

Automated Vehicles and Public Policy: State and Local Perspectives

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State and Local Public Policy

Who?

- State
 - State legislatures
 - Agencies – DOT, DMV, Police, Insurance
- Local
 - Regional planning organizations
 - Transit authorities
 - Toll authorities
 - Counties and municipalities



State and Local Public Policy

Why?

- Safety and security
- Quality of life
- Economic prosperity



State and Local Public Policy

What?

- Safe vehicle operation and accountability
 - License vehicle operators
 - Regulate vehicle use of roadways
 - Establish traffic laws and enforcement of laws
 - Regulate insurance
- Supportive infrastructure
 - Determine how infrastructure is planned, funded, developed, operated, maintained

State and Local Policy Roles

		Vehicle operation, safety and accountability	Infrastructure planning, development, operation and maintenance
STATE	State Legislature	✓	✓
	State DMV	✓	
	State Police	✓	
	State Insurance	✓	
	State DOT		✓
LOCAL	Regional planning (MPO)		✓
	Transit		✓
	County		✓
	Municipality		✓
	Toll authority		✓

State and Local Policy Roles

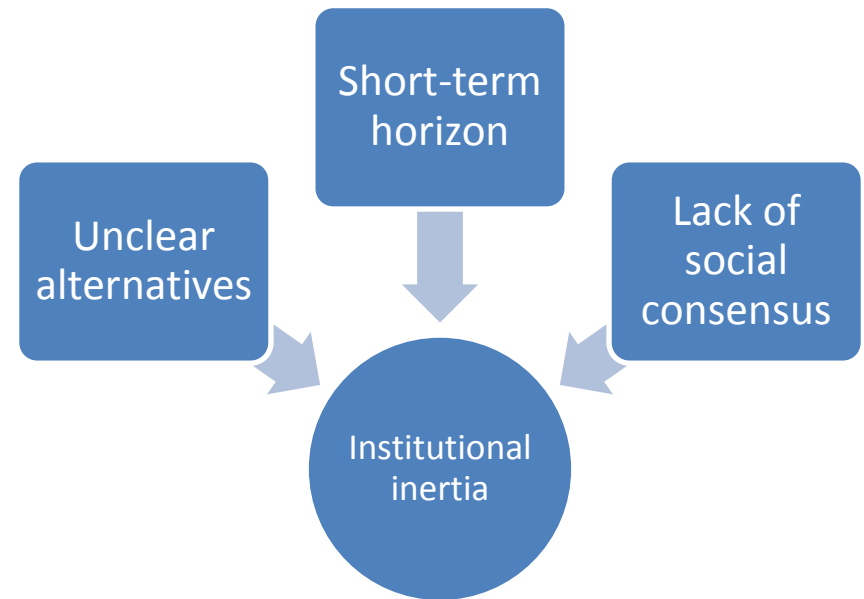
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	State Insurance	✓	
	State DOT		✓
LOCAL	Regional planning (MPO)		✓
	Transit	(✓)	✓
	County	(✓)	✓
	Municipality	(✓)	✓
	Toll authority	(✓)	✓
		Future ? (✓)	

State and Local Public Policy

How?

- Through laws, rules, regulations, directives, investment decisions
- Guided by transportation agency staff but responsive to constituents
- Risk aversion inherent in strategic policy change

Risk Aversion in Policy Development



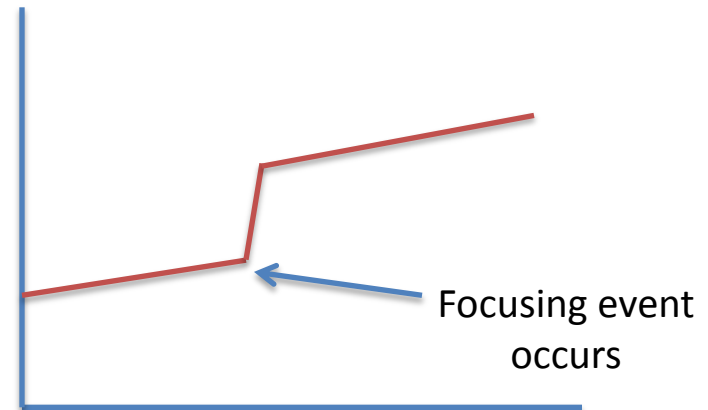
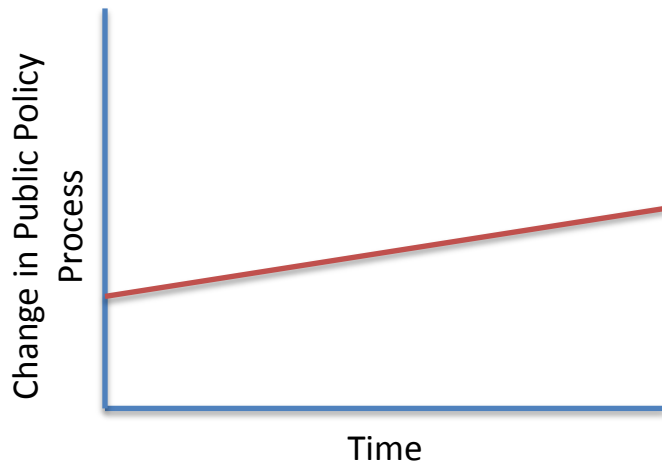
State and Local Public Policy

How?

Incrementalism

vs.

Punctuated equilibrium



(Bumgartner and Jones, 1993)

States serve as laboratories of policy innovation

AV Policy Scoping Study

Southwest University Transportation Center (SWUTC)

- Study team conducted interviews with industry and government representatives
- Increase understanding of
 - Economic and societal implications
 - State and local government policy perspectives
 - Public policy research needs

Overarching Findings

- **Uncertainty** in AV capabilities, benefits and development path contribute to the **lack of clarity** needed for state and local public policy development.
- **Unresolved** public policy and institutional issues will play a role in **slowing deployment**.
- **Forces unrelated to vehicle technology** will dominate state and local **transportation policy** focus in the near term.

Actions Supporting State and Local Policy Development

- Industry and government collaboration, communication
- Research and product development
- Field demonstrations and pilot projects
- Plausible deployment scenarios – including transitional - to test
- Conversations about structural policy change informed by data

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