AUTOMATED VEHICLES
Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT) in Japan announces partnership with Toyota to test automated vehicles and plans to invest in May Mobility, an automated vehicle company. Testing of automated buses and taxis is anticipated to start in 2025. NTT’s investment in May Mobility is expected to be worth around $67 million.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES
An investigator finds that despite mixed reports on electric vehicle (EV) demand, EV sales have increased over the past 13 quarters. One expert explains that year over year sales growth ranges between 40% to 50%. However, it is also thought that EVs are not selling as fast as manufacturers would like, given their large investments in EV manufacturing.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES
Rivian announces that its electric vans will no longer be exclusively sold to Amazon. The original exclusivity deal called for Rivian to deliver 100,000 electric vans to Amazon by the end of 2030. As of October 2023, Amazon reports that its fleet has about 10,000 electric Rivian vans, and they see the benefit of sharing the electric delivery vehicles with other companies.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES
Lucid announces the adoption of Tesla’s North American Charging Standard EV charging plug starting in 2025. Public EV chargers are typically designed to be compatible with 400-volt charging systems, while Tesla Superchargers can handle up to a 500-volt charging system. Lucid equips its EVs with an 800-volt charging system, which it hopes Tesla will support in the future.

TNCs/RIDEHAILING
Despite diverging business approaches, Lyft and Uber report growth in their most recent earnings calls. Lyft’s focus on competitive pricing and customer experience has led to a 20% increase in the number of rides compared to last year. Uber’s focus has been on food delivery, freight, and its membership program, with members accounting for over 40% of bookings.

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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