

A RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING GREENVILLE COUNTY AS A PILOT SITE IN SOUTH CAROLINA FOR AUTOMATED VEHICLE DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT, AND TESTING.

WHEREAS, Greenville County Council recognizes that automated vehicle technology, alternative fuel research, and intelligent transport systems have potential to revolutionize transportation and connectivity, to reduce accidents, energy consumption, and pollution, thus reducing the costs of congestion, and saving governments and individuals billions of dollars in future mobility costs; and

WHEREAS, Automated technology has progressed rapidly and self-driving vehicles, now being tested by Google and others on roads and highways in the United States, as well as Greenville undergraduate engineering students who automated an electric vehicle assembled by Star EV in Simpsonville, and demonstrated it in Washington, D.C. on June 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Research and development to refine the technology for automated vehicles as well as the manufacture of the automation components represents a future multi-billion dollar industry; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina can become a leader of this “disruptive” technological movement, utilizing our universities, research centers, and innovative corporations to create an early adopter environment, promoting a responsive and inviting location for development of this evolving industry and the jobs associated with it; and

WHEREAS, Greenville County has a growing nucleus of engineers and researchers interested in automating electric vehicles and developing prototypes of electric autonomous vehicles, as well as studying the potential psychological and economic impacts of the new “disruptive” technology; and

WHEREAS, Greenville County would be an ideal pilot site because of its wide range of automotive traffic patterns, rural and urban driving situations, skilled workforce, strong universities, sites for research and development at Clemson University’s International Center of Automotive Research and SC-TAC’s International Transport Innovation Center, as well as corporate transportation research leaders like Michelin America, BMW Manufacturing, Proterra, Kemet, Bosch, and General Electric; and

WHEREAS, Using Greenville County as a pilot site will assist the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the South Carolina General Assembly and the South Carolina Department of Transportation with crafting policy and model legislation necessary to maximize the social benefits that autonomous vehicle technology will enable.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Greenville County Council does hereby consent to working with State Officials to create a collaborative environment with the necessary approvals to authorize Greenville County as a pilot site for research, development and testing of autonomous vehicle technology, and in doing so, encourage related technology interests to consolidate in

Greenville County and establish an ecosystem for people and companies to design, test and develop automated vehicles, infrastructure, communications, and control systems as well as to provide leadership in the development of industry standards and guidance for the creation of Federal and State regulations.

ADOPTED IN REGULAR MEETING THIS ___ DAY OF _____, 2015.

GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Bob Taylor, Chairman
Greenville County Council

ATTEST:

Theresa B. Kizer
Clerk to Council

Joseph M. Kernell
County Administrator