Establishing the Governor’s Advisory Council on Connected and Automated Vehicles

I, Mark Dayton, Governor of the State of Minnesota, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, do hereby issue this Executive Order:

Whereas, the State of Minnesota is a global center for innovation and opportunity with a highly educated and entrepreneurial workforce and welcoming business climate;

Whereas, the State of Minnesota is supportive of public-private collaborations for the research and development of the connected and automated vehicles;

Whereas, the widespread adoption of connected and automated vehicles will transform the future of transportation, commerce, mobility, workforce, land-use, and public safety;

Whereas, the widespread adoption of connected and automated vehicles will positively impact public health by reducing injuries, traffic congestion, and air pollution;

Whereas, there are approximately 400 vehicle crash fatalities in Minnesota each year and human error contributes to approximately 94 percent of all serious and fatal crashes;

Whereas, connected and automated vehicles technologies are evolving rapidly, developing new capabilities including the ability to communicate with infrastructure and with other vehicles, and drive safely without a human operator;

Whereas, the development of connected and automated vehicle technologies has the potential to support economic growth, create high-skilled jobs, and promote business opportunities;

Whereas, Minnesota’s diverse weather conditions provides significant advantages for the testing of connected and automated vehicles;
Whereas, the widespread adoption of connected and automated vehicles will dramatically change how public transportation infrastructure is utilized, how traffic regulations are structured, and how public investments in infrastructure are made;

Whereas, the development of connected and automated vehicles could help eliminate transportation barriers that leave individuals with disabilities, elderly, and low-income individuals in urban and rural areas disconnected from jobs and educational opportunities; and

Whereas, collaboration and coordination among cities, counties, states, businesses, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations is needed to capture the opportunity presented by the widespread adoption of connected and automated vehicles.

Now, Therefore, I hereby order that:

1. The Governor’s Advisory Council on Connected and Automated Vehicles (“Advisory Council”) is established to study, assess, and prepare for the transformation and opportunities associated with the widespread adoption of automated and connected vehicles.

2. The Advisory Council will develop recommendations for changes in state law, rules, and policies to maximize the benefits and prepare for the widespread adoption of automated and connected vehicles.

3. Charles Zelle, the Commissioner of Transportation and Christopher Clark, President of Xcel Energy-Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota shall serve as Co-Chairs of the Advisory Council.

4. The Advisory Council must consist of thirteen other members appointed by the Governor with relevant experience in finance, transit, higher education, workforce training, insurance, automotive industry, advocacy, freight, labor, public safety, technology, or local government.

5. The Advisory Council shall also include the following fourteen ex-officio members:
   a. Commissioner of Agriculture;
   b. Commissioner of Commerce;
   c. Commissioner of Employment and Economic Development;
   d. Commissioner of Health;
   e. Commissioner of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board;
   f. Commissioner of Minnesota Information Technology Services;
   g. Commissioner of Public Safety;
   h. Commissioner of Revenue;
   i. Chair of the Metropolitan Council;
   j. Executive Director of the Minnesota Council on Disability;
   k. One Member of the Majority Party in the Minnesota Senate;
   l. One Member of the Minority Party in the Minnesota Senate;
   m. One Member of the Majority Party in the Minnesota House of Representatives; and
   n. One Member of the Minority Party in the Minnesota House of Representatives.
6. The Advisory Council has the following duties:
   a. Consult with governmental entities, communities experiencing transportation barriers, transportation stakeholders, the automotive industry, businesses, labor, technology companies, advocacy groups, and educational institutions.
   b. Prepare and submit a report to the Governor, the chairs and minority leads of the Minnesota House and Senate Transportation and Public Safety committees, and the Minnesota Legislature by December 1, 2018 that recommends changes to statutes, rules, and policies in the following areas:
      i. Transportation infrastructure and network;
      ii. Cyber security and data privacy standards;
      iii. Vehicle registration, driver training, licensing, insurance, and traffic regulations;
      iv. Promotion of economic development, business opportunities, and workforce preparation; and
      v. Accessibility and equity for all Minnesotans, with a particular focus on rural communities, elderly Minnesotans, Minnesotans with disabilities, low-income communities, communities of color, and American Indians.
   c. The Advisory Council will provide advice and support to the Governor, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Public Safety, and other governmental entities to support the testing and deployment of connected and automated vehicles.

7. The Commissioners of Transportation and Public Safety in coordination with other relevant state agencies will:
   a. Establish program and guidelines for development, testing, and deployment of connected and automated vehicle technologies;
   b. Support safe and effective testing and use of connected and automated vehicles, at every level of autonomy, including driverless technology, in real life situations as necessary to meet industry needs; and
   c. Protect individual and industry data as classified under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act.

8. Minnesota Department of Transportation shall convene agency leadership to form the Interagency Connected and Automated Vehicle Team to implement this Executive Order, including the following steps:
   a. The Interagency Connected and Automated Vehicle Team shall consist of the designees of the Departments Agriculture, Commerce, Employment and Economic Development, Health, Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board, Minnesota Information Technology Services, Public Safety, Revenue, Metropolitan Council, and Transportation;
   b. The Interagency Connected and Automated Vehicle Team will ensure interagency coordination and collaboration in developing cross agency policies and programs to strategically advance and prepare the State of Minnesota for adoption of connected and automated vehicles; and
   c. The Interagency Connected and Automated Team will provide operational support to the Advisory Committee.
This Executive Order is effective fifteen days after publication in the State Register and filing with the Secretary of State, and shall remain in effect until rescinded by proper authority or until it expires in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 4.035, subdivision 3.

In Testimony Whereof, I have set my hand on this 5th day of March, 2018.

Mark Dayton  
Governor

Filed According to Law:

Steve Simon  
Secretary of State