

Last Week In Innovative Mobility

November 2 - 8, 2020



AUTOMATED VEHICLES

Mercedes withdraws from the race to develop fully automated vehicles (AVs). Mercedes currently offers vehicles at Level 2 and Level 3 automation (as defined by the Society of Automotive Engineering [SAE] International), but they will not continue to work independently to achieve Level 5 automation. The decision is based on investor expectations of profit and the company's position not to "compete in any race that we can no longer win."

AUTOMATED VEHICLES

In Westminster, Maryland the Mid-Atlantic Gigabit Innovation Collaboratory (MAGIC) is working to develop an AV corridor in the city. MAGIC is planning for the route to connect the local community college and YMCA, with stops in between and extend outside the city. The project timeline is currently dependent on when MAGIC receives requested grant money.



ELECTRIC VEHICLES



Volvo plans to begin selling its electric truck model, the Volvo VNR Electric, on December 3, 2020. Production is scheduled to begin in early 2021 at the company's manufacturing plant in Dublin, Virginia. The Volvo LIGHTS project, which began in 2019 in collaboration with 14 other organizations, demonstrated the capability of the Volvo VNR Electric in real-world operations.

TNCs

California voters exempt Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) and goods delivery companies from reclassifying drivers as employees by passing Proposition 22. Drivers from these companies will continue to be classified as independent contractors, but they will be guaranteed an hourly wage and additional benefits. Companies contributed more than \$180 million in lobbying and advertising efforts to support Proposition 22, which was a response to California's Assembly Bill 5.



SHARED MICROMOBILITY



German micromobility company, TIER Mobility, plans to fit its electric scooters (e-scooters) with artificial warning sounds to alert people with visual disabilities of the devices' approach. TIER Mobility is partnering with the Thomas Pocklington Trust, a charity for people with low and no vision, for the development of this e-scooter feature. The feature will be available in TIER Mobility's United Kingdom fleet in 2021.

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