

Good morning and welcome to the first in a series of informational study hearings on the topic of autonomous and connected vehicles. It is a pleasure to be here with you all today.

To begin with, I would like to address the mechanics of these study hearings. Each hearing will occur monthly over the next seven months and will focus on a different facet of the subject. These study hearings are to be **solely** fact finding in nature and it is my hope that by their participation, members will gain a basic working knowledge of this new industry and the potential benefits and challenges it presents.

For the sake of order and efficiency, these informational hearings will operate similar to the congressional format. Each hearing the chair, vice chair, and ranking member will have 5 minutes each for opening remarks. The witnesses will then have an allotted time to provide testimony. After all witnesses have completed their testimony, each committee member will be allotted five minutes to ask questions. Any time not used for questions will be forfeited. Out of respect to everybody's schedule, these time limits will be politely enforced.

In regards to future hearings a complete schedule will be released today. Witnesses for these hearings will be by invite only however anybody is welcome to submit written testimony to be included in the record.

The next will be one month from now on Wednesday, November 1st at 9:00 am in this room. The topic will be "Manufacturers Briefing" and will allow auto manufacturers the chance to address this committee on their vision for an autonomous future.

The goal of these hearings is to bring together industry leaders, policy think tanks, and other stakeholders to educate members of the committee and the public on the evolving field of autonomous/connected vehicle technology. The study will focus on potential benefits and challenges, how the industry may impact Ohio's economy, manufacturing, public safety, insurance, and infrastructure; as well as a review of current research, testing, federal regulations, and industry activity in Ohio. Additional topics planned for discussion include federal regulations.

The reason for these hearings is that the General Assembly needs to be informed so that it can first understand how to be a partner of the industry and not stifle innovation. Second, we need to understand how to balance that partnership with the need to protect consumers, and third, we must be able to have a constructive dialogue about the nature of self-driving cars and their expected rollout with the people of Ohio. Finally, I firmly believe that autonomous and connected vehicle technology is the opening salvo of the next space race, involving the emerging technologies of the 21st century. We must ensure that America, and Ohio in particular, maintains its leadership in transportation innovation and advanced technologies, much like our predecessors did in the 1960's.

The tragedy is that each year approximately 35,000 Americans die due to fatal car crashes. Last year 1,054 of these deaths occurred here in Ohio. Statistics state the 94% of these crashes are the direct result of human error. Self-driving cars holds the promise that one day nearly all of these fatalities may be eliminated.

In addition, this new technology, when fully realized has the potential to liberate millions of Americans that do not have freedom of mobility. Those with disabilities that prevent them from obtaining drivers licenses will have full access to the roads like anybody else. The elderly will no longer fear that they may be forced to hand over their keys. Freedom of mobility will be a new reality to millions of Americans.

Today the topic of our hearing is "Autonomous and Connected Vehicles 101". Our witnesses today are Mr. Jonathan Weinberger, Vice President of Innovation and Technology at the Auto Alliance and Mr. Josh Fisher, Manager of State Government Affairs at Global Automakers. Both represent industry trade

organizations and are here to give the committee a crash course (pun intended) in the basics of this new field. I would like to thank them for being here today and I look forward to hearing their testimony.

I now recognize Vice Chair Greenspan for opening remarks.