MICROTRANSIT
Chariot, Ford’s microtransit venture, expands to Columbus, Ohio. The city won the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Smart City Challenge in 2016, which included Chariot as a part of its “Smart Columbus” plan. The Chariot shuttles will initially transport JPMorgan Chase’s 400 employees from their home to work locations during morning and evening commute hours. Chariot now operates in five cities across the U.S.

VEHICLES
Boston approves Optimus Ride, an automated vehicle (AV) service provider, to operate in the Marine Park area. The company is testing first- and last-mile shuttle service routes on public roads and is asking businesses in the area to offer test rides to their employees. It will join Lyft and NuTonomy, another AV company, in carrying passengers using AVs in the Boston area.

BIKESHARING
Grab, a Southeast Asian ridesourcing company/TNC, and oBike, a bikesharing service, will launch a joint bikesharing initiative. oBike, which currently has about 10 million users, recently integrated Grab’s payment system, GrabPay, into its app. The joint service will first launch in Singapore and is expected to expand into other parts of Southeast Asia.

VEHICLES
Honda is testing its Acura AVs in San Jose, California. In June 2017, the city published a request for information to encourage AV companies to test their vehicles on the city’s roads. The Acura test vehicles, which were observed in the Santana Row shopping area, are equipped with Velodyne LiDAR sensors and cameras for navigation.

CARSHARING
Turo, a peer-to-peer carsharing service, launches in Germany. About 200,000 vehicles are listed as available for rent on the company’s online platform. Turo will partner with Allianz to insure the vehicles for owners and renters. The company is also currently operating in the U.K., U.S., and Canada, and has five million users total.

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