

NETC 20-4: Coordinating State Policies, Laws, and Regulations for Automated Driving Systems Across New England

PROJECT TITLE

NETC 20-4: New England Connected and Automated Vehicle Regulatory and Policy Assessment

STUDY TIMELINE

Dec. 20, 2020 to June 30, 2022

INVESTIGATORS

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FUNDING

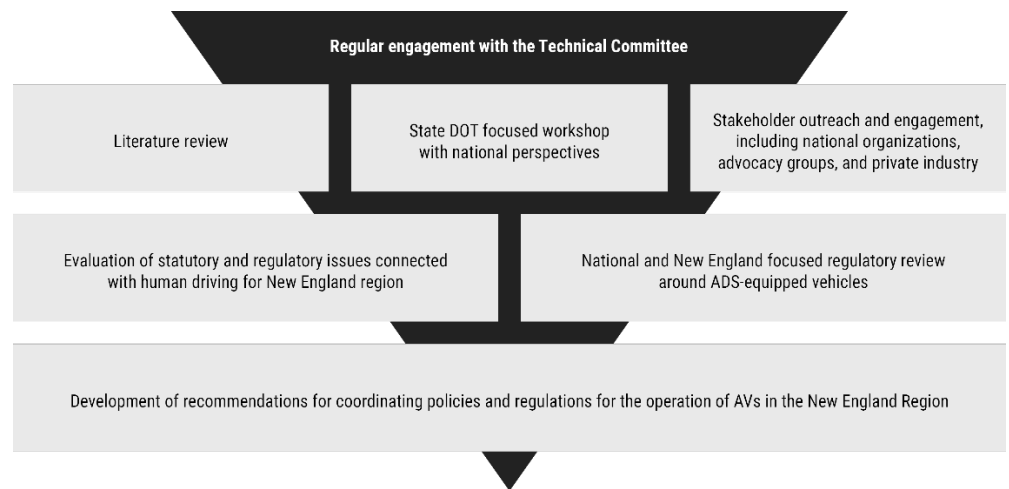
The New England Transportation Consortium, a cooperative effort of the transportation agencies of the six New England states, funded this research. Through the Consortium, the states pool professional, academic, and financial resources for transportation research leading to the development of improved methods for dealing with common problems associated with the administration, planning, design, construction, rehabilitation, reconstruction, operation and maintenance of the region's transportation system.

More information about the VTrans Research Program, including additional Fact Sheets, can be found at: <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/research>

Problem Statement

How to develop, implement, and provide continuing updates towards a uniform statutory and regulatory approach to facilitate the safe multi-state deployment of ADS-equipped vehicles across the New England region? This project sought to develop a coordinated and consistent approach to the setting of policies, laws, and regulations to support the seamless operation of ADS-equipped vehicles across the New England states.

Methodology



Summary of Recommendations (1–5 year timeframe)

COORDINATION – MOU/REGIONAL ENTITY

Develop a multi-state regulatory approach to ADS testing and deployment that is deliberate around different use cases. Proposed tools include a Memorandum of Understanding signed by each state and exploring the creation of an ADS regional entity to coordinate and streamline process.

ESTABLISHING ADS POLICIES, LAWS, AND REGULATIONS

Coordinate around the passage of ADS legislation and consider when legislation is warranted and a productive use of resources to advance the safe testing and deployment of ADS in the region. A priority focus is incorporating the concept that a “person” shall include a non-human in the context of ADS-equipped vehicles.

PILOTS/DEPLOYMENTS

Draft and approve a regionally focused ADS operations permit prioritizing on-demand ridehailing services, commercial freight, and purpose-built vehicles for local goods movement and delivery.

DATA

Support the standardization of ADS focused data exchange between the public sector and industry, including a more consistent approach to protecting data that may be considered proprietary, confidential, or trade secrets.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Proactively educate the public and stakeholders about ADS technology and its potential benefits. Outreach should focus on the capabilities for different types of ADS-equipped vehicles through use cases and expected responsibilities for human monitoring, if any.

Potential Impacts and VTrans Benefits

The New England states have taken an important first step in moving their vision of seamless multi-state regional operation of ADS-equipped vehicles towards implementation. Through the research of this project, implementation tools are proposed to support next steps for the NE states, including the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding documenting coordinating actions and the potential leveraging of a regional coordinating entity around ADS testing and deployment.