

AUTOMATED DRIVING SYSTEMS

2.0

A Vision for Safety

Overview of New Voluntary Guidance

September 2017



U.S. Department of Transportation



Purpose of NHTSA's New Voluntary Guidance

- Show Federal leadership and provide support in the absence of Federal standards
- Support industry and States, as they consider innovative approaches to safety and develop best practices
- Send a clearer message that the Federal government will continue to govern vehicles and vehicle equipment
- Add transparency to complicated and new technologies for consumers
- Reemphasize that NHTSA's priority is the safe testing and deployment of Automated Vehicles

How does this compare to the previous guidance from 2016?

- Responds to public comments, keeps the best safety elements, and deletes premature items
- Represents an evolutionary approach by streamlining, clarifying, and emphasizing the voluntary nature
- New assistance for State legislatures
- Improved guidance as States consider testing and in-use regulations

What is in this Voluntary Guidance?

The new Voluntary Guidance encourages:

- Companies to consider and document their consideration of 12 safety elements (e.g., crash protection, cybersecurity, and public education)
- Companies to make available to the public a summary of how they addressed safety
- State legislatures to consider four best practices when they consider legislative action
- State Highway Safety Officials to consider seven best practices for administering testing and operation

Best Practices for State Legislatures

NHTSA recommends safety-related best practices when crafting legislation:

- Provide a “technology-neutral” environment
- Provide licensing and registration procedures
- Provide reporting and communications methods for Public Safety Officials
- Review traffic laws and regulations that may serve as barriers to operation of ADSs

Next Steps

- Socialize new guidance
- Implement NHTSA activities to remove regulatory barriers
- Conduct additional activities around job impact, insurance, public safety officials, and other related issues

