

Last Week In Innovative Mobility

December 18 - 24, 2023



AUTOMATED VEHICLES

The U.S. Department of Transportation announces a funding program for rural automated vehicle research. The program designates \$15 million for passenger transportation and \$10 million for freight movement. The goals of this program are to support research and pilot deployments of automated vehicles and to help support safer transportation in rural areas.

AUTOMATED VEHICLES

California and Nevada grant permission to Mercedes-Benz to test automated vehicles (AVs) with turquoise lights. The purpose of the lights is to indicate to other road users that the vehicle is operating Drive Pilot, the conditional automated driver assistance system. At this time, drivers can only use Drive Pilot on designated highways.



ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Volkswagen, Porsche, and Audi announce that they will adopt the Tesla North American Charging Standard (NACS) electric vehicle (EV) plug beginning in 2025. Additionally, the Volkswagen subsidiary, Electrify America, recently announced the adoption of NACS. Stellantis is the last major EV manufacturer in the U.S. that has not adopted the NACS plug.



ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Beginning January 1, 2024, the federal EV rebate will be available to buyers when you buy a new or used EV. New EVs can qualify for up to \$7,500, and used EVs can qualify for up to \$4,000 at the point-of-sale. However, in 2024, fewer EVs will qualify for the rebate due to restrictions on sourcing battery materials.



SHARED MOBILITY

In Wilson, North Carolina, a microtransit service called RIDE reaches a 300% increase in ridership compared to the fixed-route service. The microtransit service launched in 2021 and costs riders \$1.50 per trip. The service is operated by Via and is estimated to cost the operator about \$11 per trip, with most of this cost being covered by governmental subsidies.



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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

