



# FACT SHEET

## COORDINATING STATE POLICIES, LAWS, AND REGULATIONS FOR AUTOMATED DRIVING SYSTEMS ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

### RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE

NETC 20-4: *Coordinating State Policies, Laws, and Regulations for Automated Driving Systems Across New England*

### STUDYTIMELINE

December 20, 2020 to June 30, 2022

### PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

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### MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.newenglandtransportationconsortium.org/download/6123/>

The New England Transportation Consortium, a cooperative effort of the transportation agencies of the six New England States, funded this research. Through the Consortium, the states pool professional, academic and financial resources for transportation research leading to the development of improved methods for dealing with common problems associated with the administration, planning, design, construction, rehabilitation, reconstruction, operation and maintenance of the region's transportation system.

### Introduction

This project sought to develop a coordinated and consistent multi-state approach to the setting of policies, laws, and regulations within the New England region to support the seamless operation of vehicles equipped with Automated Driving Systems (ADS) across the New England states. A guiding question for the research and analysis was - *How to develop, implement, and provide continuing updates towards a uniform statutory and regulatory approach to facilitate the safe multi-state deployment of ADS-equipped vehicles across the New England region?*

### Methodology

The focus of the research, stakeholder engagement, analysis, and recommendations development was around multi-state ADS operations in consideration of use cases in the short-term (1-2 years) to medium-term (3-5 years). With the guidance of the Technical Committee throughout the project, the project was informed by 4 core phases that track the major sections of the report – (1) Introduction; (2) Discussion of ADS Challenges and Opportunities; (3) Policy, Legal, and Regulatory Considerations; and (4) Project Findings and Recommendations.

### Summary of Recommendations

#### COORDINATION – MOU/REGIONAL ENTITY

Develop a multi-state regulatory approach to ADS testing and deployment that is deliberate around different use cases. Proposed tools include a Memorandum of Understanding signed by each state and exploring the creation of an ADS regional entity to coordinate and streamline processes for ADS deployment.

#### ESTABLISHING ADS POLICIES, LAWS, AND REGULATIONS

Coordinate around the passage of ADS legislation and consider when legislation is warranted and a productive use of resources to advance the safe testing and deployment of ADS in the region. A priority focus is incorporating the concept that a "person" shall include a non-human in the context of ADS-equipped vehicles.

#### PILOTS/DEPLOYMENTS

Draft and approve a regionally focused ADS operations permit prioritizing on-demand ridehailing services, commercial freight, and purpose-built vehicles for local goods movement and delivery.

#### DATA

Support the standardization of ADS-focused data exchange between the public sector and industry, including a more consistent approach to protecting data that may be considered proprietary, confidential, or trade secrets.

#### OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Proactively educate the public and stakeholders about ADS technology and its potential benefits. Outreach should focus on the capabilities for different types of ADS-equipped vehicles through use cases and expected responsibilities for human monitoring, if any.

### Conclusion

With this project, the New England states have taken an important first step in moving their vision of seamless multi-state regional operation of ADS-equipped vehicles towards implementation. Through the research for this project, implementation tools are proposed to support next steps for the New England states, including the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding documenting coordinating actions and the potential leveraging of a regional coordinating entity around ADS testing and deployment.