

Connected and Automated Vehicles

Research Team

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Problem Statement

Connected and automated vehicles (CAVs), also known as self-driving cars, will revolutionize the way people and goods are transported across Delaware. These vehicles exchange information with each other and the surrounding transportation infrastructure—for example, traffic signals—to navigate roadways with limited or no operator input.

The technology could deliver many positive outcomes such as enhanced mobility for those currently unable to drive, but it could also generate policy challenges like continued downward pressure on state gas-tax revenue due to fuel economy savings.

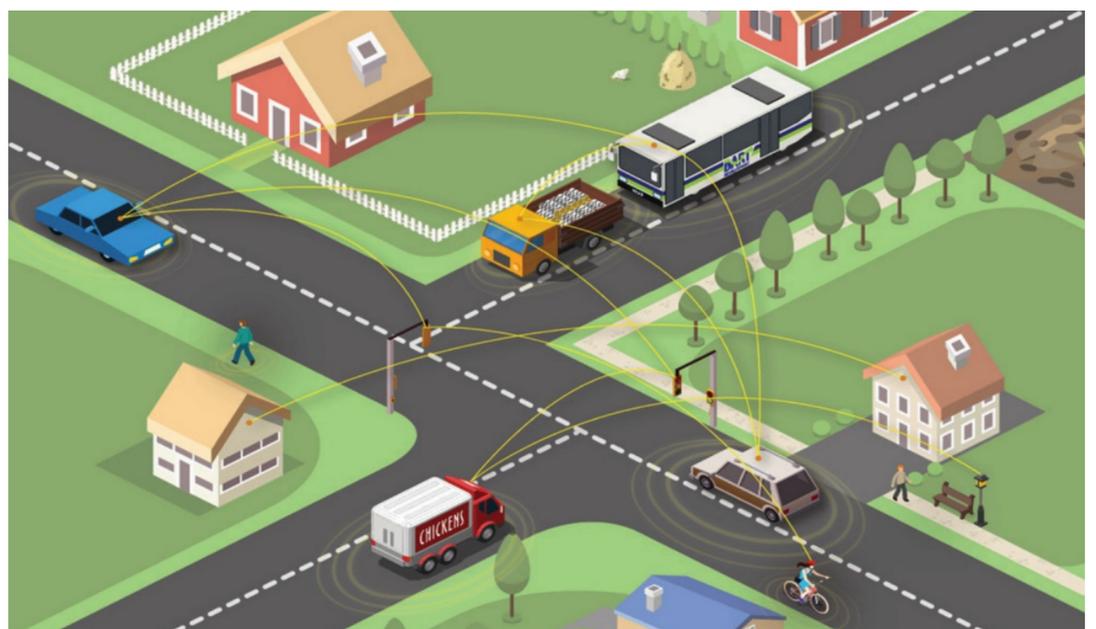
Project Scope

- Identify specialized policy challenges to CAV technology, adoption, and diffusion.
- Gather and disseminate research to stakeholders.
- Research national and regional approaches to CAVs.
- Provide support for the Governor's Advisory Council on Connected and Autonomous Vehicles.
- Convene stakeholders and connect resources at the University of Delaware, Delaware Department of Transportation (DeIDOT), and municipal authorities.
- Facilitate strategic partnerships between DeIDOT and the University of Delaware to advance CAV research and innovation.

Research Findings

Policy Topics

- Economic Development
- Technology, Security, and Privacy
- Transportation Network Infrastructure
- Public and Highway Safety
- Freight Movement
- Land Use and Development
- Environment and Carbon Emissions
- State and Local Fiscal Impact
- Public and Political Acceptance



Develop policy recommendations related to the impact of CAVs on the categories above.

Policy Recommendations

- Large employment opportunity, so state should develop incentives to attract and retain companies in the CAV industry (engineers, computer programmers, data scientists, etc.).
- Low levels of public acceptance, the state should develop an education effort to dispel myths about CAVs.
- State and local governments should consider development controls to avoid further suburban sprawl.
- State must explore alternatives to the gas tax as CAVs will be more efficient and electric.