

Cities and Autonomous Vehicles

CNCA kicks off research around autonomous vehicles in the Pacific Northwest

The Bullitt Foundation is equipping CNCA member cities to address new mobility services in a way that advances their broader goals through common regulatory and implementation strategies.

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The Bullitt Foundation has awarded a grant to the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance (CNCA) to engage consultants to help cities in the Pacific Northwest develop common policies, strategies and implementation frameworks that promotes shared, connected, and automated vehicles. The goal of this project is to help cities reduce climate pollution and traffic congestion in their urban centers, proactively address the municipal budget and workforce impacts of emerging vehicle technologies, and improve safety, equity and shared access to transportation opportunities.

To advance these outcomes, new mobility services should be Autonomous, Connected, Electric and Shared (ACES). This project is led by three CNCA member cities in the Pacific Northwest: Portland OR; Seattle WA; and Vancouver B.C., Canada.

The cities and CNCA will work with the University of Oregon's Sustainable Cities Initiative to:

- Create a shared understanding among the three cities about the challenges and opportunities of urban AVs;
- Help participating cities become deeply knowledgeable of the implications of emerging technologies on city policy and infrastructure;
- Create alignment on key policy principles so that the individual cities develop policy frameworks that are similar and provide certainty for the market, and can be replicable in other leading-edge cities;
- Develop concrete ideas to pursue pilot projects with private sector to test AV strategies and technologies;
- Understand the range of data sharing opportunities from AVs and tie them to actual data use cases; and
- Identify indicators and data needed to evaluate the effectiveness of the levers described above.

The project will be completed in late 2018, and will produce 3 primary outputs:

1. A baseline report covering “Key Topics” listed above;
2. Up to 3 interactive workshops to facilitate agreements on Key Topic recommendations;
3. A final action report summarizing the findings, recommendations, and next steps for each city.