

## Regional Autonomous Vehicle Policy Framework

### Background

Automated Vehicle (AV) technologies are rapidly advancing and present significant opportunities, as well as challenges, to personal, commercial and public transportation networks. The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) is initiating a planning process to develop a strategic framework to assist the region in setting goals and advancing strategies to support the successful deployment of new transportation technologies.

### Objectives

The objectives of this 12-month planning process are to inform the development of regional transportation plans, provide AV policy resources for area local governments, and identify potential strategies for cooperation among the public and private sectors in deploying AVs in the Kansas City area.

Building on MARC's recent scenario planning work and review of similar work in other regions, seven initial areas of inquiry are proposed:

- **Travel Demand Management and System Performance** – How can we anticipate changes in travel demand and travel behavior that may result from widespread adoption of AVs? How can we maximize the safety benefits that AVs promise?
- **Infrastructure, Planning and Investment** – What new infrastructure systems and standards may be needed to support AVs? What new planning tools and processes will be needed to prepare for successful regional integration of AVs? What impacts are AVs likely to have on traditional transportation funding sources and what new revenue opportunities might they create?
- **Data Management and Cybersecurity** – What new partnerships, capacities and strategies will the public and private sectors need to securely manage and share AV-related data?
- **Environment and Land Use** – What changes in travel behavior may lead to changes in development patterns? How can AVs be deployed in ways that support compact, efficient development? How can AVs reduce the negative environmental impacts of transportation?
- **Equitable Access and Mobility Services** – How can AVs be deployed to equitably serve the needs of people and communities with transportation disadvantages?
- **Economic and Workforce Opportunity** – What opportunities and risks might AVs create for regional industry clusters, workforce and economic competitiveness?
- **Certification, Liability and Insurance** – How might AVs impact these issues, particularly for area local governments?

### Stakeholder Engagement

- **Advisory Task Force** — MARC will convene an advisory task force to help guide the process and provide feedback on outcomes and deliverables during the 12-month planning timeline. Proposed representation on this task force includes planning partners, industry experts and academic researchers in fields related to policy focus areas. The task force will convene at key points throughout the process with additional feedback provided through ongoing phone and email engagement.
- **MARC Committees** — MARC has a number of standing committees such as the Total Transportation Policy Committee, Sustainable Places Policy Committee, Highway Committee,

Aviation Committee and others that possess high levels of local technical and planning capacity. Through these existing partnerships, MARC will seek input and guidance on the appropriate focus areas for each committee. The committees will be asked to provide feedback at key points during the process, as well as review final products.

- **Regional and National Experts** — MARC will seek input and guidance from regional and national experts through literature reviews, surveys and interviews.

### **Outcomes and Deliverables**

This process is intended to provide recommendations for the region’s metropolitan transportation plan, best practices for future infrastructure improvements, and guidance for data management strategies and other policy and legislative priorities. Additional deliverables may be determined with input from process stakeholders.

## Timeline

### Convene

- **Late Summer 2017**
  - Develop Advisory Task Force
  - Identify key stakeholders
  - Review existing research and efforts

### Engage

- **Fall 2017**
  - Begin policy committee and stakeholder engagement
  - Determine status of current and desired pilot projects and potential funding

### Develop

- **Winter/Spring 2018**
  - Continue stakeholder engagement to develop strategic implementation framework and timelines for each individual area of focus

### Organize

- **Summer/Fall 2018**
  - Finalize recommendations for strategic implementation of defined individual focus areas, including:
    - Required regional and local capacities to implement desired outcomes
    - How these areas of focus seek to complement, not duplicate, existing and parallel efforts
    - Meaningful implementation of long-term vision through a dedicated element in the region's metropolitan transportation plan