

Last Week In Innovative Mobility

April 14 - 20, 2025



ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY

The New York Economic Development Corporation has announced that the **Downtown Manhattan Heliport will be transformed and rebranded as the Downtown Skyport**. This facility will be adapted to accommodate electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft, primarily for last-mile freight delivery. According to the CEO of Skyports, eVTOL aircraft are significantly quieter—producing up to 100 times less noise during takeoff compared to traditional helicopters.



Skyports

AUTOMATED VEHICLES

The Ohio and Indiana Departments of Transportation are **partnering on a test of heavy-duty vehicle platooning along Interstate 70**. This technology enables the driver of the lead truck to control the speed and steering of a following vehicle, with both trucks displaying a purple light to signal their connection. Platooning aims to enhance road safety and strengthen supply chain resilience, particularly during periods of driver shortages.



DriveOhio

RAIL SERVICE

A recent study shows that **Caltrain's transition from diesel-powered to electric trains has resulted in an approximately 89% reduction in black carbon emissions**. The electrification of the fleet was completed in just six weeks, achieving pollution cuts that researchers say have taken some California cities decades—up to 30 years—to reach. Experts believe this dramatic improvement will significantly lower cancer risks for communities previously exposed to diesel exhaust.



Adam Lau/Berkeley Engineering

SHARED MICROMOBILITY

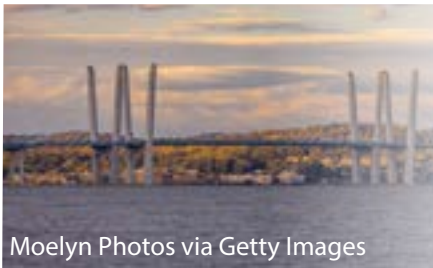
Lime has **partnered with Redwood Materials to recycle the batteries used in its e-bikes and e-scooters**. According to Lime, these micromobility batteries typically last between five and seven years before reaching the end of their life. Redwood Materials can extract and refine valuable elements from the used batteries, recovering an estimated 95 to 98 percent of materials. These reclaimed resources are then sold to electric vehicle battery manufacturers for reuse.



Lime

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

California and New York are leveraging technology to enhance transportation safety. In California, officials are rolling out a system that tracks the conditions surrounding traffic fatalities and uses artificial intelligence to ease congestion through synchronized traffic signals. Meanwhile, in New York, cameras are being used to detect vehicles that are too tall to pass under bridges, alerting state police to step in and prevent potential accidents.



Moelyn Photos via Getty Images

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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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