

Connected and Autonomous Vehicle (CAV) Policy Paper

This document serves to amend the Minnesota Council on Disability (MCD) Transportation Position Paper. This policy paper discusses the implications of CAV technologies for Minnesotans with disabilities and outlines the Council's position on policy impacting the development of CAVs.

The Opportunity

According to the CDC, approximately 1 in 4 people in the United States has a disability (or 81 million Americans). Transportation is a key support that allows individuals to fulfill civic responsibilities and enjoy civil rights. Mitigating transportation obstacles would enable employment opportunities for approximately 2 million individuals with disabilities. Tapping into this talent pool is critically needed in Minnesota, given the realities of the state's workforce shortage. Additionally, transportation independence for people with disabilities can save \$19 billion annually in healthcare expenditures.

Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CAV) as a Solution

"As new transportation technologies such as on-demand mobility solutions and, in the near future, autonomous vehicles enter the mainstream they offer significant potential for reducing transportation obstacles for Americans with disabilities."

Minnesota Council on Disability Recommendations

1. MCD recommends that a disability coalition be developed and serve to engage with the State of Minnesota and private companies aiming to operate CAV technology in this state. Stakeholders from all segments of the disability community should be represented and engaged.
2. Public-Private Partnerships involving the State of Minnesota should develop pilot programs for autonomous vehicles with a focus on fostering independence and enhanced mobility for the disability community and aging population.
3. No legal requirement for a driver license, steering wheel, or pedals for Level 4 or 5 vehicles.
4. Vehicle structure and software designs should be fully accessible for all disabilities.
5. Consumers with disabilities must be able to enter and secure themselves independently.