



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## AUTONOMOUS DRIVING WORK GROUP

Nicholas Donohue  
Secretary of Transportation

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### Autonomous Driving Workgroup

[2025 Va. Acts ch. 498 \(HB2627\)](#)

### **April 24, 2026 Meeting**

### **Minutes – DRAFT**

#### **Meeting date, time, and location:**

Friday, April 24, 2026, 1 pm

VDOT Lockwood Auditorium, 9120 Lockwood Blvd, Mechanicsville, VA 23116

#### **Workgroup convened by:**

Deputy Secretary of Transportation Laura Schewel

#### **Workgroup members present:**

Senator Lamont Bagby

Senator J.D. “Danny” Diggs

Senator Kannan Srinivasan

Delegate David Reid

Delegate Jackie Hope Glass

Delegate Brianna Sewell

Virginia State Police (Major Ron Maxey)

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

(Assistant Commissioner Patrick Harrison)

Virginia Department of Transportation

(Assistant State Traffic Operations Engineer Mena Lockwood)

#### **Workgroup members absent:**

Delegate Terry Austin

Delegate Jason Ballard

**Summary:**

This was the Work Group’s first meeting of 2026.

Attendees were not required to sign in, but a wide range of stakeholders were present, including representatives of autonomous driving companies and technology associations, labor groups, trucking, airports, local government groups, and trial lawyers.

As set forth in the Agenda, the Work Group heard the following presentations:

2026 Legislative Session Summary <i>(Joshua Heslinga, VDOT Director of Governance and Legislative Affairs)</i>
Work Group Organizational Update <i>(Joshua Heslinga, VDOT Director of Governance and Legislative Affairs)</i>
Summary of Areas of Interest from Legislative Review <i>(Tammy Trimble, Ph.D., Virginia Tech Transportation Institute)</i>
Autonomous Driving Systems Safety Scan <i>(Noah Goodall, Ph.D., P.E., Virginia Transportation Research Council)</i>

The latter two presentations drew questions from workgroup members and some comments from stakeholders.

In addition, both workgroup members and stakeholders participated in discussion of the work group’s goals and tasks ahead, as it works to complete its meetings and report in the timeframe set forth in the legislation.

Legislative members noted a desire to have comprehensive legislation in 2027, to consider what should be in legislation vs. subsequent regulations and what approach should be taken to legislation (e.g., piloting vs. full deployment), to learn from other states while not necessarily just copying from elsewhere, to act expeditiously while not carelessly or without deliberation, and to proceed in a way that promotes public trust through measurable standards, transparency (including in testing), and accountability.

Labor representatives expressed a desire for concrete recommendations and comprehensive planning for labor and workforce and for Virginia to proceed in a way that's safe for workers and all road users.

Also mentioned in discussion:

- Distinctions between lighter and heavier vehicles (e.g., tractor trailers vs cars).
- The fact that transportation is inter-state, and the potential impediment of a patchwork of requirements and laws.

- Use at airports should take into account the particular and critical needs of airports, and there should be operational data that addresses special circumstances at airports.
- A need for testing and inspection of vehicles in a robust and transparent way.
- Thinking of legislation as being iterative, especially in developing technology.

No votes were taken.

Deputy Secretary Schewel concluded the meeting at approximately 2:15 pm.

The meeting was streamed live (for viewing only, not remote participation) on [YouTube.com/@VDOTLIVE](https://www.youtube.com/@VDOTLIVE), and [a recording may be viewed there](#) for complete information regarding the discussion and other content of the meeting.

The presentations and meeting handouts were posted on April 23 on the [Commonwealth Calendar page for this meeting](#) and continue to be available to view or download from the “Agenda” link there.

Anyone interested in providing written comments continues to be able to do so at <https://publicinput.com/autonomousdriving>