

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 1/14/16****DOT Announcement to Make Self-Driving Cars a Reality**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Today, Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx made a major announcement regarding automated vehicles at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. The announcement was in line with the current Administration's promise to bring the American Transportation system into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The Secretary outlined a three-prong strategy to encourage the development and use of autonomous or self-driven vehicles in the future:

- The NHTSA will develop a series of Best Practices for safely operating autonomous vehicles within six months
- The DOT will look into exempting up to 2500 vehicles from various safety standards, and engage automobile manufacturers while drafting new safety standards, to help develop the autonomous vehicle program
- The President will call on Congress to allocate \$4 billion on the development of self-driving cars.

"The president's proposal allows us to test automated and connected vehicle systems in different corridors and different states and to work with industry to ensure an effective interoperability framework," he said. "The president's proposal, with its combination of public and private effort is the right way to drive innovation in the transportation sector."

Aii's Executive Director, Shane Skelton is excited about this announcement to increase safety on U.S. roads. "Not long ago, autonomous vehicles were a fantasy at best and a safety hazard at worst. It is beyond exciting to see how innovation in one of America's proudest industries can bring such rapid change and bring us closer to a reality where we can improve safety while introducing a completely new technology to our roads."

**The Alliance for Innovation and Infrastructure (Aii)** is a U.S.-based nonprofit committed to recognizing the nation's need for improved infrastructure and highlighting innovative and effective strategies to address these issues related to energy, transportation, and technology advancements.

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