The Governor created a steering committee in 2017 to study autonomous and connected vehicle testing and deployment. The final report was just released with recommendations going forward.

What does this mean to you? AV/CV are coming. They have the potential to positively impact the lives of the people we serve, but we need to ensure that their voices are heard throughout development and testing. AV/CVs could change the delivery of meals or escort services, but what will the impacts be on the socialization and safety check aspect or budgets of the programs? Walking and biking are modes of transportation used by older adults. What will the interactions be between walkers and bikers and AVs/CVs? How will the rollout be equitable for those with lower incomes and those living in rural areas?

Local governments will need to consider the infrastructure and impacts on their areas and you should be at the table having those discussions with them.

DOT RELEASES FINAL REPORT ON AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

Governor Walker signed Executive Order #245 on May 18, 2017 to create the Governor’s Steering Committee on Autonomous and Connected Vehicle Testing and Deployment to have a coordinated effort on how the state would advance testing and operation of autonomous and connected vehicles in Wisconsin. The Committee was chaired by DOT Secretary Dave Ross, and included Reps. Jason Fields, Adam Neylon, and Mike Kuglitsch, Sens. Chris Kapenga, Fred Risser, and Patrick Testin and representatives from various companies and organizations around the state like Wisconsin State Patrol, WEDC, ABATE Wisconsin, UW-Madison, Uber, Wisconsin Technology Council, Tesla, Harley-Davidson and others. The final report of the committee makes several recommendations:

- Identify the Department of Transportation as Wisconsin’s lead state agency to support Connected and/or Autonomous Vehicles (CAV)
- Create a working group with the ongoing responsibilities of responding to CAV technology and deployment, promoting CAV research development, providing policy advice and coordinating the state’s response.
- Work with the legislature to generate and formally authorize a CAV testing framework that defines expectations for manufacturers which test automated vehicle technologies on Wisconsin’s public roads.
- Support legislative and administrative efforts to update and clarify state statute and administrative rules regarding CAV operation and liability.
- Promote the entire state of Wisconsin as “Open for CAV deployment.” Highlight current connected corridor projects.
• Highlight and pursue existing, near-term strategic partnerships while continuing to explore new strategic social, economic, and environmental partnerships through the creation of a CAV working group.

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Additional information and useful resources can be found at www.gwaar.org.