



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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Representatives Kuglitsch & Neylon Support Gov. Walker's Autonomous Vehicle Executive Order

Madison— Today State Representatives Mike Kuglitsch (R-New Berlin) and Adam Neylon (R-Pewaukee) issued the following statements in response to Governor Scott Walker's Executive Order #245, creating a Steering Committee on Autonomous and Connected Vehicle Testing and Deployment:

Rep. Kuglitsch: "When we met with the Governor's office to discuss what an executive order would look like, he was both receptive and optimistic of the idea, and we applaud him for his leadership on this issue. This is the first step towards unprecedented economic development that this state has never seen before. The Governor's efforts to establish the Steering Committee, made up of the key stakeholders who will ensure that public safety is first and foremost when it comes to self-driving vehicles."

Rep. Neylon: "We believe putting together this committee affords Wisconsin the opportunity to come together and discuss the best way to move forward as a state while embracing self-driving technologies. This puts Wisconsin in a better position to capitalize on the AV proving grounds designation by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Wisconsin's uncertain climate and diverse topography is very desirable for autonomous vehicle researchers and engineers. This, along with the Governor's executive order, will help make Wisconsin a leader in AV technology research and development."

The Executive Order creates a steering committee, which will be chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Transportation or his designee, and 19 other individuals from state agencies and outside groups. The steering committee is tasked with producing a final report outlining findings and recommendations for autonomous and connected vehicle testing and deployment, and submitting the report to the Governor by June 30, 2018.

Both Rep. Kuglitsch and Rep. Neylon have been leaders in the legislature for embracing new and innovative technologies. Rep. Kuglitsch has authored legislation allowing driverless delivery vehicles on Wisconsin's sidewalks; Rep. Neylon has had public hearings on autonomous vehicles, drones, and authored legislation creating a grant program for high school students wanting to start a competitive robotics team.

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