Planning for Automated Vehicles – Stephen Buckley, PE, AICP

Automated Vehicles (AVs) are coming at us fast. Nearly a dozen auto manufacturers have declared that they will have fully automated vehicles on the road by 2025. These vehicles will have a profound impact on urban transportation, travel demand, and travel patterns. They will also greatly influence how transportation systems will be planned, designed, built, rebuilt, operated and maintained.

Due to a host of unknowns, most public sector transportation organizations – State DOTs, MPOs, transit agencies and city DOTs – are struggling with how to shape this. A number of key unknowns will influence when, where and how AV deployment will unfold. These key unknowns include: the speed of technological advancement, the cost of the technology or services, consumer acceptance, political support, and the operational models that are deployed. With so many unknowns, how do public sector transportation agencies plan for AVs? And, how do we advise transportation leadership and elected officials?

This presentation will unpack the complexities and challenges of planning in such an environment, and how public sector agencies can, not only prepare for, but shape the direction of AV deployment to ensure they align with their regional goals.

Steve Buckley currently serves as the Northeast Regional Manager for WSP’s Planning, Environment and Traffic practices. Steve is a licensed engineer and planner, and has over twenty years of experience in many aspects of the transportation industry. Steve most recently served as General Manager of Transportation for the City of Toronto. While in Toronto, Steve initiated and led a City of Toronto Divisional working group on Automated Vehicles, hosted workshops to educate and raise awareness across city divisions, commissioned the white paper “Driving Changes: Automated Vehicles in Toronto” to initiate a regional dialogue; worked with a host of North American cities to advance the principle that AVs should support city and regional goals; partnered with the Toronto regional planning organization to conduct a public survey to better understand Toronto consumer preferences on AVs; and created a Divisional Work Plan. He has been invited to speak by over two dozen State DOTs, MPOs, transit agencies, and City DOTs on how public sector agencies can plan for and shape the introduction of AVs into cities.

Please RSVP by September 8th to Jennifer Conley at Jennifer.Conley@wsp.com