Last Week In Innovative Mobility

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ITS Berkeley
Institute of Transportation Studies

AUTOMATED VEHICLES

Zoox, the automated vehicle (AV) startup acquired by Amazon, expands operations to Seattle, Washington. Zoox is planning to open an engineering office and operations facility in 2022. The facility will act as a base for Zoox's AV testing.
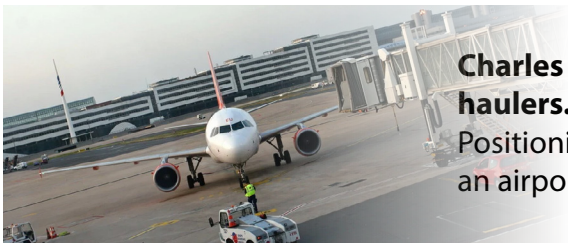
AUTOMATED VEHICLES

Elon Musk temporarily rolls back the latest version of Tesla's Full Self-Driving (FSD) beta software. The beta software showed issues with left turns at traffic lights, collision warnings, autobraking, Autosteer, and cruise control. The FSD software costs an additional $10,000 for Tesla owners and offers more automated features than the standard "Autopilot" software.

AUTOMATED VEHICLES

Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris, France tests automated, electric luggage haulers. The devices can carry 30 to 40 suitcases and operate using Global Positioning System information and sensors. The devices were developed by Orok, an airport robotics startup, and debuted in August 2021.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure in China cannot keep pace with EV purchases. China currently has the world's largest EV charging network with over 1 million charging points. However, as of September 2021, there are almost 7 million EVs on China's roads. The charge points are not always located in the places they are most needed (e.g., only 0.5% are located on highways).

TAXIS

New York City taxi drivers start a hunger strike to protest the failed medallion program. The drivers are threatened by services, like Lyft and Uber, and artificial increases of taxi medallion prices by bankers, brokers, and city investors. The average driver owes $500,000 to lenders. Many have gone without health insurance and retirement plans, as the debt has left many with no options.

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