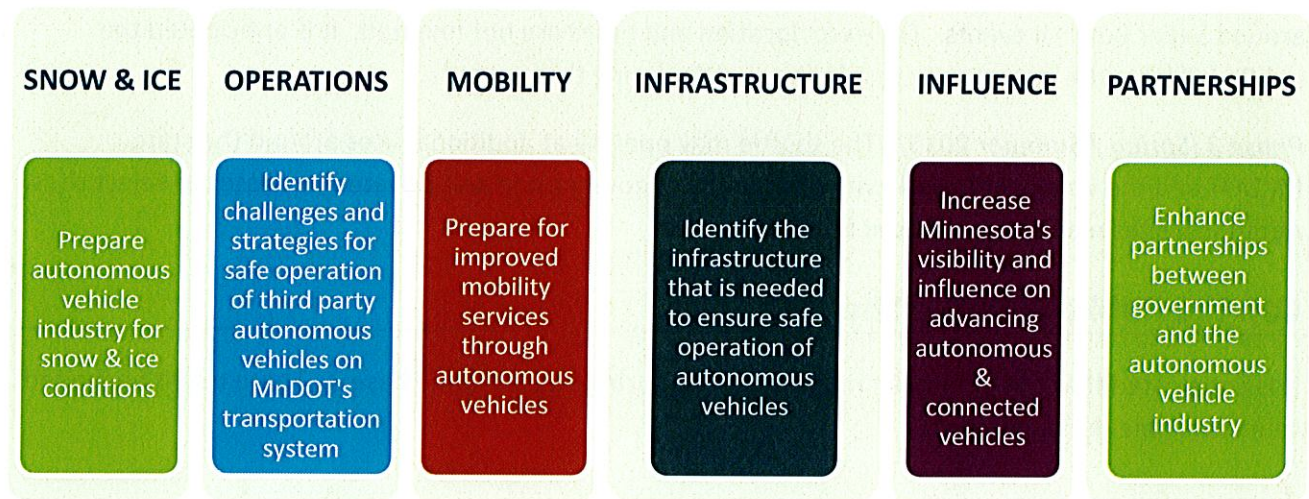


Autonomous Shuttle Pilot Project

Autonomous Vehicle (AV) technology is rapidly developing around the world. Minnesota offers several unique climate and regulatory challenges that are different from others currently testing these technologies. Deploying an AV pilot project in Minnesota will better position the State to influence national policy and prepare Minnesota transportation owners and stakeholders for the future.

Why are we doing this?



What is the Autonomous Shuttle?

MnDOT has selected EasyMile as the selected vendor. The vehicle is a driverless, electric shuttle that can transport up to 12 people (6 sitting, 6 seated). The vehicle has no steering wheel, and operates on pre-mapped routes.

This vehicle has transported over 160,000 people and logged more than 60,000 miles around the world. This will be the first use of this vehicle in Minnesota.



When Will the Shuttle Arrive?

It is anticipated that the vehicle will arrive in Minnesota in November, 2017.

Where Will the Shuttle Operate?

The vehicle will operate at several locations around the state.

Phase 1 (November 2017 – February 2018): Before operating this vehicle with a public purpose, the vehicle will undergo a series of warm weather and winter weather testing at MnDOT's MnROAD facility near Monticello. The vehicle will operate on the 2.5 mile closed loop facility. Testing will include snow, ice and salt conditions that will simulate Minnesota driving conditions.

Phase 2: MnDOT is working with the EasyMile and the City of Minneapolis to operate the shuttle around Super Bowl LII events. The exact location and times are not finalized. It is anticipated the public will have the opportunity to ride the shuttle during these events.

Phase 3 (Spring / Summer 2018): The shuttle may operate at additional sites around the state. MnDOT and the vendor will work with other units of government and private businesses to select sites. Additional sites may require special federal approval.

Can the Public Ride the Shuttle?

It is anticipated that the public can ride the shuttle during Phase 2 and Phase 3. There might be limited tours available during Phase 1.

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