

PROJECT SUMMARY

White Bear Lake Automated Shuttle Pilot: “Bear Tracks”

Project Location:

White Bear Lake, MN

Start – Finish Date:

August 2022 – March 2024

Project Status:

On-Going

Project Partners:

AECOM
Newtrax
Navya
City of White Bear Lake

MnDOT Project Cost:

\$897,000

Projects with Similar Characteristics:

Autonomous Bus Pilot
Med City Mover
Drive MN
goMARTI

Project Description:

The Bear Tracks Automated Shuttle Pilot was a research project that included the 12-month operation (August 2022-July 2023) of a Level 3 Automated Vehicle (AV) Shuttle along a 1.5-mile-long route in the city of White Bear Lake. The shuttle itself was a self-driving, electric, multi-passenger vehicle that drove at a speed between 10-12 miles per hour. The shuttle could hold up to 11 seat-belted passengers and one wheelchair passenger at a time.

The shuttle’s route along a residential street connected a day program for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, affordable housing, and the community YMCA.

The demonstration was concluded before the projected end date due to the restructuring of the vehicle manufacturer and resultant lack of technical support.

Project Objective:

- Operating the AV shuttle in all weather conditions.
- Increasing accessibility for the disabled/limited mobility communities facing transportation barriers.
- Building awareness of AVs through public engagement efforts.
- Creating a lessons learned model for future AV shuttle deployments across Minnesota.



Figure 1: Bear Tracks Self-Driving Shuttle Route Map

Project Accomplishments:

Pilot evaluation is still underway, and project accomplishments section of summary should be updated accordingly after pilot evaluation is completed.



Key Findings:

Vehicle Technical Support

The demonstration was concluded due to lack of technical support from a restructuring vehicle vendor. This highlights the necessity of partnerships between vehicle and technology providers, and the end users and deployers.

Pilot Evaluation

A final report of the shuttle service is underway.

Lessons Learned:

- Pilot evaluation is still underway, and lessons learned section of summary should be updated accordingly after pilot evaluation is completed.

Potential Next Steps for MnDOT:

- Pilot evaluation is still underway, and potential next steps section of summary should be updated accordingly after pilot evaluation is completed.