AUTOMATED VEHICLES
Cruise, an automated vehicle (AV) company, begins charging for AV rides in San Francisco, California. Cruise currently offers rides during the day with a safety driver onboard and fully automated rides in the evening. Trip costs vary by trip length and time of day (trips typically have a $5.00 base fee, 1.5% city tax, and $0.90 per mile and $0.40 per minute fee).

DATA SHARING
Congress introduces a new bipartisan bill to protect personally identifiable information. The bill, the American Data Privacy and Protection Act (ADPPA), would impact automakers who are currently collecting and selling data to third parties without informing drivers. Under the ADPPA, consumers would have to express affirmative consent for data sharing.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES
Redwood Materials, a lithium-ion battery recycling startup, partners with Toyota to refurbish and recycle batteries and battery materials. The partners are only collecting batteries from Toyota’s hybrid and electric vehicles. Redwood Materials’ goal is to create a circular electric vehicle (EV) battery supply chain.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES
General Motors works on streamlining EV charging by equipping its EV models with “Plug and Charge” capabilities. “Plug and Charge” capabilities automates payment at various chargers and improves EV access to various chargers. The enabling technology for “Plug and Charge” has existed since 2014, but the industry has faced challenges agreeing on payment authentication, hardware, and software standards.

TNCs/RIDESOURCING
Uber brings back shared rides (previously called UberPool, now UberXShare) in 10 U.S. cities. UberXShare riders will receive up to a 20% discount if they are matched with another rider, and Uber has promised that UberXShare passengers will arrive eight minutes later or less than a private Uber ride. Uber is limiting rides to a total of two passengers.

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