



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Municipalities Create Alliance to Actively Promote Connected and Autonomous Vehicle Testing and Integration within our Communities**

OAKVILLE, Ontario, November 17, 2016 – Connected Vehicles (CVs) and Autonomous Vehicles (AVs) are coming much faster than originally estimated. Ontario was the first province in Canada to create a Regulation (Reg. 306/15) allowing AVs to be piloted on its roads. With this regulation in place, municipalities across Ontario must prepare for the imminent arrival of CVs and AVs. In an effort to have all jurisdictions work together, and to help facilitate this co-ordination, Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) has organized the Municipal Alliance for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles in Ontario (MACAVO), best pronounced “Muh-Kay-Vo”.

MACAVO is to bring forward-looking Ontario municipalities together to facilitate CV/AV research, testing and integration within their respective jurisdictions. This provides MACAVO members the opportunity to learn from each other and develop a synchronized set of logistics, policies, and communication channels to help the CV/AV industry move forward in Ontario, while integrating with municipal services.

The first official MACAVO meeting took place on August 9, 2016 and was attended by municipal transportation leaders from: City of Barrie; City of Brampton; Region of Durham; City of Elliot Lake; County of Essex; City of Hamilton; Town of Lakeshore; York Region; and others. The City of Stratford has since joined MACAVO as well. Stratford is particularly an amazing inspiration for the MACAVO team because of the great work that the city has already done in welcoming various technologies. Several other Ontario municipalities have also expressed interest in joining in the near future.

“We openly invite all Ontario municipalities who are prepared to start researching, testing and integrating these technologies in some capacity, to join MACAVO”, said Thomas MacPherson, York Region Manager of Transportation Asset Management and Chair of MACAVO. “Efforts across the province need to be co-ordinated to maximize the long-term benefits that CVs and AVs can provide our communities. At MACAVO, we are ready to work with all CV and AV stakeholders, including: the automobile industry; young entrepreneurs; the education sector; and local, provincial, and federal governments.”

Robert Burlie, P. Eng. and President of OGRA said, “... It is estimated that 50% of all vehicles on our roads will be fully autonomous in the next 15 years and assist all municipalities who are making substantial efforts to improve road safety and ease traffic congestion. This technology is improving so rapidly that there will certainly be other benefits to all our communities and municipalities in Ontario, and will allow our roadways to be completely transformed for better use by pedestrians, cyclists, public transit, vulnerable users and vehicles.”

“Not many people are aware that OGRA played a pivotal role in assisting Ontario’s municipalities in transitioning from horses to automobiles. We see a very similar shift in transportation taking place today, with the move toward connected and driverless automobiles” said Joe Tiernay, OGRA’s Executive Director. “Only this time, the positive effects are expected to be even greater than before, and we want to make sure we are standing alongside our member municipalities, supporting them as they prepare for this historic transition”

MACAVO is hereby requesting the automobile industry, as well as all other CV/AV stakeholders to come forward to begin the collaboration process. In the coming months, MACAVO will set up a work-plan to help drive the team forward with achievable, short- and long- term goals and objectives for CVs and AVs.



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**About Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA)**

The mandate of the Ontario Good Roads Association, a not-for-profit entity, is to represent the transportation and public works interests of Ontario municipalities through advocacy, consultation, training and the delivery of identified services.

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**MACAVO Contact**

Name, Title: Fahad Shuja, OGRA Member Services Coordinator  
Phone: 289-291-6472 x31  
Email: [Fahad@ogra.org](mailto:Fahad@ogra.org)  
Address: 1525 Cornwall Road, Unit 22, Oakville, ON L6J0B2, Canada