



December 5, 2016

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
Subcommittee on Highways and Transit
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Highways and Transit
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Schuster, Ranking Member DeFazio, Chairman Graves, and Ranking Member Norton:

As President and CEO of the Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America), I am pleased to provide comments in reference to the Highways and Transit Subcommittee roundtable policy discussion on the impact of autonomous vehicle technology on the Nation's surface transportation systems. ITS America is the nation's leading advocate for the modernization of our transportation infrastructure through technology investments, and is the only national association of public agencies, private sector firms, and researchers and academia that aims to shape the next generation of transportation investments driven by the technology sector.

ITS America is supportive of the efforts of Congress and the US Department of Transportation to enable and encourage the deployment of automated vehicles. The Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment program in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act ("FAST ACT") authorizes grants to eligible entities to develop model deployment sites for large scale installation and operation of advanced transportation technologies such as autonomous vehicles and vehicle-to-infrastructure communications.



ITS America sees the establishment of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) automated vehicle guidance as big step in the right direction. Automated vehicles will transform mobility—improve the efficiency, safety, accessibility of our transportation system—in ways previously unimagined. Building trust and consumer confidence in the technology takes cooperation from industry and government. The Federal Automated Vehicles Policy is a good starting point for establishing more defined roles and responsibilities among industry, state regulators and the federal government in advancing this new technology.

Please find attached our comments to the NHTSA on the Federal Automated Vehicles Policy. ITS America believes there is a long-term role for states to make road infrastructure and operations more accommodating and predictable for automated vehicles. We see FAST ACT programs the like Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment grant program as supporting states and locals in the safe testing and deployment of automated vehicles.

The potential improvements in safety and mobility that self-driving cars can deliver will be enormous. We welcome a broader dialogue on the impact automated vehicles will have on our transportation system and the implications on the implementation of the FAST ACT.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Regina Hopper".

Regina Hopper
President & CEO

Cc: US House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure