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Heidi King  
Acting Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20003

**Reference:** Docket No. NHTSA-2019-0036 Removing Regulatory Barriers for Vehicles With Automated Driving Systems Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM)

Dear Acting Administrator King,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to the *Advanced Notice Removing Regulatory Barriers for Vehicles With Automated Driving Systems*. The Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America) believes that continued National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) support for research and guidance is important. The association commends NHTSA for reaching out to industry to understand where there are regulatory barriers in the existing Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) to the testing, compliance certification and compliance verification of motor vehicles with Automated Driving Systems (ADSs) and certain unconventional interior designs.

ITS America is an association of public and private organizations that are focused on advanced vehicle technology, smart cities, and new models for mobility. Our members include automakers, telecom, traditional IT and emerging tech, and consumer apps and industrial electronics. We also include public agencies and non-profits, such as road, transit and other transportation infrastructure operators and the research community focused on bringing new technology from the lab to our roads, cars, buses and trucks. Our objective is to grow our economy and improve our quality of life through innovative technologies that enhance the mobility, safety, security, privacy, sustainability and accessibility of our transportation system in the next decade.

ITS America's key priorities for 2019 have been to establish the foundation for the deployment of automated and connected vehicles. Public confidence in the safety of the technology must be first achieved and then expanded in order for the technology to succeed commercially. ITS America agrees with NHTSA that further research and analysis should be conducted to look at how current FMVSS may (or may not) pose a significant barrier to ADS. Long standing member Virginia Tech Transportation Institute is conducting a study for NHTSA examining technical translations to existing Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and related testing procedure approaches for emerging innovative and non-traditional vehicle designs. ITS America will encourage the auto and tech industry, as well as other research institution members to provide feedback to this work.

As we highlighted in our submission to NHTSA last year, We agree with NHTSA that unconventional seating and flexible seating systems are worth investigating. In particular we see opportunities to revisit passenger seating arrangements that might support people with disabilities. Docking, ingress/egress, seating and occupant protection are obviously important to consider for transit/paratransit vehicles, but they may be relevant in the future for driverless light vehicles that carry passengers for hire. Where automated vehicles designs or operations may come into conflict with FMVSS that require specific traditional designs and manual controls, or where FMVSS test procedures cannot be executed without manual controls, ITS America agrees with NHTSA that these do not represent a barrier per se, as current automated vehicle are "aftermarketed" atop conventional FMVSS compliant vehicles. However, being able to provide additional degrees of freedom in design, while maintaining safety performance is desirable.

ITS America encourages NHTSA to establish a dialogue with the research community and standards bodies to address some of the uncertainties posed by development, standardization and testing of unconventional vehicle designs. NHTSA has highlighted six potential proposals, each having advantages and disadvantages. ITS America

and its members encourage NHTSA to not be too prescriptive and recommend a one-size fits all approach, but consider multiple approaches. ITS America encourages such flexibility, and commits to helping our members work with the agency and others to create the foundation for the deployment of this new life-saving technology.

Sincerely,

/s/ Steven Bayless

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