

Last Week In Innovative Mobility

September 11 - 17, 2023



AUTOMATED VEHICLES

The California Senate passes AB 316, a bill that bans driverless automated heavy duty vehicles and requires the presence of a safety operator. This bill needs to be approved by Governor Gavin Newsom before taking effect. Supporters of this bill suggest it will help provide greater control over when safety operators are no longer required and secure truck driving jobs.

Ryder

AUTOMATED VEHICLES

San Francisco, California city attorney, David Chiu, requests California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) reconsider their decision allowing the expansion of Cruise and Waymo automated vehicle (AV) operations. Chiu's request reflects the concern that AVs are unable to safely operate in the city and block traffic, including first responders. Chiu also is concerned that Cruise and Waymo are not required to report incidents that occur with their AVs.

Cruise

AUTOMATED VEHICLES

The AV company Cruise reveals a wheelchair-accessible AV, similar to their AV known as the Origin. This AV features a ramp, ample interior space, and floor clamps to secure wheelchairs. It is expected that testing will begin on this accessible AV in October 2023, with pilot testing on roads potentially beginning in 2024.

Cruise

TNCs/RIDEHAILING

Lyft announces a feature called Women+ Connect to promote women's usage of the service as passengers and drivers. Once activated, this feature helps to match women and nonbinary drivers with women riders. Women+ Connect will initially be available in Chicago, Illinois; Phoenix, Arizona; and three cities in California - San Diego, San Francisco, and San Jose.

Lyft

TRANSPORTATION LABOR

The United Auto Workers (UAW), a union representing workers at Ford, General Motors, and Stellantis, strike after the expiration of their contract. It is estimated that 13,000 UAW members participated in the strike on the first day with more expected to join as the strike continues. Some of the key issues being negotiated for the next contract are increased salaries and benefits.

Paul Sancy/AP

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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

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