

# Last Week In Innovative Mobility

July 28 - August 3, 2025



## AUTOMATED VEHICLES

**Aurora Innovation validates the operation of automated heavy-duty trucks at night.** In addition, Aurora opened a trucking terminal in Phoenix, Arizona, as part of a plan to operate automated trucks across the Sunbelt region of the U.S. Aurora reports that their automated trucks have driven over 20,000 driverless miles and continue to operate with a human observer onboard.

Aurora

## AUTOMATED VEHICLES

**California Representative Vince Fong introduces the America Drives Act to establish a national framework for commercial automated vehicles.** If passed, the America Drives Act would prevent states from prohibiting Level 4 or 5 automated truck operations based on the absence of a human operator. Fong argues that this bill will support interstate commerce and supply chain efficiency.



Landline Media

## ELECTRIC VEHICLES

**Ford plans to reveal details of a "skunkworks" project related to the development of low-cost electric vehicles (EVs).** The CEO of Ford, Jim Farley, explains that the project includes the development of a new vehicle platform that can be used for multiple EVs, potentially including compact sport utility vehicles, pickup trucks, and delivery vehicles. In addition, Ford plans to manufacture the next generation of EVs in the U.S. and will begin incorporating lithium-iron phosphate batteries.



Inside EVs

## ELECTRIC VEHICLES

**The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) announces \$12 million in funding for electric school buses and associated infrastructure.** The funding will be distributed to seven school districts, with an emphasis on the districts with a large proportion of low-income students. The MEA estimates this funding will contribute to a greenhouse gas emissions reduction equivalent to removing 2,000 gas-powered cars from the road.



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## GOODS DELIVERY

**The National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) releases a report on the benefit of shifting from vehicle to bike deliveries.** The NACTO report explains how bike deliveries can support reduced emissions, congestion, and traffic violence. In addition, NACTO suggests that complete and connected bike networks, bike corrals, and supportive regulatory environments are key elements to supporting bike deliveries.



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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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