

AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

Implications for Planning

by Ryan Snyder

transpogroup 

AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE FUTURE

Problems Solved or Auto-Dystopia



LEVELS OF AV TECHNOLOGY



STATE OF THE ART

In Autos

Most cars sold today have

LEVEL 1
TECHNOLOGY

52%

have at least
forward crash alerts*

September 2015

NHTSA and IIHS
agreed with **10** auto
manufacturers to make
automatic emergency
braking standard

SINCE 1990s
adaptive cruise control
has existed

27%

of vehicles sold have
automatic emergency
braking*

Some cars now offer
COMBINED AUTOMATION
(lane assist, crash avoidance)

STATE OF THE ART

Human Error Crashes

93%
of crashes are caused by
HUMAN ERROR

- ▶ 1 fatality per **18.55** million miles driven**
- ▶ 1 injury crash per **637,000** miles driven**



Google has had **1** crash per **125,000** miles driven; no report on injuries/fatalities; none the fault of the car



*2NHTSA, National Motor Vehicle Crash Causation Survey, DOT HS 811 059, July 2008.


**3NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts, December 2014.

STATE OF THE ART

Communications Technology



NHTSA is experimenting with Vehicle-to-Vehicle (V2V) technology



General Motors will have V2V technology on some cars by 2017*

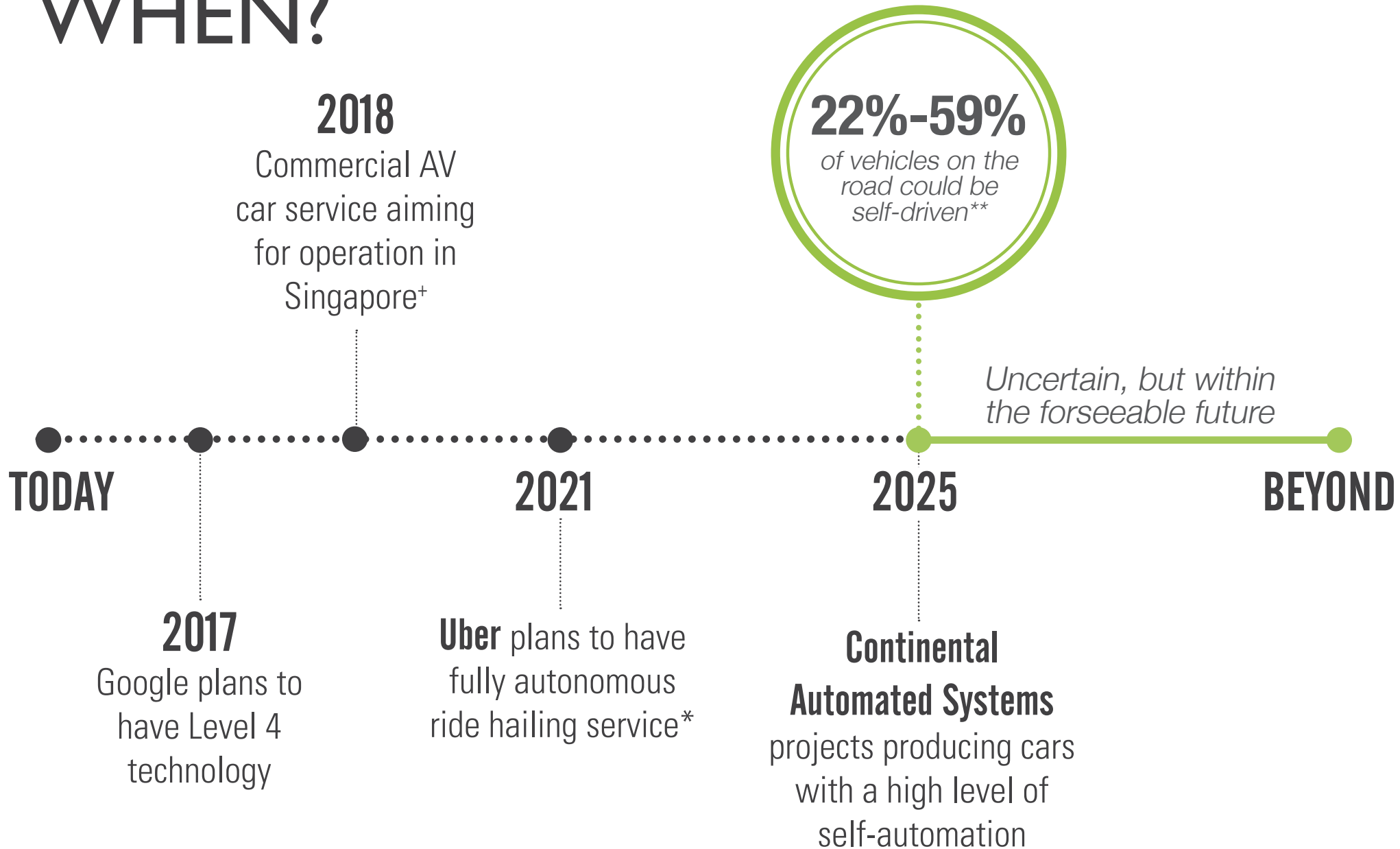


US DOT is now testing Vehicle-to-Infrastructure (V2I) technology

*4GM News, "Cadillac to Introduce Advanced Intelligent and Connected Vehicle Technologies on Select 2017 Models", September 7, 2014.



WHEN?



* Jonathan Berr, Moneywatch CBS News, "Uber's Audacious Plan to Replace Human Drivers", August 25, 2016

** Jerome Lutin, Alain Komhauser, Eva Lerner- Lam, "The Revolutionary Development of Self-Driving Vehicles and Implications for the Transportation Engineering Profession", Institute of Transportation Engineers Journal, July 2013.

+ nuTonomy Blog, Sept 23, 2016

ECONOMICS



58 cents/mile to drive an average car*

= \$725/month

With carsharing, roughly less than 72 hours/month better than owning (\$10/hour)

Cost of transit bus drivers **54%** of operating costs**

At some point is it cheaper to take “driverless Uber pool” than to own.

Then why own a car?

*“Your Driving Costs 2015”, American Automobile Association

**American Public Transit Association, 2013 Public Transit Fact Book, p. 26.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

User Conveniences



Mobility for those who don't drive



Better use of time



Less stress



Deliveries



Select an appropriate vehicle for the trip

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

Safety



Fewer crashes



Already likely receiving benefits



Will improve conditions for walking and bicycling



TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES

Increased Capacity

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

Capacity & better use of streets



Roughly double



Less congestion



More opportunities for road diets

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

Capacity & better use of streets



Before

After



TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES

Repurposing Space in Our Streets

TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES

Optimized Traffic Flow

TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES

Lane Clearance for Priority Vehicles

TRANSIT BENEFITS



Feeder Service



Increased service



Faster service



New viable ridesharing services



Possibility of high-speed buses



FEEDER SERVICE TO TRANSIT

Ridesharing



GREATER USE OF MICRO TRANSIT



Source: www.gizmodo.com

VEHICLE SCALED TO APPROPRIATE SIZE



Source: auto.howstuffworks.com

TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES

High-Speed Buses

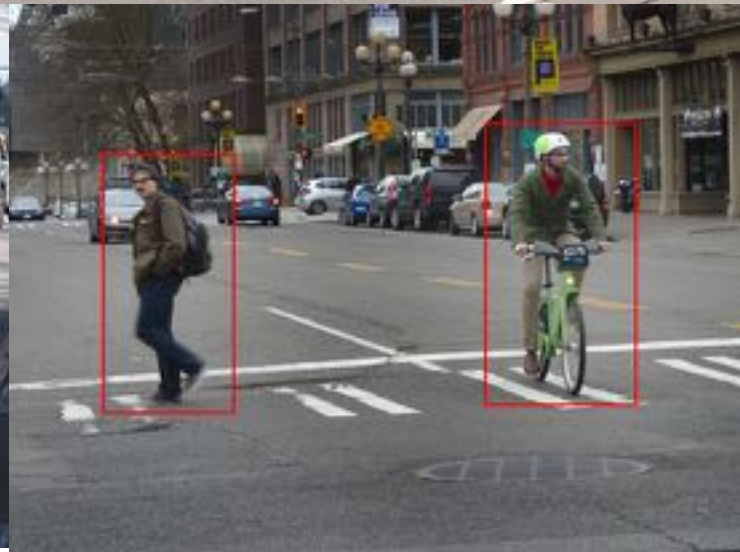
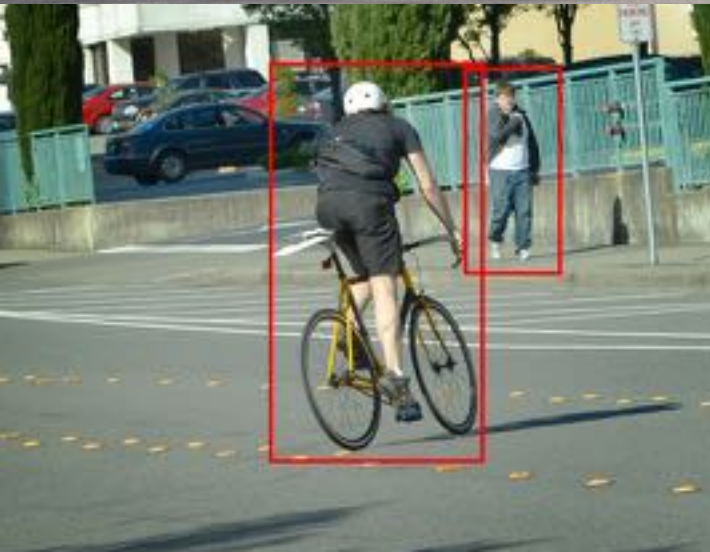
TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES

Long distance high-speed bus



TECHNOLOGICAL POSSIBILITIES

Enhanced detection of pedestrians and bicycles



GREATER USE OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES



POSSIBLE GHG REDUCTIONS

from Autonomous Vehicles

- ▶ Through safety, more walking and greater use of bicycles
- ▶ Through more efficient use of streets, more walking and greater use of bicycles
- ▶ More buses of various sizes
- ▶ Faster buses
- ▶ Electric vehicles
- ▶ Vehicle scaled to appropriate size

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

FASTER Emergency ACCESS

Less congestion to drive in


With lane clearance, emergency vehicles could have priority

POTENTIAL DRAWBACKS

Job Loss




Likely the biggest problem from AVs



Bus, taxi, truck, delivery driver jobs



Some other auto industry jobs



Need retraining programs to emerging technologies



POTENTIAL DRAWBACKS

Encouraging driving and longer commutes



Better use of time not driving



No stress



Reduces “cost” of driving



Enact policies to encourage efficient travel

POLITICS OF ALGORITHMS

Determining Priority

- ▶ Private companies might start lobbying for control
- ▶ Prioritize multi-occupant vehicles over single-occupant cars
- ▶ Ped/Bike priorities
- ▶ System needs to reflect good policy over politics

POLICIES

Decide where AVs can operate during transition

Equipment requirements

Revisit the issue of a requirement for the driver

Research & Development



POLICIES

▶ Pricing strategies

▶ Give time advantages

▶ Liability issues

▶ MUTCD issues

▶ Parking codes



CONCLUSIONS

AVs offer many potential benefits

Policy can and should speed AV

Policy should ensure beneficial outcomes

We should change assumption in today's decisions



CONTACT:

Ryan Snyder

310-307-3319

ryan.snyder@transpogroup.com



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