



METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

**Agenda Item 3f**  
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## *Memorandum*

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: April 7, 2017

FR: Executive Director

W. I. 1131

RE: AB 1444 (Baker): Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority Demonstration Project

### **Background**

Assembly Bill 1444 (Baker) authorizes the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) to conduct a demonstration project for testing shared autonomous vehicles (SAVs) not equipped with a steering wheel, brake pedal, accelerator or an operator inside the vehicle. The bill limits testing to a demonstration program area within the City of Dublin and includes safety and operational parameters almost identical to those outlined for the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) GoMentum pilot project, which was authorized in 2016 by AB 1592 (Bonilla), a bill MTC supported.

### **Recommendation: Support**

#### **Discussion**

Current law restricts the operation of autonomous vehicles that do not require a driver – or vehicles without a steering wheel, brake pedal, accelerator and operator – on public roads, including for testing purposes. The California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is in the process of updating regulations to allow for the testing and deployment of autonomous vehicles on public roads, including AVs without a driver. However, DMV has not announced a date by which they anticipate finalizing the proposed regulations.

In 2016, CCTA was authorized to operate a limited pilot program to test driverless vehicles on public roads at GoMentum station and Bishop Ranch in Contra Costa County. LAVTA is seeking to partner with CCTA's GoMentum project to explore SAV technology as a tool for first/last mile connections to mass transit systems. AB 1444 would allow LAVTA to move forward with this partnership and begin testing on public roadways in Dublin.

MTC staff recommends a support position on AB 1444 to enable LAVTA to test and deploy SAV technology. This is consistent with the Commission's 2017 Legislative Advocacy Program to support expanding the CCTA pilot program to other Bay Area jurisdictions interested in testing autonomous vehicles.

### **Known Positions**

#### **Support**

Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority  
Alameda County Transportation Commission

#### **Oppose**

None on file

  
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Steve Heminger

SH: ggd