Senators urge FCC to approve spectrum use for transportation

Senators Gary Peters (D-MI) and Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) continue to urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to grant waivers in the 5.9 GHz spectrum for further deployment of connected vehicle projects across the country. Their letter, dated February 13, highlights the increasing motor vehicle fatalities on the nation’s roads, and the potential to greatly reduce these deaths through connected vehicle (CV) applications using the spectrum. The letter also points out the 18 waiver requests covering 31 entities that have been sent to the FCC since November 2020, with the majority of them yet to be processed or approved.

Transit Bus in Reno Detects and Reports Maintenance Issues

A research team at the University of Nevada at Reno has partnered with the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) of Washoe County to identify and report transportation maintenance issues using automated sensors and artificial intelligence installed on a transit bus. The electric bus will utilize these technologies to detect problems, such as damaged signs or burned-out traffic signals, and automatically report these issues to RTC’s maintenance team.
Study Shows Hesitancy Toward CV Adoption due to Data Sharing Concerns

A recent global survey shows that customers are wary of sharing personally identifiable information (PII) for some connected vehicle technologies. The 2023 Deloitte Global Automotive Customer Survey shows that, while the majority of U.S. customers would be willing to share PII to gain access to connected features to improve road safety (57%) and receive traffic information (58%), they are less inclined to share PII to receive over-the-air software updates (49%), parking recommendations (48%), or for “pay as you drive” insurance plans (46%).

Researchers suggest 4th traffic signal color to improve AV transition

Researchers at North Carolina State University have proposed a fourth traffic signal indicator that would allow connected autonomous vehicles (CAVs) to decide how to travel through an intersection. Their research shows that allowing CAVs to communicate with each other to navigate through an intersection could reduce overall congestion and fuel consumption. A white signal would only activate if enough CAVs approach the intersection; otherwise, the signals would operate as normal.