

SMART DRIVING CARS



<http://smartdrivingcar.com/5.17-Summit-052317>

17th edition of the 5th year of SmartDrivingCars

Tuesday, May 23, 2017



Princeton SmartDrivingCar Summit

May 18, Enormously successful inaugural Summit starting with the [Adam Jonas video](#) and finishing with [Fred Fishkin's live interview with Wm. C Ford III](#). In between, [serious engagement](#) among over 150 leaders from Communities at the bleeding edge of deployment, Insurance struggling with how to properly promote the adoption of technology that may well force them to re-invent themselves and AI (Artificial Intelligence) and the various technologies that are rapidly advancing so that we can actually deliver the safety, environmental, mobility and quality of life opportunities envisioned by these "Ultimate Shared-Riding Machines".

Save the Date for the 2nd Annual... May 16 & 17, 2018, Princeton NJ [Read Inaugural Program with links to Slides](#). [Fishkin Interview of Summit Summary](#) and [Interview of Yann LeCun](#). [Read Inaugural Program with links to Slides](#). *Hmmmm... Enormous thank you to all who participated. Well done! Alain*



As Profit Dwindles, Ford Is Said to Replace Its C.E.O.

B. Vlasic, May 21, "In a shake-up reflecting the pressures on the American auto industry, Ford Motor is replacing its chief executive, Mark Fields, according to officials briefed on the move. [Jim Hackett](#), who oversees the [Ford subsidiary](#) that works on autonomous vehicles, will take the reins from Mr. Fields..." [Read more](#) *Hmmmm... Very interesting! For those of you that may have thought that SmartDrivingCars weren't important to Ford's future road mapThink again! Alain*



[Australian guidelines for automated vehicle trials invite nationwide testing of new-era technology](#)

Press release, May 24, " Australian governments are taking steps to move to a new era of mobility, with today's launch of national guidelines for trials of automated vehicles. [Guidelines for trials of automated vehicles in Australia](#) is a joint publication of the National Transport Commission (NTC) and Austroads. The guidelines support state and territory road agencies in providing exemptions or permits for trials, and give greater certainty to industry on conditions for trials...." [Read more](#) *Hmmmm... Read the just released [Guidelines](#). Alain*



[Pittsburgh Welcomed Uber's Driverless Car Experiment. Not Anymore.](#)

C. Kang, "When Uber picked this former Rust Belt town as the inaugural city for its driverless car experiment, Pittsburgh played the consummate host." "You can either put up red tape or roll out the red carpet," Bill Peduto, the mayor of Pittsburgh, said in September. "If you want to be a 21st-century laboratory for technology, you put out the carpet."

Nine months later, Pittsburgh residents and officials say Uber has not lived up to its end of the bargain. Among Uber's perceived transgressions: The company began charging for driverless rides that were initially pitched as free. It also withdrew support from Pittsburgh's application for a \$50 million federal grant to revamp transportation. And it has not created the jobs it proposed in a struggling neighborhood that houses its autonomous car testing track...." [Read more](#) *Hmmmm... Details are important, especially when you have to go from Self-driving to Driverless for it to make any sense financially. Alain*



[Interviewing Truck Drivers at a Crossroads](#)

T. Gabriel, May 22, "...Their work was tough, often lonely, and the stories poured out of them as though people beyond their fraternity had rarely asked about it. As one of the first drivers I interviewed, Greg Simmons, 54, from Hastings, Fla., put it — his words ended up in the headline of the article — "We're throwaway people. Times Insider delivers behind-the-scenes insights from The New York Times. Visit us at Times Insider and follow us on Twitter. Questions or feedback? Email us.

Truck drivers are everywhere on our highways, undergirding the American economy, but most of us know little about their work and personal lives beyond musty stereotypes from the days of CB radio. Most truckers were quick to disabuse me of any notion that life on the open road holds romantic allure...." [Read more](#) *Hmmmm... It is a very tough job, one of the most dangerous and they need technology to improve their workplace, not to take it away. Alain*

Forbes [Morgan Stanley Sees A \\$70 Billion Self-Driving Startup In Alphabet's Waymo](#)

A. Ohnsman, May 23, "...The assessment by analysts Brian Nowak and Adam Jonas was undertaken after a surprise announcement that Waymo and No. 2 U.S. rideshare company Lyft planned to collaborate on testing of self-driving systems on Lyft's platform. If the companies ultimately work together, it would be a big revenue generator for Waymo under a scenario

created by the analysts that assumes it could generate \$1.25 per mile for the tech firm..." [Read more](#) *Hmmmm... Very interesting!*
Alain

Forbes [Nvidia And Waymo Grab Early Lead In First Lap Of Self-Driving Car Race](#)

A. Ohnsman, May 22, "It's too soon to declare a winner in the long race to perfect self-driving cars but Nvidia and Alphabet's Waymo (created to commercialize Google's automated vehicle R&D) have notched successes in both technology and strategic partnerships. Don't count anyone out yet, though, as the Intel-Mobileye-BMW-Delphi alliance grows increasingly formidable and Elon Musk's Tesla is hard at work forging its own path..." [Read more](#)
Hmmmm... We are still at Absolute (Kelvin) Zero, but those two are out in front. Alain



[Uber hires Raquel Urtasun to lead a new ATG self-driving unit in Toronto](#)

D. Etherington, May 8 "...Uber is expanding its Advanced Technologies Group (ATG) with a new office in Toronto, headed by local AI researcher Raquel Urtasun, a University of Toronto professor and the Canada Research Chair in Machine Learning and Computer Vision. Urtasun joins Uber in a senior role at Uber's ATG, at a time when the organizational unit, which drives most of Uber's work on autonomous driving, is in need of more stability at the top.

Urtasun's work on self-driving technology in general, and specifically with perception algorithms that help autonomous vehicles take better measure of their surroundings, have made her an influential figure in the growing self-driving space. She joins a number of other top AI researchers coming out of University of Toronto who have gone on to secure positions of importance at major tech firms; U of T AI pioneer Geoffrey Hinton, who heads Google Brain's Canadian operations, is another." [Read more](#) *Hmmmm... Very nice. Congratulations Raquel!*
Alain



[When the Robots Reach the Road](#)

B. Lindbergh, May 18, "The Ringer's Ben Lindbergh, who still doesn't have a driver's license, investigates how far away we are from a driverless future, the utopian (and dystopian) visions of what a driverless world could look like, the hurdles that have to be cleared, and whether driverless cars can arrive in time to save him (and other licenseless citizens) the trouble of ever learning to parallel park." [Listen to PodCast](#) *Hmmmm... Entertaining Alain*



[Germany adopts self-driving vehicles law](#)

May 12, "Germany cleared the way for its giant automotive industry to develop and test self-driving cars, when the upper house of its parliament approved on Friday a law setting out the conditions under which they could take to German roads.

Under the law, first mooted by Chancellor Angela Merkel last year, a driver must be sitting behind the wheel at all times ready to take back control if prompted to do so by the

autonomous vehicle...." [Read more](#) *Hmmm... Of course, this is a 'Self-driving' law that effectively forbids 'Driverless' so as to protect the fundamental business model of German car manufacturers. Alain*

CR [In Self-Steering Race, GM Maps New Path With Super Cruise](#)

J. Plungis, May 3, "GM's new Super Cruise feature could represent a breakthrough in the race to build smarter autonomous vehicles because it not only steers, brakes, and adjusts speed for the driver, it also uses infrared cameras to assess whether the driver is paying enough attention. The updated new-production version of Super Cruise, unveiled at this year's New York International Auto Show, will be available as an option for the 2018 Cadillac CT6 later this year...." [Read more](#) *Hmmm... Essentially an advertisement, but hopefully this puts Cadillac on notice to finally release this product. Let's see if Cadillac make you also buy "Corinthian Leather", is pre-ordered by dealers, is sold by the sales team and is priced. Alain*

Los Angeles Times [Driverless cars are the future, and the ugly battle to dominate the field is on](#)

R. Mitchell, May 16, "...The most powerful weapon, along with the cash to make use of it, is intellectual property.

"When you own the I.P. for autonomous technology, that's a huge asset," Keeney said. "That's who's going to own the economics of this market."

And who stands to gain the most? Whoever is first to market, Keeney said. That's because data collection is crucial to perfecting robot car technology, and the sooner technology hits the road, the more data stream back to improve the systems. Which explains the bare-knuckles nature of the Waymo-Uber battle...." [Read more](#) *Hmmm... Seeking Domination of emerging markets has never been pretty... Railroad Barons, Big Oil, Electricity, Telegraph, Telephone, Computer Operating Systems, Internet Search, eCommerce, ... Alain*

Techstination [Intel sees big growth opportunity in self driving cars: Chief](#)

[Architect Jack Weast](#)

F. Fishkin, May 23 [Listen to this interview](#) *Hmmm... OK*
Alain

Some other thoughts that deserve your attention

AECOM [40 Proposed U. S. Transportation & Water Infrastructure Projects of Major Economic Significance](#)

T Horst, R Mudge, R. Ellis & K. Rubin, Fall 2016, " In recognition of the important role that public works infrastructure plays in supporting national economic growth, the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury), on behalf of the Build America Investment Initiative, commissioned this study. Its objective is to identify 40 proposed transportation and water infrastructure projects in the United States of major economic significance, but whose completion has slowed or is in jeopardy.¹ This study provides the public with a picture of how, if completed, these proposed infrastructure projects would have a positive impact on national and regional economic activity,

such as reducing congestion, improving safety and reliability, decreasing flood hazard, and other benefits....

... As a group, the 40 projects highlighted in this study return between \$3.50 and \$7.00 for every dollar of capital expenditure." [Read More](#) *Hmmm... Who doesn't want to make 3.5 -> 7 x on their investment. Certainly worth a place in the mix. Alain*



[A roadside test for texting and driving?](#)

F. Kunkle, May 18, "Ben Lieberman, whose son was killed in a crash involving a distracted driver six years ago, wants to find a way to stop drivers from texting and driving before other teens are killed.

He has given talks at schools. He has attended law enforcement conferences. He has seen people throw up their hands over the lack of a reliable field test to determine for sure whether a driver in a crash had been texting around the time of impact.

"I kept hearing over and over again, there's no such thing as a Breathalyzer for distracted driving," Lieberman said. "So I asked why not?" Now such a device seems close at hand. But Lieberman has also found that lawmakers and others, citing privacy concerns, are reluctant to embrace..." [Read More](#) *Hmmm... Unfortunately, "... after a crash..." is too late. Band-aids are good, but crashes need to be avoided and that can only come from the widespread adoption of Automated Crash Avoidance technology that actually works. Alain*

[On the More Technical Side](#)

<http://orfe.princeton.edu/~alaink/SmartDrivingCars/Papers/>

[Half-baked stuff that probably doesn't deserve your time](#)



[Cars With Advanced Safety Systems: Detailed list of cars with features that help drivers avoid or mitigate collisions](#)

Apr 26, "Need a new car? Then consider one with active safety systems. Manufacturers are building cars with systems that can help you avoid or mitigate a crash in all sorts of situations, such as closing in on another car too quickly, changing lanes into an unseen car in a blind spot, or simply backing out in a busy parking lot.

Key active safety systems include:..." [Read more](#) *Hmmm... Good news... Great list of Active Safety Feature. Bad news...The exhaustive list of Make/Model-Feature uses a completely different naming systems for the features which must be totally confusing to Consumers, CR's customers. Plus, there is zero attempt by CR to try to tell its customers the extent to which these systems work or don't work. I understand that this is not easy to do, but to put out what you have have not come close in "...there remains the challenge in interpreting each manufacturer's offerings, each with their own unique name, and then figuring out which trim and/or option is necessary to get the gear..." Alain*

[C'mon Man!](#) (These folks didn't get/read the memo)



[To prepare Louisiana for driverless vehicles, DOTD signs \\$2 million consulting contract](#)

W. Nobles < May 16 "The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development has established a \$2 million contract with three out-of-state companies as the state continues to get up to speed in the race to deploy driverless vehicles onto public roads.

The "multi-year" deal to research and plan for both connected and autonomous vehicles and their impact on state roads involves a partnership between Arcadis U.S., Inc., California-based Iteris, Inc., and Texas-based Alliance Transportation Group, Inc., according to a released statement from Arcadis. Arcadis is headquartered in Amsterdam..." [Read more](#) *Hmmm...*

Forwarded from an Anonymous SDC reader... "We could have saved La some big bucks, or made a bundle: Here is my report:

- **Automated vehicles** – *Maintain paint striping on the roads and let AV's go wherever they want.*
- **Connected vehicles** – *Do nothing, wait for the telecoms to set up 5G*
Can I have the \$2 million now?! [C'mon LaDoT!](#) Want to buy a bridge? Alain

Calendar of Upcoming Events:



[AV Policy Series](#)

June 2, 2017

**American Institute of Architects,
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