Final Report

Introduction and Summary

Under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement's (CFTA) Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table (RCT), parties identified the testing of automated and connected vehicles (AV/CV) as an item for future regulatory cooperation. When added to the RCT's work plan in 2019-2020, it was envisioned that this work could potentially see all jurisdictions adopt one set of guidelines for the testing of these vehicles and align formalized permitting practices for testing. The Working Group assigned for this work plan item was the AV/CV Coordinating Council, which had led (and continues to lead) inter-jurisdictional cooperation in this area.

Based on the collaboration on testing that has been advanced by the AV/CV Coordinating Council since 2019, namely Transport Canada's publishing of the _Guidelines for Testing Automated Driving Systems in Canada Version 2.0_ in August 2021 and the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administration's publication of _Canadian Jurisdictional Guidelines for the Safe Testing and Deployment of Vehicles Equipped with Automated Driving Systems Version 2.0_ in February 2022, the regulatory cooperation work on AV/CVs under the RCT's purview has been deemed complete. Ongoing and future efforts in this realm will continue to be led under the AV/CV Coordinating Council and other federal-provincial-territorial (FPT) organizations works on AV/CVs.

A. Participation in the Cooperation Work

The AV/CV Coordinating Council is a working group comprised of officials from FPT transportation ministries active in, and knowledgeable about, AV/CV policy, technology, and developments in the field. It also includes representatives from road safety and road infrastructure organizations.

The AV/CV Coordinating Council provides three main functions:
1. Gather information on AV/CV activities in Canada from across FPT member organizations.
2. Lead the preparation and delivery of updates and progress reporting to the Council of Ministers and Council of Deputy Ministers Responsible for Transportation and Highway Safety on AV/CV activities and policy issues.
3. Respond to requests for AV/CV information, policy research and analysis, reports and other deliverables that are tasked to the AV/CV Coordinating Council by the Council of Ministers and/or Deputy Ministers.

Membership on the AV/CV Coordinating Council includes:

- Ontario (co-chair)
- Transport Canada (co-chair)
- Alberta
- British Columbia
- Québec
- New Brunswick

- Manitoba
- Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators (CCMTA)
- Transportation Association of Canada (TAC)

B. Issue Identification

AV/CV technology holds the potential to make transportation and mobility options safer, more convenient, integrated, and sustainable. This has prompted jurisdictions to explore ways to test AV/CVs to better understand how this technology functions, how AV/CVs can be used as a tool to solve transportation problems like the first and last-mile barrier to public transit use, and to evaluate the safety of AV/CVs on public roads before widespread deployment.

Canadian provinces and territories have varying levels of enabling statutes to support AV testing. As such the RCT identified a need to share information and clarify roles and responsibilities of federal, provincial, and territorial governments when approving and facilitating trials of AV-equipped vehicles.

C. Activities

The AV/CV Coordinating Council allows for the alignment and collaboration of efforts in the advancement of AV/CV testing and deployment across Canadian jurisdictions. The Coordinating Council has and continues to be actively engaged in a number of AV/CV related activities, such as:

- **Inventory of AV/CV Initiatives in Canada** – The AV/CV Coordinating Council developed an inventory of approximately 100 AV/CV initiatives in Canada involving governments, businesses, academic institutions and non-profit organizations. The inventory was launched in 2020 and serves as a valuable tool for members and stakeholders, such as municipalities, road infrastructure owners and operators.

- **Knowledge Sharing** – Members continue to exchange information on key jurisdictional AV/CV activities including new AV/CV guidance documents (e.g., Canada's Vehicle Cyber Security Guidance), testing frameworks (e.g., Canada's Jurisdictional Guidelines for Safe Testing and Deployment of Highly Automated Vehicles) and other ongoing AV/CV initiatives.

- **Speaker Series** – In 2021-2022, a Speaker Series program was launched to invite guest speakers who are subject matter experts on AV/CV related matters to present at AV/CV Coordinating Council meetings. Speaker Series topics to date include testing AV/CVs on public roads, industry insights, and AV/CVs in transportation planning.

- **AV/CV Equity Study** – In 2021-2022, Transport Canada consulted the AV/CV Coordinating Council on its plan to undertake a new study which seeks to help identify the most effective public sector approach to follow for deploying AV/CVs in a way that advances equity, accessibility and socio-economic inclusion outcomes in transportation for all Canadians.

D. Outcomes

The AV/CV Coordinating Council provided the opportunity for jurisdictions to develop a set of guidelines for the testing of AV/CVs and to align permitting practices for testing. Jurisdictions supported the development of testing guidelines and led the development of a policy framework for Canada to set guiding principles for current and future initiatives and polices related to safe testing and deployment of AV/CVs:

- **The Future of Automated Vehicles in Canada:** The AV/CV Coordinating Council published a report in 2018 that provides an overview of short-, medium-, and long-term policy implications related to the introduction of AV/CVs on public roads.
- **Automated and Connected Vehicle Policy Framework for Canada:** A national framework developed in 2019 by the AV/CV Coordinating Council that provides foundational principles that can help government, industry and academia establish shared objectives for the testing and deployment of AV/CVs on Canadian roads.

Other relevant publications supporting this work included: Transport Canada's *Guidelines for Testing Automated Driving Systems in Canada Version 2.0*, and CCMTA's *Canadian Jurisdictional Guidelines for the Safe Testing and Deployment of Vehicles Equipped with Automated Driving Systems Version 2.0* in February 2022.

In light of the above, at its meeting on February 22, 2022, the RCT deemed that this work was sufficiently advanced to consider the action on AV/CV testing under the RCT's regulatory cooperation work plan completed. Going forward, the AV/CV Coordinating Council will continue to advance AV/CV testing in Canada and is ideally positioned to align efforts to address other issues related to deployment.

As AV/CV technology becomes more prevalent and as traditional and automated vehicles increasingly interact on Canadian roads over the next few decades, governments will need to shift focus from AV/CV testing to the safe deployment of AV/CVs. In the long-term, regulatory cooperation will help to align legislative and regulatory frameworks for the deployment of AV/CVs.