AUTOMATED VEHICLES
Waymo begins testing a new automated vehicle (AV) minivan. The minivan is custom-designed by Zeekr, a Chinese electric vehicle (EV) company, and equipped with Waymo’s sixth generation sensors. Waymo confirms that the Zeekr minivan does not have any built-in automation; however, the steering wheel may be removed in the future.

DATA PRIVACY
Two U.S. Senators seek action from the Federal Trade Commission regarding automakers sharing data with brokers. It is thought that General Motors, Hyundai, and Honda have potentially shared braking, acceleration, and other data that has been sold to insurance companies. The senators suspect that although the automakers may have asked consumers for consent to share data, it may have been worded in a deceiving manner.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES
A study by Bloomberg finds that based on current investments and installation rates, the number of EV fast chargers is expected to exceed the number of gas stations by 2032. There are approximately 10,000 EV fast chargers, compared to 145,000 fuel stations in the U.S., with an expected expenditure of $6.1 billion on EV charging in 2024. In the first half of 2024, about 1,300 fast chargers have already been installed.

GOODS DELIVERY
Officials in New York City announce plans for electric micromobility battery charging cabinets for delivery workers. The charging cabinets are expected to help reduce the number of fires caused by lithium-ion batteries in micromobility devices. In addition, the city will offer a trade-in program for delivery workers to exchange unsafe batteries and devices for certified batteries and devices.

SHARED MICROMOBILITY
The National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) reports a 16 percent increase in the number of bikesharing and scooter sharing rides in 2023. NACTO finds that about 61 million of the 68 million bikesharing trips were completed with dock-based bikesharing systems. Additionally, it is estimated that 46 percent of bikesharing trips were completed on electric bikes.

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