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MEETING NOTES

TxDOT IAC – Technical Support to the CAV Task Force

DATE: July 6, 2024

TO: Zeke Reyna, Emerging Technology Team Lead, STR, TxDOT
Lauren Freriks, Strategic Management Analyst, STR, TxDOT

COPY TO: Beverly Storey, Research Scientist, TTI
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Tim Hein, Research Development Office, TTI

FROM: Robert Brydia, Research Supervisor
Senior Research Scientist, Texas A&M Transportation Institute

RE: Freight and Delivery Subcommittee
June 24, 2024, Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Alex Aragon	Office of the Governor of Texas
Jimmy Archer	Texas Department of Motor Vehicles
Robert Brydia	Texas A&M Transportation Institute
Adam Campbell	Gatik AI
Michelle Chaka	TORC Robotics, Inc.
Dan Corey	STV, Inc.
John Gianotti	Halff
Brittney Gick	Texas A&M Transportation Institute
Dan Goff	Kodiak AI
Nicole Katsikides	Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
Jeremiah Kuntz	Aurora
Caroline Mays	Texas Department of Transportation
Silvio Memme	Cavnue
Brian Moen	City of Frisco

Brain Moore	Bot Auto
Madeline Pelton	Texas Department of Transportation
Zeke Reyna	Texas Department of Transportation
Richard Steiner	Gatik AI
Beverly Storey	Texas A&M Transportation Institute
Daniel Sullivan	Navistar
Bart Teeter	Texas Department of Public Safety
Anjaly Roy	Texas Department of Transportation (Intern)
Tracy Forester	Halff
Brad Trefz	Texas A&M Transportation Institute
Jeff Warner	Texas A&M Transportation Institute

I. Welcome and Introduction – Zeke Reyna, TxDOT

- Welcome to this Freight subcommittee meeting.
- We are looking forward to a good discussion.

II. Opening Comments – Subcommittee Chair, Dan Goff, Kodiak Robotics

- One thing that we've learned over the last six months or so is really the bleeding edge of policy in in this space is first responder interaction and training and that's something that this group is really focused on this year.
- There is a lot of important work to do and we are, umm setting, setting standards and leading the industry.

III. Priority Topic Updates and Discussion-TTI

- Priority Topics
 - What are fright emergency service procedures, and should they be standardized and published?
 - Should there be standardized training on these services and attendance required?
- Discussion Topics
 - TxDOT 0-7199 AV Summit -Review Discussion
 - Main findings and common themes
 - Desire for standardization of practices, training, and response procedures
 - Lack of basic knowledge about automation and current AV/A-CMV capabilities
 - Freight/CMV specific findings/themes
 - Streamlined method for officers and first responders to communicate with vehicle including issuing commands.
 - ✓ Law enforcement frequently cited a need to a “follow me” command.”
 - Secure method to authenticate and verify LEO or other first responders.
 - Open discussion
 - Key or interesting takeaways from the Summit

- Top emergency services procedures and/or best practice
 - Educational content to include in standardized training.
- Texas law enforcement and first responder training
 - Research existing trainings on autonomous and electric vehicles from state LEO and first responder academies.
 - ✓ Any plans to introduce or modify training requirements to account for AVs
 - Examine initiatives from other states with similar AV activity regarding autonomous vehicle training.
 - First responder organizations outreach: assess the need for training across various state first responder organizations.
 - ✓ Account for differences in size and location, such as rural corridors versus major cities
- Collaboration opportunities with other CAVTF subcommittees
 - Education, Communication, and User Needs Subcommittee
 - ✓ Development of communication plan
 - ◆ Safety – education and benefits of CAV
 - ◆ Innovation – technology and collaboration
 - ✓ Implementation opportunities
 - Licensing and Registration
 - ✓ Commercially operating AV legislative requirements
 - Safety, Liability and Responsibility
 - ✓ “Rules of the Road” modifications
- Comments:
 - There has been some legislation coming out in California about two-way communication requirements for autonomous vehicles which has proven to be a challenging implementation issue. Still to be determined if this affects freight.
 - Suggest having a working group where we can flexibly update these standards pretty regularly instead of something really hard and static
 - CVSA is working on an inspection bulletin regarding hydrogen vehicles. Not training per se, but best practices and safety concerns.
 - There is a DOE program related to that and I believe some additional training is in the works
 - Several TxDOT Districts have TIM (Traffic Incident Management) group that have monthly meetings that can be used to get your message out to local first responder groups
 - [Register for Alternative Fuel Vehicles \(AFV\) Online Training \(nfpa.org\)](https://www.nfpa.org/education/training/alternative-fuel-vehicles)

IV. Next Steps

- Key educational and/or procedural content to develop
- Increasing emergency responder involvement and subcommittee
- Examination of federal actions and discussions on the topic
- Investigation into methods for verifying authenticity of first responders

V.

VI. Closing Remarks – Zeke Reyna, TxDOT

- We appreciate your time and contributions and look forward to continuing the discussion.

VII. Adjourn