber optic expansion project, and to further discuss data and privacy efforts. Members also discussed AV Policy and the consumer data privacy bill. Additional CAV-X updates included a brief commemoration of Minnesota's CAV program turning 2 on April 18th and celebrating the projects, partnerships, and accomplishments of the projects office since its inception. VSI and CAV-X are hosting a webinar on June 4th to discuss CAV trends.

V. Structuring an Alliance

Kristin White and Ben Lowndes continued conversation from the previous meeting that discussed structuring a statewide CAV Alliance. This alliance would streamline and structure each entities involved in CAV. White discussed the previous Council's 10 committees and how the wanted to prioritize this to five committees:

1. Safety and law enforcement
2. Connectivity and data
3. Infrastructure investment
4. Labor and workforce development
5. Education and outreach

The Alliance will need members, strong leadership, funding ad ideas for projects. Members discussed the Alliance serving as a "one-stop-shop" for CAV in Minnesota.

Members agreed to begin meeting offline to discuss how the alliance should be organized and who will serve on the committees. Members were identified for the Education and Outreach, Connectivity & Data, and Workforce Development Committees. Charters will be developed for all 5 subcommittees to clarify goals and scope.

VI. Public comments

Tammy Meehan Russell who worked with an alliance in Texas and California expressed how the alliance should be formed to be a long-term and sustainable.

Joan Wilshire inquired about diversity and inclusion being a committee or how it important it is to have it featured within each committee. Joan also asked about the Rochester project and why it's not accessible and if it could be accessible.