Last Week In Innovative Mobility

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BIKESHARING

Limebike and Spin submit permits to launch the first dockless bikesharing system in Seattle. Spin has dedicated funds to improve biking infrastructure in the city, and it plans to roll out a 500-bike fleet. Limebike currently operates in California, North Carolina, and Florida.

CARSHARING

BlueLA program launches pilot program in Los Angeles, releasing five electric vehicles for shared use in the city's disadvantaged neighborhoods. Monthly membership costs will range from $0-$10 a month, with the potential for income-based discounts of up to 80 percent. The project is a first of its kind, and it aims to increase its fleet size to 100 vehicles by the end of this year.
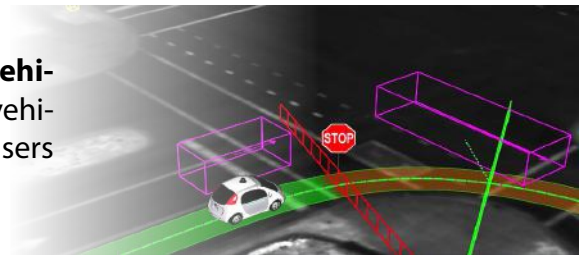
POLICY

Oregon approves an EV rebate and a flat bike tax this week. The rebate of $2,500 on top of the $7,500 federal tax rebate is only eligible for vehicles with a selling price of less than $50,000. As part of the larger public transit bill, however, the state will require a $15 excise tax on all adult bicycles. The funds will go toward bicycle and pedestrian projects.

APPS

Mighty AI recruits mobile application users to train autonomous vehicles. Users are prompted to input object identification data to teach vehicles to recognize real-life objects and patterns. Currently over 200,000 users around the world are monetarily compensated for their participation.

RIDESOURCING

India is considering the use of private vehicles as shared taxis in an effort to reduce car ownership and congestion. The government will access the economic and environmental impacts and plans to set up regulatory frameworks to allow ridesourcing companies to operate in the country. According to government officials, passenger safety is of primary concern.

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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

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