Volkswagen (VW) creates standalone Volkswagen Autonomy (VWAT) group to focus on Level 4 automated vehicles (AVs). VWAT aims to provide AV taxis and cargo vans to three continents by 2025. The startup’s first project will be to create automated cargo and passenger versions of VW’s minibus, the I.D. Buzz.

Sidewalk Labs receives approval to move forward with its 12-acre smart city development on the Toronto waterfront. The project was jeopardized by concerns over privacy (the company will collect data on residents and visitors to the community). Sidewalk Labs has agreed to limit the scope of the development and work more closely with oversight agencies.

Brooklyn-based Revel launches electric moped-sharing service in Austin, TX. The company deployed 1,000 vehicles throughout the city. The mopeds can be driven and parked on local streets, are limited to a top speed of 30 miles per hour, and have two helmets. The mopeds cost $1 per person, plus $0.25 per minute to ride.

Uber, Lyft, and Doordash unveil a California ballot measure to classify app-based drivers as independent contractors. The measure is in opposition to Assembly Bill 5, a new law that reduces the number of situations in which an employee can be classified as an independent contractor. The three companies have committed a combined $90 million to fund the ballot measure.

Waze integrates its carpool service into public transit app Moovit. Moovit users can view Waze Carpool alongside public transit and micromobility options. When users search for a destination in Moovit, Waze Carpool will show up as one of the suggested routes if public transit does not adequately cover the journey. The pilot program is initially limited to Android devices.

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