# Self-driving car manufacturers urge U.S. government for regulatory action



A consortium of prominent self-driving car manufacturers has requested the U.S. government to adopt a more proactive stance in fostering the advancement and deployment of autonomous vehicles (AVs). This influential group includes major industry players such as Volkswagen, Ford, Alphabet’s Waymo, Amazon’s Zoox, and Uber, who collectively caution that any delay in federal action could impede progress and give an advantage to other countries, particularly China, in the rapidly evolving AV technology sector.

The Autonomous Vehicle Industry Association (AVIA), chaired by Jeff Farrah, has put forward a comprehensive policy framework that calls on the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) to assume a leading role in overseeing the design, construction, and operational performance of autonomous vehicles. Farrah stressed the necessity for clear regulatory guidelines to establish a "pathway" for the introduction of these advanced vehicles to the market. "We want to make sure there is a clear pathway to getting these next-generation vehicles on the road," Farrah remarked, expressing frustration over the sluggish progress in regulatory matters.

In response to these industry concerns, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg acknowledged the government's cautious approach, reiterating the need for extensive testing to ensure that autonomous vehicles surpass the capabilities of human drivers. He highlighted that such rigorous oversight is essential not only for harnessing the life-saving potential of AVs but also for fostering public trust and acceptance of this emerging technology.

The urgency surrounding the regulatory landscape has intensified following a serious incident in October 2023, where a self-driving car operated by General Motors’ Cruise division injured a pedestrian. This event prompted the USDOT to initiate investigations into several autonomous vehicle operators, including Cruise, Waymo, and Zoox, further underscoring the need for comprehensive regulatory oversight.

The AV industry is advocating for Congress to clarify that human controls may be unnecessary in automated vehicles that meet established safety standards. Additionally, they seek approval for companies to disable manual controls in fully autonomous models. Another key recommendation is to create a national repository for AV safety data, which would be accessible to state transportation agencies, thereby facilitating comprehensive safety monitoring and improvements at a national level.

As competition escalates globally and regulatory hurdles remain significant, the autonomous vehicle sector is looking to the U.S. government for decisive action to facilitate the swift deployment of self-driving technology, a move that could redefine the future of transportation.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.therobotreport.com/avia-creates-av-centered-policy-recommendations-for-usdot/> - This article supports the claim that the Autonomous Vehicle Industry Association (AVIA) has put forward a comprehensive policy framework for the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) to oversee the design, construction, and operational performance of autonomous vehicles.
2. <https://www.therobotreport.com/avia-creates-av-centered-policy-recommendations-for-usdot/> - It corroborates Jeff Farrah's statement on the necessity for clear regulatory guidelines to establish a pathway for the introduction of autonomous vehicles to the market.
3. <https://www.therobotreport.com/avia-creates-av-centered-policy-recommendations-for-usdot/> - The article details AVIA's recommendations, including updating regulations, accelerating the path for novel design vehicles, and promoting AV safety, which aligns with the industry's advocacy for clearer regulatory guidelines.
4. <https://www.govtech.com/policy/federal-framework-could-loosen-self-driving-car-rules> - This article supports the concern that delays in federal action could impede progress and give an advantage to other countries in the AV technology sector, highlighting past efforts and challenges in regulating autonomous vehicles.
5. <https://www.govtech.com/policy/federal-framework-could-loosen-self-driving-car-rules> - It mentions the need for a broader act of Congress to facilitate the mass adoption of self-driving cars, which aligns with the industry's call for comprehensive regulatory oversight.
6. <https://www.bakerdonelson.com/autonomous-vehicle-statutes-and-regulations-across-the-50-states> - This article explains the current lack of federal statutes and regulations for autonomous vehicles and the reliance on existing authority, which underscores the need for clearer regulatory guidelines.
7. <https://www.bakerdonelson.com/autonomous-vehicle-statutes-and-regulations-across-the-50-states> - It discusses the proposed changes and the role of the U.S. Department of Transportation in setting common metrics and standards for autonomous vehicles.
8. <https://www.therobotreport.com/avia-creates-av-centered-policy-recommendations-for-usdot/> - The article highlights AVIA's advocacy for Congress to clarify that human controls may be unnecessary in automated vehicles that meet established safety standards.
9. <https://www.therobotreport.com/avia-creates-av-centered-policy-recommendations-for-usdot/> - It supports the recommendation to create a national repository for AV safety data, which would facilitate comprehensive safety monitoring and improvements at a national level.
10. <https://www.govtech.com/policy/federal-framework-could-loosen-self-driving-car-rules> - This article mentions the ongoing safety investigations into autonomous vehicle operators, including Cruise, Waymo, and Zoox, following incidents like the one in October 2023.
11. <https://www.therobotreport.com/avia-creates-av-centered-policy-recommendations-for-usdot/> - The article emphasizes the importance of regulatory oversight to ensure public trust and acceptance of autonomous vehicle technology, aligning with Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg's remarks.
12. <https://www.cbtnews.com/autonomous-vehicles-urge-u-s-government-to-speed-up-deployment/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data