Last Week In Innovative Mobility

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ITSBerkeley Institute of Transportation Studies

AUTOMATED VEHICLES

New Flyer, a city bus manufacturer, develops a battery-powered automated bus, the Xcelsior AV. The company plans to start testing the vehicle in 2022 with the Connecticut Department of Transportation. During testing, the vehicle will have a human driver onboard for backup, but it will operate using a self-driving platform from Robotic Research, a private engineering company.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

General Motors (GM) aspires to have all light-duty vehicles zero emission by 2035. The electrification plan also includes making heavy-duty pickups and manufacturing plants zero emission by 2040. GM is also working with stakeholders to build charging infrastructure and promote electric vehicle adoption.

SHARED MICROMOBILITY

Lime, a shared micromobility company, adds electric mopeds to its fleets. This addition allows the company to better understand customer preferences. Lime is introducing 600 mopeds in Washington, D.C. and an undetermined number in Paris, France in March 2021.

SHARED MICROMOBILITY

Spin, a shared micromobility company, is testing three wheeled, remote controlled scooters. The scooters are equipped with sensors and other technology from Tortoise, a startup company, that allow them to be remotely operated, if needed (e.g., to reach a rider, move off the sidewalk). Spin is testing 250 of the scooters in Boise, Idaho before adding them to other markets.

URBAN AIR MOBILITY

Lilium GmbH, a German startup, and Ferrovial SE, a Spanish infrastructure company, partner to develop 10 vertiports. The companies plan on locating the vertiports in Florida to serve major cities (e.g., Miami, Tampa) operating Lilium's five-seater electric air taxi. The flight schedules could be announced as early as Spring 2021.

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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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