

CALSTART

Connected & Automated Transportation Users Forum Next Generation, Purpose-Built, Transit AV Cohort

Overview

In September 2019, CALSTART, a national nonprofit organization that promotes clean transportation technologies, announced that, as part of its Connected and Automated Transportation Users Forum (CATUF) effort, it would engage with transit agencies to develop specifications for the next generation, purpose-built, automated transit bus.

Under Memorandum of Commitments CALSTART is working with a growing group of more than 17 transit agencies from across the US to address the critical gaps and needs for the future automated transit industry. The cohort is working to identify the unique needs or key performance parameters (KPPs) necessary to satisfy both transit operations and community members whom are served by public transportation and to provide better transit services, which includes the movement of goods to support their community, with vehicle solutions that holistically meets these diverse needs.

The cohort meets monthly to collaborate and take action to address the autonomous vehicle deployment needs of transit providers with particular focus on vehicle requirements, accessibility, testing and certification, deployment guidance, as well as policy and infrastructure. Together, we are advancing autonomous transit and mobility for all.



Initial requirements for the 1st generation, purpose-built transit AV, include:

- Automated (SAE Level 4)*
- Zero emission (e.g., electric or fuel cell)
- Compliant with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS)
- Compliant with Buy America requirements
- Compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements
- Designed to operate in all climate conditions
- Capable of accommodating 10 to 14 passengers and two wheelchairs
- Capable of operating at 20-30 mph

The cohort intends for this work to lead to a potential procurement of approximately twenty to thirty-five first-generation, purpose-built, transit-ready AVs. Following an RFI/RFP process using the 3-year multiagency RFP that was released in March 2021 and as funds become available the first vehicles will be placed into operation by March 2022.

** On board safety operator that also services as a concierge*

Expected Outcomes

- Development of 2-3 pilot vehicles on Key Performance Parameters that meet the needs of transits (In process—FTA AIM)
- Release of a multi-agency RFP for the first 20-35 first generation, purpose-built, transit-ready AVs (Released 3/23/2021 by VTA)
- Increased funding to support the development of transit AVs that meet safety and crash testing requirements for AVs and improved ADA compliance
- Procurement of 20-35 first generation, purpose-built, transit AVs to be deployed at agencies across the US

For More Information:

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