



AGTA News from the Airport Curb



AGTA STAFF MEMBER INTRODUCTION

Misty Richards

Misty Richards serves as Grant Coordinator for the Center for Transportation Research at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. Through an agreement between the university and the Airport Ground Transportation Association, she recently began serving as an administrator for the association.

Prior to joining UT in September 2022, Misty had 12 years of state government experience within the transportation industry as administrative support staff.

To learn more about Misty, visit the AGTA website at: <https://www.agtaweb.org/board-of-directors>.

Join us in welcoming Misty to the AGTA staff!



GROUND TRANSPORTATION NEWS

[Remote Control Rental Cars will Come to You](#)

The Detroit Bureau - Jan. 16, 2023

Las Vegas seems to be the perfect place to test out autonomous and now remote-piloted vehicles.

Perhaps it's the town's "anything goes" attitude, or just the fact that you have a lot of people who need rides inside a fairly compact area with mostly predictable traffic patterns. Either way, Vegas is the place to experience the latest in mobility innovations.

Among the autonomous shuttles and taxis now plying the Las Vegas downtown area in beta mode, you'll now see [Halo.Car](#), which is driverless but not autonomous. Instead, Halo is developing remote control technology where the vehicle is "driven" by a human being in an office using a real-time simulator.

With cameras mounted on the vehicle delivering a virtual view of the road, the remote driver can pilot any of a fleet of Kia Niro EVs to the precise location of a renter. The renter can then drive the car normally. When they're done, they just let Halo know and a remote driver takes over and brings the Kia back to home base.

"Halo is an all-electric, driverless mobility solution where we provide a car on demand through a mobile app," said Bill Reeves, head of hardware for Halo.

Click on the link above to view the rest of this article.

[NFT Plans On-Demand Air Taxi Services With Its Aska 'Flying SUV'](#)

FutureFlight.aero - Jan. 18, 2023

New Future Transportation (NFT), the company behind the [Aska](#) personal eVTOL aircraft billed as a "flying SUV," now says it plans to start offering on-demand air taxi services as early as 2026. However, recently announced plans are based on arrangements that would appear to stretch the current regulatory requirements for commercial flights by building on current practices in the ground-based ride-sharing sector.

The California-based start-up unveiled the four-seat, hybrid-electric Aska A5 "drive-and-fly" eVTOL vehicle [in April 2021](#), when it began collecting pre-orders from private buyers. With four motorized wheels and foldable wings, NFT says the Aska will be able to quickly switch between driving and flying modes, and it's compact enough to park on a driveway or in a garage.

When NFT debuted the first fully functional Aska prototype at the 2023 Consumer Electronics show in Las Vegas earlier this month, the company officially announced its plans to begin offering an on-demand ridesharing service with its Aska vehicles, with operations expected to start in the San Francisco Bay Area in 2026.

Click on the link above to view the rest of this article.

[The ultra-high-speed train between Calgary and Edmonton is adding an extra stop](#)

Daily Hive - Jan. 17, 2023

The [ultra-high-speed train](#) that is planned to travel between Calgary and Edmonton now has another stop in the works.

The train will meet in the middle of Alberta's two biggest cities and stop in Red Deer.

Red Deer is almost the exact midway point between Calgary and Edmonton. It is 147 km from Calgary to Red Deer and 155 km from Red Deer to the Alberta capital.

TransPod Co-founder and CEO Sebastien Gendron says the reason for this decision is all about how much it would help Red Deer.

“It’s really more on the social responsibility aspect because if we bypass Red Deer it’s not going to help the city to grow economically speaking, so for that community and it’s a must. And we want this project to be inclusive and not to do that, only for profit, I would say, even if it’s important, but it’s also important to include everything and to support the economic development of that city.”

Click on the link above to view the rest of this article.

[China Achieves Milestone with Successful Maglev Train Tests](#) **Metro Rail News** - Jan. 18, 2023

CHINA: An ultra-high-speed [Maglev](#) train operating in a low vacuum pipeline is part of a cutting-edge transportation system that China has successfully put through a thorough test.

According to the Global Times on 16th January, when the speed on the 210-meter test path hits 50 kilometres per hour, all systems function correctly.

Researchers working on the project in Datong, Shanxi Province, Central China, said they want to combine railway and aircraft technologies to create an ultra-high-speed mega transport system that runs in low vacuum tubes.

The government-owned China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation (CASIC) team intends to operate maglev trains in a tube with thin air at some point, allowing them to “fly on the ground” at speeds comparable to those of aeroplanes.

While operating the train in a low-vacuum pipeline decreases resistance and noise, two significant issues in rail transportation, the technology of maglev (also known as magnetic levitation) successfully removes friction.

China continues to prioritise developing and promoting high-speed rail to connect more of its vast territory, including not just larger cities but also outlying locations, to travel by train to save time and money for a more significant number of people.

There is just one commercially operational maglev line in China, which runs from Shanghai’s Pudong Airport to the city’s Longyang Road station. The train travels 30 kilometres (19 miles) in roughly seven and a half minutes, reaching 430 kilometres per hour (267 mph).

[Queensland taxi, rideshare drivers issued hundreds of fines for incorrect parking, signage](#) **ABC.net.au** - Jan. 16, 2023

More than 600 fines have been given to Queensland taxi and rideshare drivers found to be operating in violation of industry guidelines.

Transport Minister Mark Bailey told ABC Radio Brisbane Mornings host Rebecca Levingston the enforcement blitz started in December and focused heavily around rides ordered and taken in Brisbane and the Gold Coast on and about December 31.

Authorities intercepted 2,056 taxis, limousines and booked hire vehicles.

Fines were issued for 31 different offences from December 2 to January 15, of varying amounts starting at \$575, and included:

- Failure to display a compliant booked hire sign — 179 fines
- Unauthorised vehicle stopping in a bus zone — 130 fines
- Stop in taxi zone while providing a booked hire service — 57 fines
- Driver failure to carry their driver authorisation – 57 fines
- Stop contrary to continuous yellow edge line – 67 fines

Click on the link above to view the rest of this article.

[Colorado's gig app drivers nearing a breaking point. And this newly elected lawmaker is one of them.](#)

The Denver Post - Jan. 15, 2023

Abdulsalam Mindas chose to work as an Uber and Lyft driver last year because it allowed him to take English classes at a community college in Aurora.

And the money was solid — enough to send hundreds of dollars back to his siblings and parents in his native Sudan, helping them pay school tuition fees and medical bills.

But now it's different, Mindas and other ride-share drivers say. The tech giants are taking more and more of their shares, inflation and gas prices are eating into their take and there's little transparency, they say, over how the companies calculate prices.

For Mindas, what started as an enticing proposition to be his own boss and make decent money turned into an endless cycle of low-wage work — without the benefits of independence.

Click on the link above to view the rest of this article.

[Multi-car charging technology developed by former UCD professor](#)

Independent.ie - Jan. 16, 2023

Ireland is “behind the curve” on charging infrastructure for electric vehicles compared to other European countries, one expert has claimed.

New technology, developed by a former [UCD](#) professor, is now hoping to revolutionise the industry.

Go Eve offers faster, more sustainable and cost-effective charging which can be used by fleets – including Dublin Bus, electrified ambulances and airport taxis – and households.

“If you look at a map of Ireland, public charging facilities are really very poor,” said company co-founder and CEO Hugh Sheehy.

“We’re well behind the curve on electric vehicles and their infrastructure compared to other European countries.”

The DockChain technology, discovered by former UCD professor Robert Shorten, allows multiple parking spaces to be electrified from a single power source, and can reduce charging time to 15 minutes.

Click on the link above to view the rest of this article.

[Longtime Aspen cabbie bucking the rules again](#)

Aspen Daily News - Jan. 13, 2023

Longtime Aspen cab driver Phil Sullivan is running afoul of the law again, having racked up numerous trespassing citations over the last six months after allegedly loitering and soliciting passengers around the Aspen-Pitkin County Airport's curbside pickup area.

The 86-year-old — who does not have a commercial taxi license and operates through his nonprofit, “Free Rides For People Who Need Them” — claims he is being harassed by the airport's contracted security personnel. Often when he shows up to pick up passengers, they contact Pitkin County sheriff's deputies, who reluctantly issue the trespassing tickets, Sullivan said.

The airport has a contract with Allied Universal, a U.S. firm with headquarters in California and Pennsylvania, to provide its security services. On Wednesday, at a regular meeting of the Pitkin Board of County Commissioners, Sullivan pleaded with elected officials to help him maintain his livelihood.

Click on the link above to view the rest of this article.

[Driverless Bus Coming to Hong Kong Airport](#)
IOT World Today - Jan. 12, 2023

Hong Kong International Airport is set to introduce a driverless bus for passengers in 2023.

It is the latest step in an aggressive program to integrate automated transport at the airport that has been put in place over the past few years.

The bus that will be deployed is a J6 model from Chinese manufacturer BYD which uses 10 cameras and GPS locators to deliver its self-driving functionality. There is also a backup system in place that can be used in the event of the main automated system failing. The bus's capability is defined as [Level 4](#) by the Society of Automotive Engineers – fully self-driving in certain conditions.

BYD already has experience in providing autonomous buses for airport use, having taken part in a pilot at Tokyo's Haneda Airport in 2021. On that occasion, it was a larger K9 bus – which can carry up to 57 people – that was trialed. The J6 is smaller and can seat 14.

Click on the link above to view the rest of this article.

[Reimagining the Car Rental Industry](#)
Auto Rental News - Jan. 17, 2023

Some jobs are cooler than others. Test pilots, marine biologists, and Disney Imagineers all have pretty cool jobs. So do futurists — scientists, philosophers, and thinkers — who get paid to envision what our world will look like moving forward. Like science fiction writers, futurists project how the technologies and trends of today will influence emerging inventions and cultural shifts to create the new normal. But unlike writers, they do this not to spin works of fiction, but to advise business and government leaders on how to anticipate and leverage these new developments to stay on the cutting edge.

As businesses plan ahead for the new year, it's worth asking, what would a futurist say about the car rental industry? To play futurist ourselves, let's look at the major trends in the industry today and the emerging technologies that are already reshaping the market to project what renting a car might look like in the next few years.

Click on the link above to view the rest of this article.

[Hertz's Parking Lots Are Filled With Unrented Tesla Model 3 and Model Y](#)
Auto Evolution - Jan. 16, 2023

When Hertz announced buying 100,000 Teslas in 2021, many thought this would be a success story. Hertz confirmed in September that demand for Tesla cars in its fleet has been very strong, although pictures and stories shared on social media paint a different situation.

Hertz wowed everyone in October 2021 when it announced [buying 100,000 Tesla](#) cars in a bid to electrify 25% of its fleet until 2024. Based on Hertz's reports from September last year, the Tesla venture couldn't have been more successful. People flocked to rent electric vehicles, seduced by the low rates and the advantage of not paying for gas for their rentals. Or so said Hertz CEO Stephen Scherr.

"Demand has been very, very solid," [Scherr said](#) in an exclusive Yahoo Finance Live interview in September 2022. "We're seeing demand not just among leisure travelers, but also among corporate travelers, where in fact, corporations want their employees in an electric vehicle to satisfy some of their own carbon footprint objectives."

Click on the link above to view the rest of this article.

[We wouldn't bet on an airport cab in Israel, and neither should you](#)
The Jerusalem Post - Jan. 3, 2023

Walla News conducted an investigation into the messy taxi situation at Ben-Gurion Airport, and the results may not be to your liking.

Anyone who has landed at [Israel's Ben-Gurion Airport](#) in recent years has had to encounter taxi drivers who sneak up on passengers in the Arrivals Hall.

Those who need public transportation, especially on weekends, encounter a thin line of taxi drivers in the official queue. However, again and again stories arise about drivers who picked up tourists from the airport and charged them exorbitant prices, hundreds of percent higher than the meter prices.

This is despite the fact that taxis are the main means of transportation for people flying in. According to data from the Airports Authority, for example, 40% of departing passengers leave the passengers in what amounts to 1.7 million taxi rides per year.

Click on the link above to view the rest of this article.

[UTA offering free or reduced fares in February](#)
KSL News Radio - Jan. 18, 2023

SALT LAKE CITY — Public transit will be more affordable in February 2023.

On Wednesday, the Utah Transit Authority Board along with Salt Lake City Mayor Erin Mendenhall announced cheap or zero-fare days in a campaign dubbed 'All-Star Week: Basketball, zero fare, and clean air.'

This means ten zero-fare days, Feb. 12-21 which is during NBA All-Star week. Additionally, a special ticket-as-fare program will be in place all month.

"We are thrilled to provide zero fare for ten days surrounding the NBA All-Star events hosted by the Utah Jazz." UTA Board Chair Carlton Christensen said, "This is part of our efforts to support the community, boost Utah's economy, and join with our partners in welcoming thousands of visitors to the region and to Utah."

According to a press release, the ten zero fare days associated with the NBA All-Star activities provide free access to UTA's system along the Wasatch Front. The program includes FrontRunner, TRAX all bus services including Ski Bus, Paratransit and UTA On-Demand.

Click on the link above to view the rest of this article.

AIRPORT NEWS

[Parker Technology Partners with Regina International Airport & Platinum Parking to Improve the Airport Parking Experience](#)
Aviation Pros - Jan. 11, 2023

Parker Technology has partnered with Regina International Airport (YQR) and Platinum Parking Canada, the Airport's selected parking operator, to provide customer support in their parking facilities. With Parker Technology's customer service solution, travelers can quickly reach a customer service representative if they experience problems when entering, exiting, or paying for parking.

"Delivering an exceptional customer experience is our top priority at YQR. Parker Technology gives us the peace-of-mind knowing that all customers will be receiving prompt, quality service, no matter the time of day," said Justin Reves, Manager, Customer Experience and Marketing, Regina Airport Authority.

Click on the link above to view the rest of this article.

[Rise in car thefts at Detroit Metro Airport raises security concerns](#)

CBS Detroit - Jan. 18, 2023

ROMULUS, Mich. - When Joe Hebeka returned from a vacation in December, he found the tires on his car, a 2022 Jeep Wagoneer, were stolen.

Hebeka left the jeep at a parking garage at the Detroit Metro Airport. It was sitting on cinderblocks and bricks with damage that would cost him around \$8,000.

"It took a few seconds just for us to comprehend this was really our car," said Hebeka. "I thought maybe this was a mistake. This can't be."

"I thought it was a safe place to park. It's only 100 yards away from an international airport. I assume you can park your vehicle there and it will be safe."

Reports of people targeting cars at the airport's parking garages are becoming more common. Vehicles being stolen seems to be the biggest problem.

Click on the link above to view the rest of this article.

[Newark airport's new, and very Jersey, Terminal A opens today. Everything you need to know.](#)

NJ.com - Jan. 12, 2023

It's 1-million square-feet in size, has 21 gates, screams "you are in New Jersey" through art, food and decor, and has the kind of space and amenities that fliers using Newark Liberty International Airport's old Terminal A could only dream about.

Wake up. The era of [Newark airport's new Terminal A](#) is dawning today.

The \$2.7 billion Terminal A finally opens to air travelers on Thursday after its opening was delayed from Dec. 8 to square away issues with fire alarms and other safety systems.

While much has been written about the massive improvement that the new terminal is compared to the 1970s era building it replaces, here's some information travelers need to know about using the new Terminal A. Visitors can also [find a guide](#) on the Port Authority's [Newark airport](#) website.

Old Terminal A is closed as of Jan. 12, and all operations will be moved to the new building, said CherylAnn Abienz, a Port Authority spokeswoman. Kiss it goodbye. More space, better amenities and less confusion await fliers in the new terminal.

Click on the link above to view the rest of this article.

[For some without a home, airport is source of shelter](#)

Greenwich Time - Jan. 14, 2023

SEATTLE (AP) — The homelessness crisis in Seattle is often highly visible, with many people living in camps, tents, and RVs. But there are those who are trying to stay invisible, often hiding in the jam of travel at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

The Port of Seattle told KUOW it's trying to direct these people into temporary shelter but there are few places in the area for people to go.

A cold wind howls down the tunnel that leads from the light rail station to the airport. That's where Miguel Mendoza is walking as travelers rush by to catch a flight. On a chilly night like this one, Mendoza said he does what he can to stay warm.

"Sometimes I spend nights walking, all night buses," Mendoza said with a backpack slung over one shoulder. "You know, just traveling on buses, trains."

On that night, he took light rail to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport where he planned to find a bench and get some sleep. Mendoza said he has slept at the airport a few times before.

Click on the link above to view the rest of this article.

[Norfolk airport parking garages to stop accepting cash payments starting Saturday](#)

The Virginian-Pilot - Jan. 11, 2023

Next time Hampton Roads vacationers fly out of Norfolk International Airport, it might be wise to remember the credit card and leave the cash at home.

Beginning Saturday, the parking lots and garages at the airport will no longer accept cash payments. Flyers will need to use another form of payment to pay for their parking, including: Apple Pay, Google Pay, credit cards and debit cards that do not require a PIN to use.

The airport board made the decision in the fourth quarter of 2022 after years of declining cash payments at the garages, spokesperson Charles Braden said in an email.

“There were many factors that went into the decision to go cashless, including cost, efficiency, new technologies and security,” Braden said.

For flyers who only have cash, a reverse ATM is located in the departures terminal next to the American Airlines counter. For a fee, the machine will issue a card in exchange for cash. Customers can also pay for their parking before they fly online at norfolkairport.com/parking.

The airport still plans to staff the credit card and self-service lanes at the garages 24 hours a day. No employees will be laid off as part of the decision and will be reassigned, Braden said.

Braden said most of the airport's parking customers already use a payment method other than cash. About 94% of parking revenue comes from credit cards.

Norfolk isn't the first airport to ditch cash payments, he said. Airports in Dallas and Charlotte and Raleigh, North Carolina, have also stopped accepting cash at lots and garages.

[Fly like a pro at the Atlanta airport](#)

Axios Atlanta - Jan. 13, 2023

Having the world's busiest airport in our backyard is a tremendous advantage most times.

But sometimes all those extra people — an [estimated](#) 275,000 passengers pass through every day — can get in the way.

Driving the news: We wanted to help you navigate the crowds. So we asked some of Atlanta's savviest travelers for their hacks.

Arrival tips: “Always do departure drop off on the lower level...always.” — Gabriel Sterling, COO, Georgia Secretary of State's office

“Take MARTA and [leave your gun at home](#).” — Mayor Andre Dickens

Even if you don't live right by a MARTA station, park near one and hop on. Definitely among the most convenient airport metro connections in the country.

Click on the link above to view the rest of this article.
