ITS America Sends Letter to Senate Supporting Passage of AV START Act and Calls for Report Language Clarifying “Performance”

In a letter sent on November 21, 2017, to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, ITS America stated its support for Senate passage of S. 1885, “American Vision for Safer Transportation through Advancement of Revolutionary Technologies (“AV START”) Act.” ITS America also urged that S. 1885 include Committee Report language clarifying congressional intent that “performance” in an automated vehicle context excludes the act of complying with state and local traffic laws, thereby aligning more closely with current National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) authority.

AV START Committee Report Includes Language Clarifying “Performance”

As reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on November 28, 2017, the Committee Report for S. 1885, “American Vision for Safer Transportation through Advancement of Revolutionary Technologies (“AV START”) Act” includes language clarifying that “performance” with regards to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s (NHTSA)
traditional authority over design, construction, or performance, “excludes vehicle compliance with or the enforcement of State and local traffic laws,” which was one of ITS America’s priority issues.

Summary of the AV START Act Committee Report


ITS America Conference Call on House and Senate Smart Communities Bill: Friday, December 1, 12:30 – 1:15 P.M. EST

ITS America will host a smart communities-focused conference call this Friday, December 1 at 12:30 p.m. EST with Bill Bates, Legislative Assistant, Representative Barbara Comstock (R-VA), Matthew Colvin, Senior Policy Advisor, Representative Elizabeth Esty (D-CT), and Trevor Dean, Legislative Assistant, Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV).

Bates and Colvin will provide an overview of H.R. 4151, the Smart Technology for Resilient, Efficient, Economic and Reliable Transportation in Cities and Communities Act (STREET Act). The legislation expands on the successful Department of Transportation (DOT) Smart Cities Challenge program and will provide grants to small and medium sized cities on a competitive basis. Additionally, the STREET Act calls for the development of a smart city resource guide, directs the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) to report on Smart Cities, and supports National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) standards for Smart Cities.
Dean will join ITSA again for a deeper overview of S. 1809, “Moving and Fostering Innovation to Revolutionize Smarter Transportation (Moving FIRST) Act,” a bill that will enhance the transportation systems through the use of technology. Moving FIRST to build on the successes of the 2015 Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Cities Challenge administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation by expanding the opportunity for more communities – both urban and rural – to compete for resources that will fund efficient, creative and innovative transportation projects.

ITS America has also invited an aide to Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) to discuss S. 1904, the “Smart Cities and Communities Act of 2017.”

The call will start at 12:30 p.m. EST sharp. The conference call number is (202) 847-5827 (no pin).

This your opportunity to get a comprehensive understanding of the various smart cities bills in the House and Senate. Attached are the bills for your review prior to the call.

S.1809 - Moving FIRST Act

H.R.4151 - STREET Act

S.1904 - Smart Cities and Communities Act of 2017

Administration and Regulatory Affairs

**ITS America articulates need for Connected Vehicle in Letter to Transportation Secretary Chao, urges Administration Action on Vehicle-to-Vehicle standard**

ITS America along with its Safety Spectrum Coalition partners published a letter to Secretary Chao asking her to move forward with Connected Vehicle V2X.

The letter, posted here, The letter included 76 signatories, of which 7 are automakers, 25 technology companies, 11
transportation agencies, 7 traffic safety advocates, 4 research institutions, 4 manufacturers associations, 3 tech associations, 4 ITS state chapters, and 5 trucking associations, 5 infrastructure engineering firms, plus others.

Key highlights from the letter: “The undersigned associations, companies, industries, and organizations are writing to express our continued support for vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) and vehicle-to-infrastructure (V2I) communications, and to strongly urge the Department of Transportation to remain fully committed to the widespread deployment of connected vehicle technology...”

The letter continues... “If the Department were to step back from this effort, DOT would be missing a major opportunity to deploy a truly game-changing vehicle safety technology and would undermine a long term effort that has spanned administrations to modernize and electronically interconnect our transportation infrastructure.”

Finally it discusses track record: “Unlike other technologies, DSRC benefits from nearly a decade of industry driven standardization and large scale real-world testing, a track record that is impossible to discount or ignore. Finalizing a V2V nationwide standard and protecting the 5.9GHz band currently dedicated to intelligent transportation, will provide stakeholders throughout the transportation sector with the certainty needed to expand deployment of, and uses for, this unique cooperative traffic safety technology.”

Please contact Steven Bayless at sbayless@itsa.org for more information.

**FHWA Data shows that Aged Drivers fastest growing category or driver**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) published new data today showing a record-high 221.7 million licensed drivers in the U.S. in 2016, including 41.7 million – or almost one in five – who are 65 years or older. It is uncertain whether demographics is driving the results, or inclination to drive from younger drivers is to blame. Aged
drivers are shown to be growing faster than any other category, and is far outpacing their younger drivers.

**USDOT Motorcycle Advisory Council (MAC) to Meet December 5th**

The purpose of this meeting is to advise the Secretary of Transportation, through the Administrator of the FHWA, on infrastructure issues of concern to motorcyclists, including; barrier design, road design, construction and maintenance practices, and the architecture and implementation of intelligent transportation system technologies, pursuant to Section 1426 of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. The MAC will meet on December 5, 2017, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST and will cover ITS.

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