AUTOMATED VEHICLES
The Contra Costa Transportation Authority in California announces plans to install a 28-mile automated vehicle microtransit system. The vehicles operate on a designated roadway, and the system is designed to help make first- and last-mile connections between the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) and local points of interest. It is expected to begin operations in the next 3 to 4 years.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES
An analysis by Bloomberg New Energy Finance reveals the cost of lithium-ion electric vehicle (EV) batteries has decreased 14% in 2023. This record low is thought to be attributed to the lower raw material costs, production costs, and EV demand. Additionally, it is thought that the benefits of the Inflation Reduction Act are not yet reflected in EV battery costs.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES
The Biden administration announces an exemption on certain materials used in EV batteries that determine EV federal tax credit qualification. This exemption will allow automakers to use certain battery materials from China and other countries for the next two years. One automotive group suggests that without this exemption almost all EVs would become ineligible for the tax credit.

TNCs/RIDEHAILING
Uber announces that black cab drivers in London, England can enroll on the Uber platform. Uber customers in London will not be assigned to a black cab until early 2024. Uber is required to classify cab drivers as employees in the United Kingdom and for the first six months, Uber will not take a commission on black cab trips.

TRANSPORTATION PRICING
According to a draft report, drivers entering the Manhattan, New York congestion zone will pay a $15 toll. Drivers who also travel through certain tunnels will receive a $5 credit toward the congestion charge. Larger vehicles such as trucks, charter buses, and tour buses are subject to high tolls, and drivers entering after 9pm will receive a 75% discount on the toll.

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