

Last Week In Innovative Mobility

October 19 - 25, 2020



AUTOMATED VEHICLES

Ford begins testing its Escape SUV for commercial automated vehicle (AV) service. This is Ford's fourth generation of AVs, and the company has transitioned from its previous testing with automated Fusion sedans. The new Escape model is equipped with high-resolution light detection and ranging (LiDAR) sensors and cameras to provide a 360-degree view of the vehicle's surroundings and to spot objects in its blind spots.

AUTOMATED VEHICLES

Cruise seeks regulatory approval to deploy a limited number of its Origin vehicles without a steering wheel or pedal. Cruise and General Motors (GM), a majority shareholder in Cruise, plan on developing the AVs in late-2021 or early-2022. At the same time, Cruise is withdrawing a petition to deploy a similar AV based on the Chevrolet Bolt vehicles.



SHARED MICROMOBILITY



The Wichita, Kansas City Council approves Tandem Mobility as a new partner for the city's bikesharing program, Bike Share ICT. The Wichita bikesharing service launched in 2017 and was managed by the micromobility company Zagster, who recently declared bankruptcy. Tandem Mobility purchased all assets of Zagster. Bike Share ICT will relaunch on December 1, 2020, in large part through a \$360,000 Blue Cross and Blue Shield sponsorship.

SHARED MICROMOBILITY

Jump's bicycles are repurposed in Mexico City, Mexico. Bicitekas, a bicycling advocacy group, purchased 1,600 bicycles from Uber's defunct bikesharing service, Jump. Before giving the bicycles to Bicitekas, Jump removed the batteries and Bicitekas patched the frame and removed the Jump branding. Remaining devices from Jump's fleet were either repurposed by other organizations or were disposed at scrap yards.



URBAN AIR MOBILITY



Merck, a pharmaceutical company, and Volansi, a drone start up, partner to deliver medicine to rural areas of North Carolina. The partners are employing Volansi's Voly C10 drone, which can carry up to 10 pounds of cargo for 50 miles, to transport cold-chain medicines (i.e., must be kept below certain temperatures). The drones will help reduce contact and the potential spread of COVID-19 among couriers, clinicians, patients, etc.

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