CATES

Center for Advanced Transportation and Energy Solutions

June 19, 2017

SeaTac, Washington to explore autonomous vehicle applications for community benefit

City of SeaTac has begun a five-month project with the Center for Advanced Transportation and Energy Solutions (CATES) that will conduct research on the viability of the City becoming a Center of Municipal Excellence in autonomous, driver-less vehicle deployment for cost-effective public benefit. One of the potential examples of this technology application to be explored is the use of driver-less shuttle mini-buses or vans on City roads providing supplementary service between SeaTac Airport and hotel locations. Another example would be small, quiet, electric shuttles connecting light rail stations and transit centers with residential neighborhoods. Vehicles such as these have the potential to provide mobility that is safer, less expensive, and non-polluting compared to today's available alternatives.

CATES will develop an Action Plan document that provides guidance to the City on whether and how to proceed on developing and implementing processes of learning, teaching, fundraising, and procurement of new technology applications for using high-tech autonomous vehicles to provide better mobility in the City of SeaTac. Active engagement and collaboration will be sought with citizen and business interests, neighboring jurisdictions, Port of Seattle, King County Metro, Sound Transit, non-governmental technology or mobility providers, and others like members of the ACES Northwest Network who step forward with an interest in this topic. All of the work in this project will be consistent with the June 7, 2017 State of Washington Executive Order 17-02 on autonomous vehicle testing and technology.

An introduction to the project will be provided to City officials and the public by the CATES executive director in a meeting at SeaTac City Hall, Riverton Room 128, on Thursday, June 29, 5 to 7 PM.

SeaTac is a municipality with a population of about 28,000 residents and 10 square miles of territory, located halfway between the cities of Seattle and Tacoma. Within the city limits are 79 center-line miles of public roads. Sea-Tac International Airport is located entirely within the city boundaries. The City of SeaTac operates under the Council-Manager form of government, consisting of seven elected Council members and a professional City Manager hired by the City Council. Since its founding in February 1990, the City has improved its roadways including International Boulevard, and provided sidewalks and medians to improve safety. The City works closely with four neighboring cities, Puget Sound Regional Council, Port of Seattle, King County Metro, Sound Transit, and State of Washington on transportation issues, including research and development topics like the one announced here. The City website is http://www.ci.seatac.wa.us/.

CATES is a non-profit policy research & design organization headquartered in Seattle. It carries out technical and management consulting, provides policy advisory services to governments and businesses, and conducts contract research on road vehicle automation and electrification. Past clients include Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State University, Graham Environmental Sustainability Institute at University of Michigan, and the three King County Transportation Boards. The CATES website is http://aboutcates.org.

Points of contact:

William Appleton, P.E., Public Works Director	John Niles, Executive Director
City of SeaTac	CATES
206-973-4741, wappleton@ci.seatac.wa.us	206-781-4475, jniles@alum.mit.edu
Project Monitor	Lead Researcher