Last Week In Innovative Mobility
November 20 - 26, 2017

MICROTRANSIT

TransLoc names Detroit and Atlanta first place winners of its Microtransit Accelerator Challenge competition. Among fifteen other proposal submissions, Detroit and Atlanta were selected for proposing the most innovative microtransit solutions. TransLoc will provide planning resources, data analytics, and predictive modeling to actualize the two cities’ proposed microtransit initiatives.

RIDESOURCING/TNCs

Uber and Yandex.Taxi, a subsidiary of Russia’s largest technology company Yandex, to merge. Russia’s anti-monopoly regulator approved the merger, stipulating that Uber drivers must not be banned from working for competing services. The companies will jointly launch services in Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, and Kazakhstan in January 2018.

REACHNOW, BMW’s one-way carsharing service, to expand to southwest China after a successful pilot in Beijing. The company will deploy a fleet of one hundred electric i3 models in December for ReachNow’s first launch outside of the United States. According to BMW, its European carsharing user base is over one million members, and the service is now profitable.

VEHICLES

Uber to buy 24,000 sport utility vehicles from Volvo for its automated fleet. Uber plans to install its own sensing technology and automated driving software into the vehicles, signaling its commitment to launch an automated ridesourcing service under the company’s new CEO. The vehicles will be delivered to Uber from 2019 to 2021.

Optimus Ride, an automated vehicle (AV) company, will expand its testing to Weymouth, Massachusetts. The city’s developer will pay Optimus Ride to provide transportation services through a partnership. Optimus Ride expects to begin carrying passengers in its four- to six-seat vehicles in a 2018 pilot program.

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Innovative Mobility Research (IMR) focuses on the future of mobility and is based at the Transportation Sustainability Research Center at the University of California, Berkeley.