Mercedes-Benz’s semi-automated ‘Future Bus’ completes a 20 km test run from Amsterdam’s Schiphol airport to the town of Haarlem. With a maximum speed of 70 km/h, the bus’s CityPilot technology recognizes objects and pedestrians on the road, automatically stops at bus stops, and communicates with city infrastructure, allowing the bus to anticipate traffic lights and report road conditions back to a central computer.

Portland launches its first bikesharing program, Biketown, with a total of 1,000 bicycles and 100 stations throughout downtown Portland and surrounding neighborhoods. The bicycles are equipped with a basket, solar-powered display, and lights that automatically turn on when the bike is being pedaled. Riders can choose to pay for a single ride, day pass, or an annual membership.

The Transportation Sustainability Research Center at UC Berkeley releases results from a study on the impacts of car2go in five North American cities. Under conservative assumptions, the study finds that each car2go vehicle removes between seven to 11 personal vehicles from the road, and the average car2go user across the five cities reduces their greenhouse gas emissions by 10 percent.

China bans testing of automated vehicles on highways while the government works with the police to finalize a new regulatory framework for automated vehicles. Germany plans to require manufacturers of cars equipped with automated driving features to install a black box to help determine responsibility in the event of an accident by keeping a record of when either automated system or human are in control of the vehicle.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk announces the second part of his masterplan, which includes expansion of Tesla’s electric vehicle offering to all types of ground vehicles, including buses and trucks, the transition of the fleet into fully automated vehicles, and the creation of a carsharing network supplied by automated Tesla owners. Musk also announced that Tesla would begin producing a “solar-roof-with-battery product” for homes.

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

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