

Last Week In Innovative Mobility

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Brad Templeton

AUTOMATED VEHICLES

An investigation of an incident in San Francisco, California, in which a Cruise robotaxi struck a pedestrian, found that the company was not fully transparent about the extent of the accident. It is thought that Cruise did not show officials the video footage of the robotaxi dragging the pedestrian that was trapped under the vehicle. Investigators also reported that Cruise may have rushed their operational development and testing.

AUTOMATED VEHICLES

Many Chinese robotaxi companies face financial and regulatory challenges, further exacerbated by the suspension of Cruise. Some believe that robotaxi services will soon become profitable; however, AV companies are challenged by a lack of trust with regulators and the public. Some AV companies are looking to partner with vehicle manufacturers in developing automated driving software.



Cheunghyo / Getty Images

CARSHARING

Zoomcar, an international carsharing company, merges with Innovative International Acquisition Corporation under a Special Purpose Acquisition Company (SPAC) deal. Zoomcar currently operates in India, Indonesia, and Egypt. The merger is expected to help Zoomcar enter new markets. It is estimated that Zoomcar is valued at \$456 million, with over 25,000 vehicles on the platform.



Zoomcar

GOODS DELIVERY

Shipt, a goods delivery company owned by Target, plans to pause service in January 2024 in Seattle, Washington. The pause in service comes prior to the implementation of city ordinances requiring gig workers, like those that drive for Shipt, to be paid the hourly minimum wage of \$17.27. Drivers will also earn one sick day for every 30 days worked. This action mirrors New York City, which requires food and delivery workers to be paid the minimum wage of \$17.96 per hour.



Shipt

SHARED MICROMOBILITY

Following the failed merger and collapse of Superpedestrian, shared e-scooter companies face a variety of challenges. In addition to financial concerns, many shared e-scooter companies face challenges with local regulations. Despite these challenges, e-bikes continue to grow in popularity across North America, and cities are recognizing the need for improved cycling infrastructure.



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