FACT SHEET: AV POLICY SECTION II: MODEL STATE POLICY

State governments play an important role in facilitating HAVs, ensuring they are safely deployed and promoting their life-saving benefits. The Model State Policy confirms that States retain their traditional responsibilities for vehicle licensing and registration, traffic laws and enforcement, and motor vehicle insurance and liability regimes while outlining the Federal role for HAVs. The Model State Policy supports the establishment of a consistent national framework of laws and policy to govern automated vehicles.

Division of Federal and State Responsibilities

Federal responsibilities include:
- Setting safety standards for new motor vehicles and motor vehicle equipment;
- Enforcing compliance with the safety standards;
- Investigating and managing the recall and remedy of non-compliances and safety-related motor vehicle defects on a nationwide basis;
- Communicating with and educating the public about motor vehicle safety issues; and
- When necessary, issuing guidance to achieve national safety goals

State responsibilities include:
- Licensing (human) drivers and registering motor vehicles in their jurisdictions;
- Enacting and enforcing traffic laws and regulations;
- Conducting safety inspections, when States choose to do so; and
- Regulating motor vehicle insurance and liability.

The Model State Policy

The Model State Policy is intended for States that wish to regulate testing, deployment, and operation of HAVs. The model framework addresses State regulation of the procedures and requirements for granting permission to vehicle manufacturers and owners to test and operate vehicles within a State.

Model framework areas covered include:
- Administrative structure and processes that States can set up to administer requirements regarding the use of public roads for HAV testing and deployment in their States;
- Application by manufacturers or other entities to test HAVs on public roads;
- Jurisdictional permission to test;
- Testing by the manufacturer or other entities;
- Drivers of deployed vehicles;
- Registration and titling of deployed vehicles;
- Law enforcement considerations; and
- Liability and insurance.