Automated Vehicles in Virginia: The Policy and Regulatory Environment

Presented at the 2017 Virginia Highway Safety Summit
May 18, 2017
Early Studies

- **October 2013** – DMV hosts VDOT, VSP, and VTTI to discuss state of regulation in Virginia and elsewhere

- **August - October 2014** – DMV hosts meetings of state agencies, administration officials, and industry stakeholders
The Environment in Virginia

“The Virginia . . . is open for business for the vehicle and technology manufacturers and researchers committed to the development, testing and deployment of automated and autonomous vehicles.”

Governor McAuliffe’s proclamation supporting the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute and automated and autonomous vehicles
(March 4, 2015)

“We have no rules that prohibit autonomous vehicles, no law. A lot of states do.”

Secretary of Transportation Aubrey Layne, as quoted in The Washington Post, April 24, 2017
Virginia’s Participation in National Policymaking Efforts

• January 2015 – American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators AV Guidelines Working Group

• September 2016 – NHTSA publishes *Federal Automated Vehicles Policy*, which includes Model State Policy
The Commonwealth’s Strategic Plan: Virginia Automated 20XX

- **Goal:** To create a strategic policy framework for transitioning autonomous vehicles into the Virginia transportation network, and associated AV program, so as to position Virginia to be a national leader in the rapidly advancing field of self-driving, connected mobility.

- **Team:** Office of the Secretary of Transportation, OIPI, VDOT, DMV, DRPT, MVDB, VSP

- **Plan to be published later this year.**
Near-Term Impact on Highway Safety in Virginia

• Changes in what drivers can do (e.g., watch video while vehicle is in self-driving mode)

• Changes in driver education and testing

• CMV applications, especially truck platooning, modal shifts in local freight transportation, automated passenger carriage/driverless transit
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