

Last Week In Innovative Mobility

October 9 - 15, 2023



AUTOMATED VEHICLES

Maersk, a shipping logistics company, announces the operation of automated heavy duty vehicles (HDVs) between Houston, Texas and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The automated HDVs can operate at any hour and have a human safety monitor on board. Through a partnership with Kodiak Robotics, each automated HDV is instrumented to assess conditions every tenth of a second.

A.P. Moller

AUTOMATED VEHICLES

Cruise announces an update for its robotaxis that allows them to more appropriately react to emergency vehicles. The update was produced through a collaboration with emergency service stakeholders. The new features include earlier detection of sirens, enhanced prediction of fire truck movement, and easier access for law enforcement if the robotaxi needs to be moved manually.

Getty Images

AUTOMATED VEHICLES

Waymo announces the expansion of its robotaxi service to cover 47 square miles of San Francisco, California. Initially, this service area will only be available to Waymo customers who already have access to the service. New customers will have to download the Waymo mobile app and join the waitlist.

AFP via Getty Images

TRANSPORTATION FUEL

President Biden and the Department of Energy announce seven regional hydrogen fuel hubs to be funded by \$7 billion. The funding for the hydrogen hubs comes from the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The hydrogen hubs will focus on the generation of clean hydrogen fuel using renewable resources or fossil fuels with carbon capture technologies.

AFP via Getty Images

TRANSPORTATION LABOR

The United Auto Workers (UAW) seeks to unionize the Ford and Stellantis battery factories, an agreement already made with General Motors. Ford and Stellantis are hesitant to agree due to the cost of unionized workers and the potential effect on the cost of electrical vehicle (EV) manufacturing. This is a critical issue for UAW as engine plants are phased out for EV battery plants, where workers will potentially need to bargain for their wages and benefits.

Mike Householder

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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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