VT AUTOMATED VEHICLE TESTING GUIDANCE AND PERMIT APPLICATION

Vermont Traffic Committee

Public Hearing

October 15, 2020
1:00-3:00PM

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AGENDA

1:00-1:10 PM: Welcome & Meeting Housekeeping

1:10-1:30: Groton No Parking District Request

1:30-3:00 PM: AV Testing Permit Guidance & Application Hearing

- 1:30-1:50 PM: Presentation – Background Information and Guidance Overview
- 1:50-3:00 PM: Discussion and Possible Traffic Committee Vote

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MEETING HOUSEKEEPING

During today's meeting

- Please keep yourself muted during the presentation and when others are speaking
- If you would like to share your video, please keep it turned off until after the presentation

Asking questions and making comments

- All questions and comments will be held until after the presentation
- You can submit questions and comments at any time using the chat box
- Oral questions and comments will be received after ones from the chat box

Today's meeting is being recorded and will be posted on the project webpage.

Technical difficulties

- If you are having audio issues, try connecting to the sound by phone rather than computer.
- If you have any technical issues you cannot easily solve during the meeting please contact Katharine – Katharine.otto@vermont.gov or 802-917-3451

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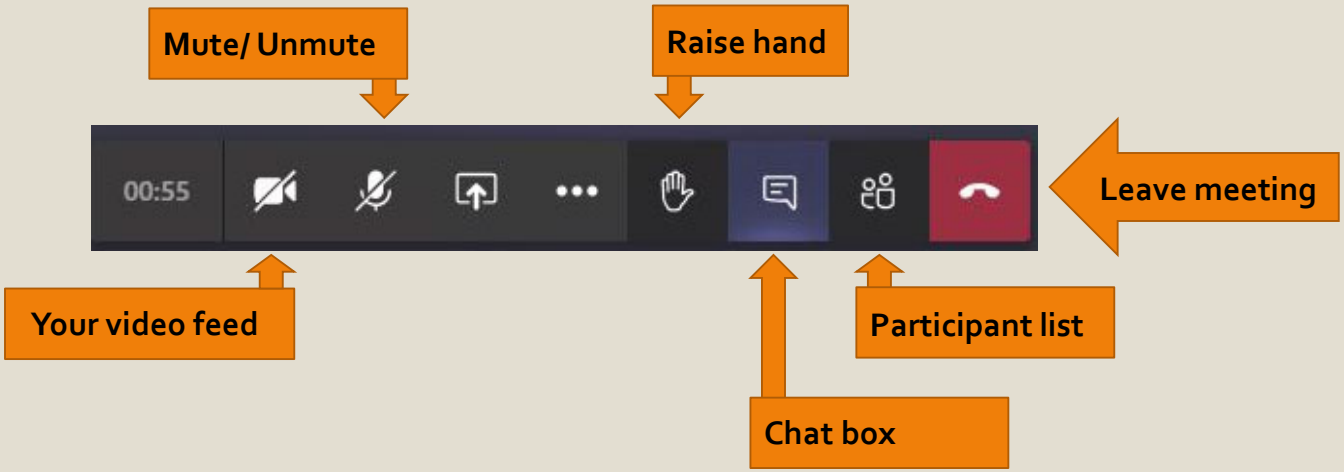
MEETING HOUSEKEEPING



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- Hearing Purpose
- AV Overview
- Guidance Overview
- Discussion
- Traffic Committee Decision

PRESENTATION

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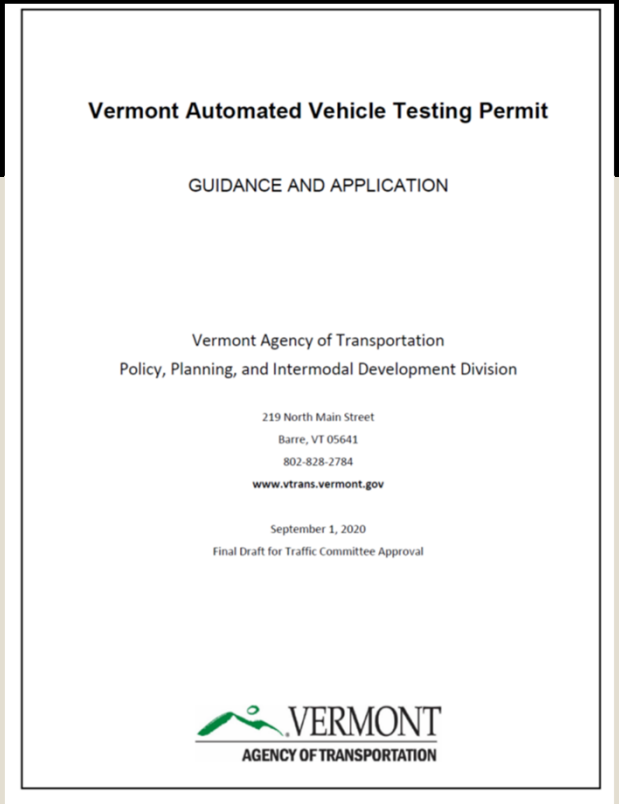
HEARING PURPOSE

- 2019 VT Automated Vehicle Testing Act (VSA Title 23, Chapter 41)
  - Allows testing on public highways in VT
  - Requires a permit from the VT Traffic Committee
  - Requires the Agency of Transportation to Develop and Publish a Testing Permit Guidance
- Per Statute, the Guidance must be complete by January 2021
- **Seeking Traffic Committee Approval of the AV Testing Permit Guidance and Application**



Vermont Automated Vehicle Testing Permit

GUIDANCE AND APPLICATION

Vermont Agency of Transportation
Policy, Planning, and Intermodal Development Division

219 North Main Street
Barre, VT 05641
802-828-2784
www.vtrans.vermont.gov

September 1, 2020
Final Draft for Traffic Committee Approval

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PROJECT TEAM

VT Agency of Transportation

Joe Segale, P.E./PTP , Policy, Planning & Research Bureau Director

Mike Obuchowski, Principal Assistant

Katharine Otto, AICP, Planning Coordinator

VTrans AAG Team, DMV and VT State Police

Stantec

Greg Rodriguez, Mobility Policy Principal

AUTOMATED VEHICLES - BACKGROUND

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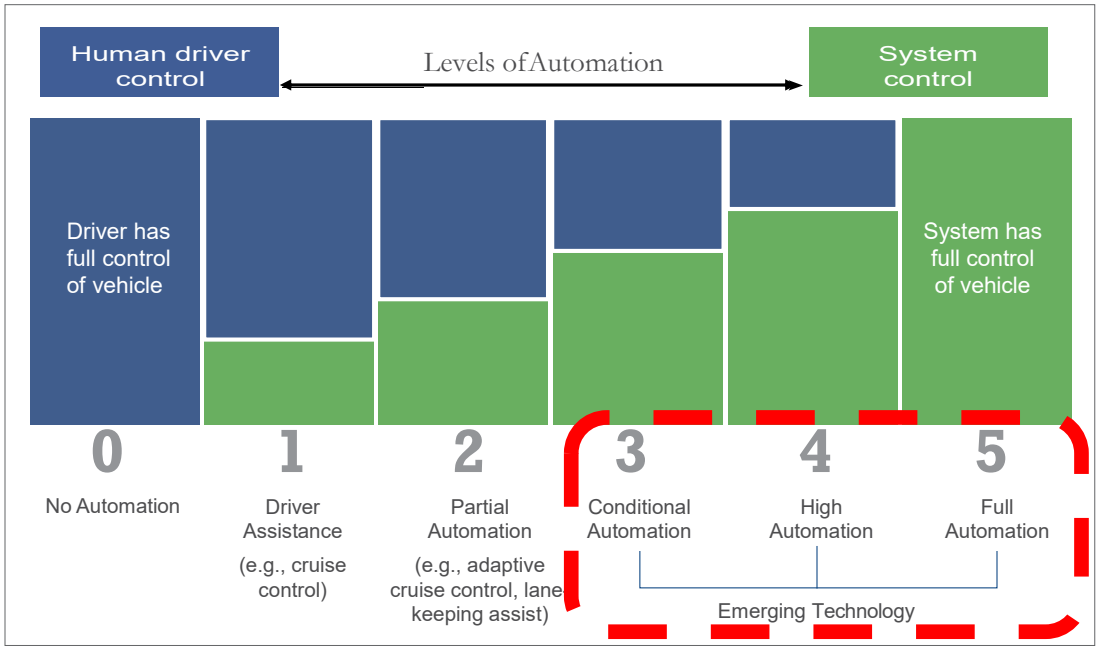
AUTOMATION LEVELS



VT LAW REQUIRES AV TEST PERMIT FOR VEHICLES WITH LEVEL 3-5 AUTOMATED DRIVING SYSTEMS

SOURCE: Liberty Mutual "Automated Vehicles: Changing Role of the Driver"

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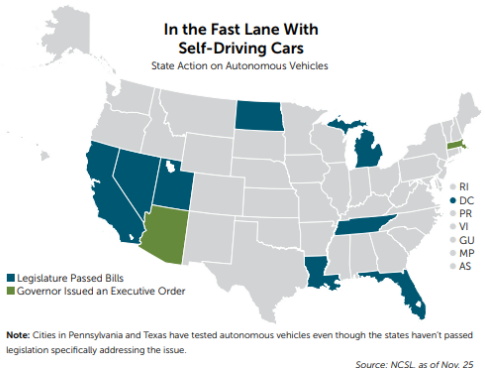
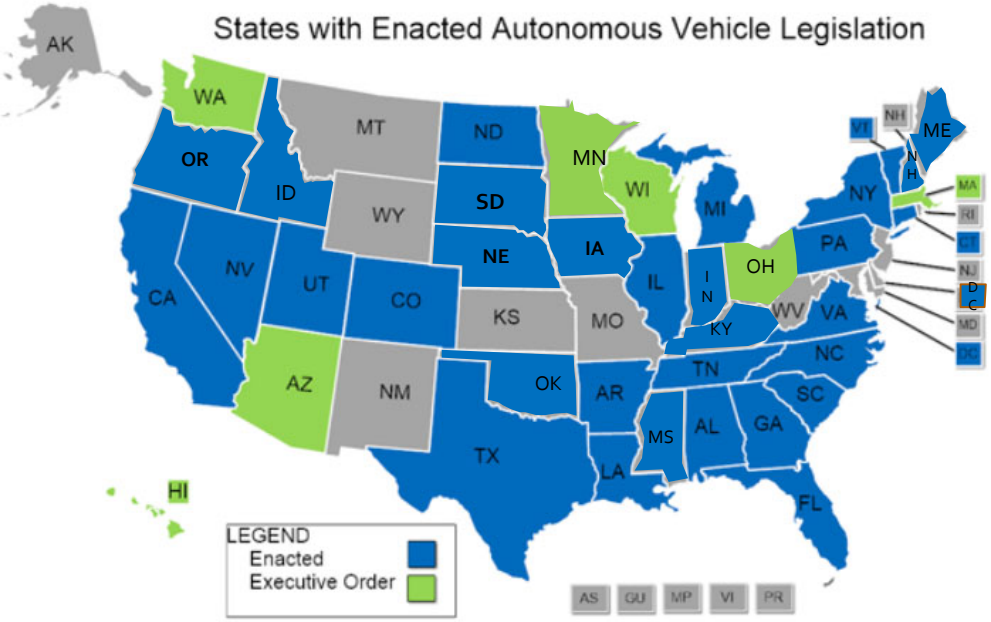
STATE LEGISLATION & NATIONAL POLICY

Nov. 2016



Feb. 2020



SOURCE: National Conference of State Legislatures

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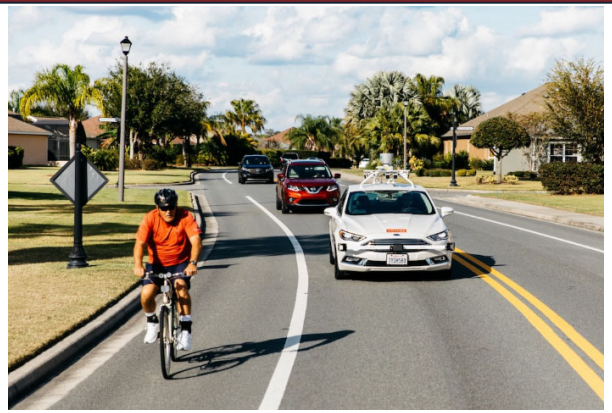
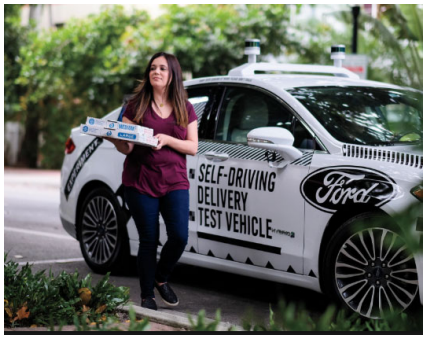
WHAT WOULD A TEST LOOK LIKE?





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GUIDANCE OVERVIEW

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STEPS TO CREATE THE GUIDANCE

- Worked with Stakeholders and General Assembly to Develop AV Testing Act
- AV Testing Act Established the Authority and Requirements
- Review of Other State DOT Permitting Processes
- Consultation with VTrans, DMV, AAG, AOA Risk Management, VSP and VLCT
- Technical assistance by Stantec, Inc
- Published Draft for Comments and Held Public Information Meeting in June 2020
- Modified & Published On-Line Document to Address Comments
- Traffic Committee Public Hearing on Final Draft
- Release of Approved Guidance & Implementation

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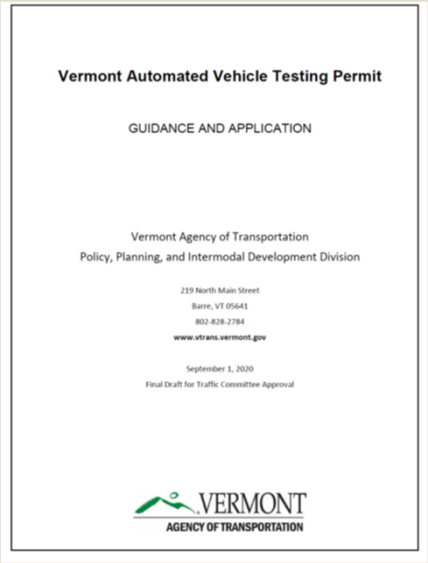
INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND & PROCESS



Vermont Automated Vehicle Testing Permit

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- Automated Vehicle Testing Permit Application and Review Process
- Municipal Pre-approval of AV Testing on Class 2, 3 and 4 Town Highways
- Modifications to Testing Permit
- Temporarily Restricting Testing
- Suspension or Revocation of Authorization
- Periodic Test Results Reporting
- Crash Protocol
- VT Public Records Act Applicability and Exemptions

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PERMIT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION REQUIRED

- Permit Application Cover Letter
- Applicant Information
- Testing Partners
- Vehicle Information
- Automated Driving System Information
- Test Vehicle Operator Information
- Testing Plan
- Safety and Risk Management Plan
- First Responder Interaction Plan
- Operational Demonstration
- Modifications to State and Town Highways
- Applicant Acknowledgements
- Standard Permit Conditions
- Confidential Information Attachment
- Insurance

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PERMIT PROCESS – STATE ROLE

- **Traffic Committee**
  - Secretary of Transportation, DMV Commissioner, Public Safety Commissioner
  - Has sole authority to issue permits for AV testing
  - Can approve testing on all state highways and Class 1 Town Highways
  - Can approve testing on other Town Highways only with municipal pre-approval
- **VT Agency of Transportation**
  - Administer the permit process including required public hearings
  - Monitors tests and manages modifications
- **VT Department of Motor Vehicles**
  - Permit application review
  - Assist with monitoring test and permit modifications
- **VT State Police**
  - Permit application review
  - Assist with monitoring test and permit modifications

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PERMIT PROCESS - MUNICIPAL ROLE

- Municipal approval required if testing involves Class 2, 3 and 4 Town Highways
- Municipalities will be asked to pre-approve testing by passage of resolution
- Municipalities can withdraw approval at any time
- Municipal approval of specific testing permits not required
- Only the Traffic Committee is authorized to approve a permit.
- Municipalities are not responsible for modifying roadways or other infrastructure to accommodate a test, or for any costs related to conducting the test.

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APPLICANT REQUIREMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Human operator required in driver seat and must be able and prepared to take physical control of the vehicle**
  - Operator must be at least 21 years old
  - Operator must pass a background check
  - Blood alcohol content less 0.02
- **$5 Million Liability Insurance**
- **Vehicle must be able to comply with all state and local traffic laws including operation and equipment**
- **AV Testing Vehicle must be clearly identifiable**

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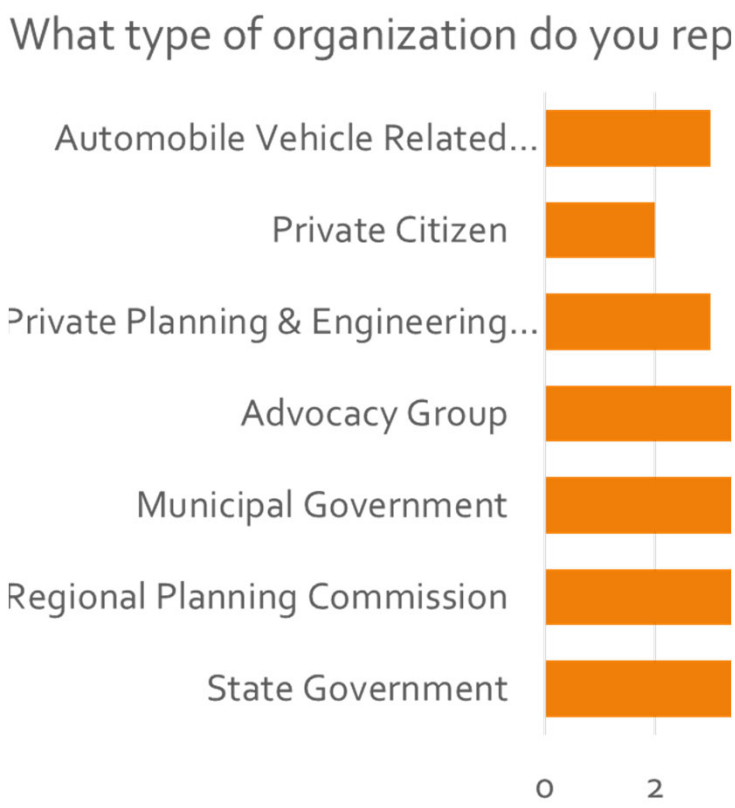

COMMENTS ON DRAFT GUIDANCE

- Post Crash Notification Window
- State/Municipality Indemnification
- Insurance Requirements
- Operational Safety Verification
- Protection of Confidential and Proprietary Information
- Permit Approval Process
- Safety of Pedestrians, Bicyclists and Motor Cyclists
- Comments on the Act

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APPROVAL JUSTIFICATION

- Safety is Emphasized
- Risk Management is Addressed
- Incorporates Feedback from Stakeholders
- Respects Local Decision Making
- Partnerships and Communication are Emphasized
- Guidance Rather Than Rules
- Traffic Committee Role Well Defined
- Protects Confidential Information

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WHY IS TESTING IMPORTANT IN VT?

- Facilitate AV deployment in VT so we benefit ASAP
- Build public confidence
- Provide clear process for testers
- Provide a publicly transparent process that facilitates safe testing
- Potential for Economic Development

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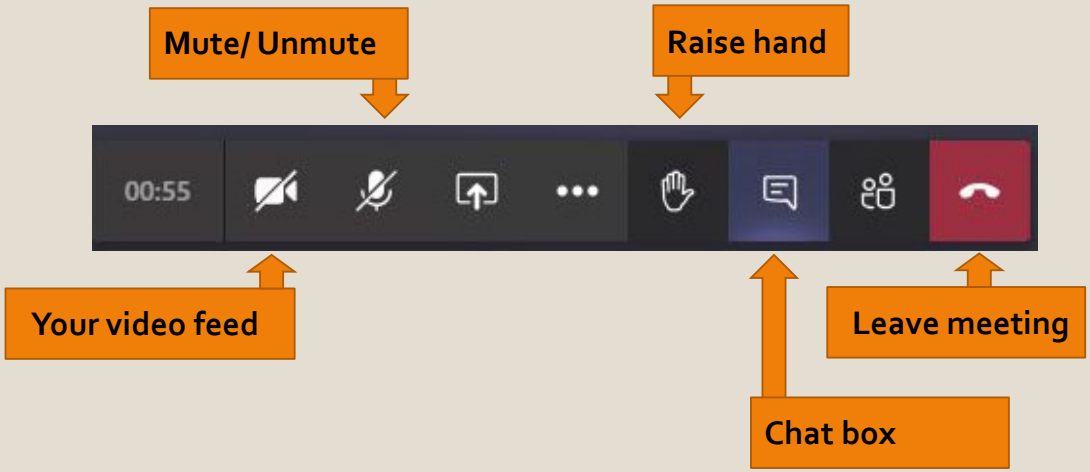
QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS



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- More comprehensive responses to questions and comments will be published on the project website after the comment period is closed.

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