Bird releases new “Bird Two” scooter. The Bird Two will feature a new battery with 50 percent more capacity than Bird One’s. The scooter will also include smart sensors to signal when a scooter breaks down, an anti-tipping kickstand, puncture-proof tires, and anti-encryption software. The new model is expected to roll out in the US this fall.

Automated Vehicles

French company Navya will shift away from automated shuttle manufacturing. The shift comes after shuttle sales were down by 50 percent in the first half of 2019. In place of manufacturing, Navya plans to develop Level 4 automated drive technology for third party customers and will rely on financing.

Public Transit

The MTA partners with four startups to test innovative technology. Each will launch year-long pilot programs aimed at improving New York City’s public transit. The pilots include technology that will help to identify station crowding, predict when buses must be removed from service, provide software to design transit systems, and deploy smartphone communication systems.

Automated Vehicles

Didi Chuxing’s AV unit becomes an independent company. The AV unit was created in 2016 and now has more than 200 employees across China and the US. According to Didi, the new company plans to increase investment in R&D of core innovative technologies, collaborate with auto industry partners, and promote AV technology to transportation authorities.

Automated Vehicles

Ford acquires two companies to boost automated vehicle (AV) development. Journey Holding Corp. will work with Ford to develop an application that will give people access to Ford’s electric scooters, bikesharing system, and AV fleets (when deployed). Robotics and simulation company Quantum Signal AI will support Ford’s AV development and prototyping.

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