VT Automated Vehicle Testing Guidance and Permit Application

Vermont Traffic Committee

Public Hearing

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

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

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

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
MEETING HOUSEKEEPING

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Hearing Purpose
AV Overview
Guidance Overview
Discussion
Traffic Committee Decision
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
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
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"
WHAT WOULD A TEST LOOK LIKE?
# 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
INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND & PROCESS

- 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
# 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
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
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.
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
What type of organization do you represent?

- Automobile Vehicle Related...
- Private Citizen
- Private Planning & Engineering...
- Advocacy Group
- Municipal Government
- Regional Planning Commission
- State Government

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
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
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
QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Asking questions and making 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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