AUTOMATED VEHICLES
Cruise and Waymo, automated vehicle (AV) companies, are close to offering AV rides 24/7 in San Francisco, California. The California Public Utilities Commission, which helps regulate AV operations in the state, has published two draft resolutions that would expand Cruise and Waymo’s hours of operation and service areas. The resolutions are dated for a hearing scheduled for June 29th.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES
BMW and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) are collaborating to test vehicle-to-everything (V2X) technology in electric vehicles (EVs). The partners are trying to better understand how V2X technology can offset growing power grid demand, improve electricity reliability for customers, maximize renewable energy use, and enable customers to use EVs as backup generators when needed. The testing is taking place at a facility in San Ramon, California.

SHARED MICROMOBILITY
Shared micromobility companies discuss best practices and policies to encourage safe shared micromobility adoption. The discussion took place at the National Association of City Transportation Officials’ Designing Cities Conference and included national electric scooter companies. Some policies that were suggested include having a fleet size of one device per 500 people and two shared micromobility operators with fleets of 1,000 to 2,000 devices per market.

TNCs/RIDEHAILING
Uber rides can now be called without the app and via a telephone number. Riders can call the toll-free number and be connected with an English or Spanish speaking operator. Trip information (e.g., vehicle license plate number) will be texted to the caller and the trip is paid for via a credit or debit card.

TNCs/RIDEHAILING
Uber lifts its rider age ban to allow minors to take rides without a parent or guardian present. Minors aged 13 to 17 are now allowed to have their own Uber account and take rides, as long as the account is linked to their guardians. Uber drivers also will be alerted that the customer is a teenager to increase transparency.