

JAY INSLEE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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EXECUTIVE ORDER 17-02

**AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE TESTING & TECHNOLOGY
IN WASHINGTON STATE
AND AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE WORK GROUP**

WHEREAS, roughly 94 percent of automobile accidents are caused by human error, and autonomous vehicle technology may reduce injuries and save countless lives;

WHEREAS, technological innovation has resulted in the rapid advancement of vehicle automation and vehicles may soon be capable of driving safely without supervision by a human operator;

WHEREAS, it is in Washington State's interest to maintain its leadership role in developing these technologies, by enabling safe testing and operation of autonomous vehicles on public roadways in order to nurture, cultivate, and advance this technology;

WHEREAS, the development of autonomous vehicle technology will promote economic growth, bring new jobs, provide research opportunities for the State's academic institutions, and allow the State to serve as host to the emergence of new technologies and innovation;

WHEREAS, the safe testing and operation of autonomous vehicles may produce transformational societal benefits: reducing injuries and saving lives lost to vehicle collisions, reclaiming time spent in traffic, maximizing our ability to move people and goods quickly and safely throughout the state, improving mobility for the elderly and disabled, reducing property damage and serving as an important tool in our efforts to combat climate change; and

WHEREAS, the future of transportation, commerce and economic development of communities large and small relies on innovative technologies that could improve passenger, bicycle and pedestrian safety, bolster mobility options and foster greater economic productivity and security for all.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, by virtue of the power vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the state of Washington do hereby order and direct as follows:

AGENCY SUPPORT

The Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Commerce (COM), Department of Licensing (DOL), Washington State Patrol (WSP), Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC), Governor's Office for Regulatory Innovation and Assistance (ORIA) and all other

Washington executive and small cabinet agencies with pertinent regulatory jurisdiction shall support the safe testing and operation of autonomous vehicles on Washington's public roads.

This will be achieved, in the long term, through establishing an interagency work group, and in the short term, through the authorization and support of autonomous vehicle pilot programs.

WORK GROUP

I am establishing an autonomous vehicle work group to advance the objectives of this Executive Order. The work group shall assess state government's role in cultivating the safe development of automated technology in vehicles on public roads.

The work group shall also examine emerging automated transportation technology in other modes, including freight, aviation, transit, passenger rail, marine vessels and ferries, as well as points of convergence with connected, shared and electric vehicles.

- The Office of the Governor shall convene and facilitate the work group.
- The work group shall include at least one representative from the Governor's Office, and the director, secretary, or senior designee of DOT, COM, DOL, WSP, WTSC and ORIA.
- The work group may request periodic briefings and updates on pilot programs.
- The work group may, based upon the results of pilot programs, propose to the Governor changes or clarifications to State policies, rules or statutes to facilitate the expanded safe operation of autonomous vehicles on Washington's public roads.
- The work group will collaborate, where appropriate, with industry representatives, interested stakeholders, local governments, legislators and federal agencies, such as the US Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and Federal Highway Administration, to ensure that the State's efforts complement and comply with federal guidelines and rules on automated transportation.

PILOT PROGRAMS

Pilot programs are hereby enabled throughout the State in partnership with entities that are developing autonomous vehicle technology equipment.

Pilot programs conducting safe testing and operation of autonomous vehicles with human operators present in the vehicles shall comply with the following requirements:

- Vehicles shall be operated or monitored only by a trained employee, contractor, or other person authorized by the entity developing autonomous technology.
- Vehicles shall be monitored, and an operator must have the ability to direct the vehicle's movement if assistance is required.
- Individuals able to exercise operational control of an autonomous vehicle during operation shall possess a valid U.S. driver license.
- Vehicle owners shall attest to proof of financial responsibility as required by RCW 46.30.020.
- Developing entities shall self-certify to DOL that they are compliant with the above requirements before beginning a pilot program.

Pilot programs conducting safe testing and operation of autonomous vehicles without human operators present in the vehicles shall comply with the following requirements:

- Vehicles shall be equipped with an automated driving system that performs all aspects of the driving task on a part- or full-time basis within the vehicle's operational design limits, and it must be capable of bringing the vehicle to a safe condition in the event of a system failure.
- Vehicles shall be capable of being operated in compliance with Washington State motor vehicle laws relevant to the vehicle's operational design limits.
- Vehicle owners shall attest to proof of financial responsibility as required by RCW 46.30.020.
- Developing entities shall self-certify to DOL that they are compliant with the above requirements before beginning a pilot program.

The DOL shall be ready to receive notifications of pilot programs from developing entities starting no later than 60 days after issuance of this order. Developing entities may implement pilot programs immediately after providing notification to the DOL and shall observe the requirements listed above. Executive and small cabinet agencies shall take additional steps, as authorized and as may be necessary under existing law, to manage the pilot programs enabled under this order.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington on this 7th day of June, 2017, at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/

Jay Inslee
Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

/s/

Secretary of State