

LAST WEEK IN INNOVATIVE MOBILITY

May 2nd - May 8th, 2016



RIDESOURCING/TNCS

The city of Austin votes to uphold a bill requiring TNC drivers to undergo fingerprint-based background checks. 56% of voters support the bill, which also imposes restrictions on passenger pick-up and drop-off areas and requires all ridesharing vehicles to display company logos. In response to the news, Lyft and Uber shut down operations in Austin.

RIDESOURCING/TNCS

The Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) publishes a critique of a recent Brookings Institution article, which claims that partnerships between transit agencies and TNCs would lower the costs of paratransit services. The ATU emphasizes that paratransit services are inherently more expensive, more labor intensive, and more strictly regulated than TNCs.



VEHICLES

Google partners with Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) to produce 100 automated Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid minivans. FCA and Google will jointly develop the vehicle by co-locating parts of their engineering teams at a facility in southeastern Michigan. At present, there are no plans to sell the automated minivans to the public.

RIDESOURCING/TNCS

GM and Lyft announce that they will begin testing a fleet of automated Chevrolet Bolt electric taxis on public roads within a year. GM plans to acquire automated driving technology for the program from SF-based Cruise Automation. Lyft riders in an undisclosed city will have the opportunity to opt in or out of the pilot when hailing a ride from the Lyft app.



APPS

Moovel partners with Portland's TriMet, Lyft, and car2go to launch the first pilot of its software development kit, RideTap. The updated TriMet Tickets app now allows riders to book rides with Lyft and reserve car2go vehicles in addition to purchasing tickets for public transit.

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Innovative Mobility Research (IMR) is based at the Transportation Sustainability Research Center (TSRC) at the University of California, Berkeley