

Last Week In Innovative Mobility

June 9 - 15, 2025



ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY

Archer Aviation begins test flights in Salinas, California with their Midnight electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft. The Archer test pilot reported that the aircraft responded as expected during the test flight, which included a conventional runway take-off and landing. Archer hopes to receive Federal Aviation Administration certification for the Midnight eVTOL and launch service in Los Angeles, California for the FIFA World Cup in 2026.



Archer Aviation

AUTOMATED VEHICLES

A study exploring ridehailing cost data in San Francisco, California finds Waymo's average price is greater than the average price of Uber and Lyft.

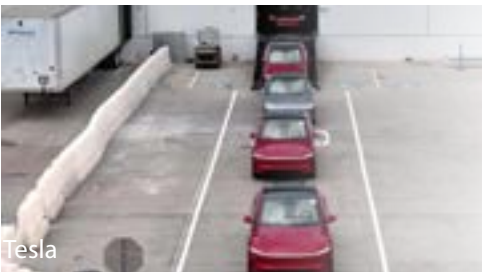
The study, conducted by Obi, a real-time price aggregating app, includes data from March 25 to April 25, 2025. In addition, a survey of passengers revealed that 36.4 percent would pay more for Waymo. This is thought to be due to most survey participants preferring driverless ridehailing vehicles.



Getty Images

AUTOMATED VEHICLES

Tesla announces plans to launch a robotaxi service in Austin, Texas at the end of June 2025. The robotaxi fleet is expected to consist of ten Tesla Model Y vehicles, which are noted to be unmodified compared to the consumer Model Y. In addition, the robotaxis will be limited to specific areas of the city and available only to Tesla employees initially.



Tesla

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

A recent J.D. Power study on electric vehicle (EV) apps shows that more EV drivers are now using their vehicle brand's app. Among the apps evaluated, Tesla's app ranked highest in performance, followed by those from Mercedes-Benz and BMW (MyBMW app). The study also found that users want better app connectivity and faster performance. Additionally, most participants expressed interest in being able to make EV charging payments directly within the app.



whitebalance.space/Getty Images

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

The city of New Orleans, Louisiana has set a goal for 40% of vehicle registrations to be electric by 2035. To support this transition, the city plans to install 600 EV chargers, considering pedestal-mounted units and solar panels to improve resilience during floods and power outages. Additionally, the city acknowledges that financial incentives may be needed to help residents afford the upfront cost of EVs.



Allie Carl/Axios

Visit tsrc.berkeley.edu to sign up for our weekly newsletters!

Follow us on X @InnovMobility

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

innovative
mobility