

Spotlight on Potential 2021 Subcommittee Topics

The Texas CAV Task Force was created at the request of Texas Governor Greg Abbott in January 2019. The Texas CAV Task Force is responsible for preparing Texas for the safe and efficient rollout of CAVs on all forms of transportation infrastructure.

The primary functions are:

1. Coordinating and providing information on CAV technology use and testing in Texas.
2. Informing the public and leaders on current and future CAV advancements and what they mean in Texas. This process includes reporting on the current status, future concerns, and how these technologies are changing future quality of life and well-being.
3. Making Texas a leader in understanding how to best prepare and wisely integrate CAV technologies in a positive, safe way, as well as promoting positive development and experiences for the state.

The Texas CAV Task Force is composed of a voting group of no more than 25 members and represents the full spectrum of CAV stakeholders.

The following topics have been identified for potential focus points for the 2021 activities for each subcommittee. Results could be white papers or action/implementation plans. These are initial suggestions and ideas are welcome from the membership.

DATA, CONNECTIVITY, CYBERSECURITY, AND PRIVACY SUBCOMMITTEE

- Items surrounding data exchange
 - Which entities are collecting, storing, and using what CV and AV data—how, for what purposes, and with what protections?
 - What data gaps exist that hinder innovation and furthering the public interest?
 - What data can be shared or exchanged to facilitate the safe and successful integration of AVs and CVs into the transportation ecosystem?
 - What security and privacy protections need to be addressed and incorporated into AV and CV data collection and sharing?
- Need to consider broadband from the subcommittee’s perspective. Represents a huge change in how we might do things. Consider the infrastructure piece and where that stands, especially as related to utilities.
- DAVI platform items

FREIGHT AND DELIVERY SUBCOMMITTEE

- General interest in the question of automation and freight along the border; border trade; economic opportunities.
- Inspections - law enforcement needs related to AV and autonomous trucks.
- Freight launch pads - get on the highway, perform autonomously, get off highway.
- How do we encourage pilots and trials? - Private sector / Tx-DOT / Feds - might only apply to a subset of the committee involved in long-haul.
- Cargo type - Is HazMat allowed? Currently no regulations preventing it, but not something companies are looking to do at this time.

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EDUCATION, COMMUNICATION, AND USER NEEDS SUBCOMMITTEE

- Communications and/or implementation plan: How to create and operationalize
- Effectiveness - from an education perspective - get K-12 education engagement
- Need to understand how OEM's are educating the potential consumer market. Examine from the perspective of public perception, that may be their initial viewpoint related to automated vehicles.
 - Perceived lack of buyer understanding of what capabilities and constraints are.
 - Engage Task Force members to understand OEM marketing strategies and approach.

LICENSING AND REGISTRATION SUBCOMMITTEE

- House Bill 3026: Modifying inspections for vehicles that don't have a driver - may not need steering wheel, side mirrors, rearview mirrors, etc.
- Driver's licensing side of AV/CV.
 - Do you need to be licensed?
 - Do you need to be commercially licensed if it's a commercial vehicle?
 - AMVA (American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators) working on best practices for AV's
- Should there be some form of requirement for basic training when vehicles are bought? State mandated education / training? Endorsement to licensing? Age limits?
- Consistency of operation across AV platforms. Renter vs Owner?
- What's the basic level of information you need to get in the car and drive it safely?

SAFETY, LIABILITY, AND RESPONSIBILITY SUBCOMMITTEE

- Re-examine infrastructure as a topic.
- Response efforts to CAV crashes and impact on first responders (education / training / insurance)
- Response efforts to CAV trails? (Best practices? NHTSA? Trials?)
- HB 3026: Modifying inspections for vehicles that don't have a driver - may not need steering wheel, side mirrors, rearview mirrors, etc.
- Liability insurance might be worthy of consideration.
- Are there needs to limit the types of loads that take place in trials (e.g., HazMat)