



Automated Vehicles Need a Vision Test to Put Safety First

The Issue »

The League of American Bicyclists supports regulating and improving vehicles in ways that would make our streets safe for everyone. Automated vehicles have the potential to reduce traffic injuries and fatalities attributed to speeding, distracted driving and other behaviors. To ensure this potential is realized, the League believes a federal regulatory framework with basic safety standards is essential before the deployment of these vehicles in large numbers.

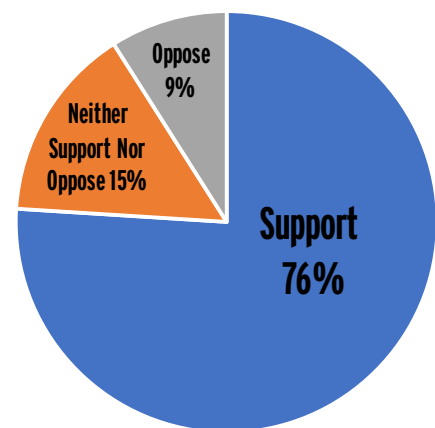
The League is asking for legislation that establishes standardized performance tests for automated vehicles, including a “vision test” that measures an automated vehicle’s ability to recognize and respond to vulnerable road users such as bicyclists, pedestrians and people with disabilities.

The current bill draft does not require US DOT to create safety regulations until 10 years after the bill becomes law. During those 10 years, states would be preempted from setting their own regulations. To start making roadways safer now, NHTSA needs additional funding to build its capacity to regulate and test automated vehicles, that Congress should fund research on the safety of automated vehicles, and that the US DOT should adopt or adapt tests currently used by the European New Car Assessment Program (Euro NCAP) to understand the effectiveness of lower-level vehicle automation systems.

The Public Supports a Vision Test »

When asked “Would you support or oppose government officials requiring a ‘vision test’ like licensed drivers must now pass, to make sure driverless cars can operate safely in different weather and road conditions and correctly identify or ‘see’ objects on the road?”

- » 55% of respondents said they “strongly support”
- » Majority support was consistent across regions of the country, demographics, and land use types (urban, rural, suburban)



Public Opinion Poll by Engine’s Caravan Survey commissioned by Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety - January 2020

What You Can Do »

Please reach out to Energy and Commerce Committee leaders to express support for:

- » A ‘vision test’ in the Automated Vehicle regulatory bill.
- » Interim requirements for manufacturers to test their vehicles using Euro NCAP bicyclist and pedestrian tests, and to publicize those results.
- » More funding for NHTSA and research on automated driving systems to ensure that there is a strong understanding about the safety of these technologies and how communities can leverage them to improve safety for all people.