

# Peduto urges cities to prepare for changes due to self-driving vehicles

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Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto took the national stage Wednesday with his message of compelling the self-driving vehicle industry to participate in the changing economy in the cities where they operate.

Mr. Peduto spoke at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., to present the results of the National Summit on Design & Urban Mobility the city hosted last month with the American Architectural Foundation. His talk and the report's recommendations followed a lot of what Pittsburgh has done with self-driving developers in the city such as Uber and Ford: Plan early for changes and engage the developers to participate in those changes.

Mr. Peduto presented the conference's "principles for mobility," developed by 120 invited delegates who recommended how cities should adapt to changes in the next five to 20 years. Among other changes, the use of self-driving and shared vehicles is likely to reduce the need for parking facilities and the jobs that go with them and spur the need for curbside pickup and drop-off points.

As a result, cities will have to reduce parking requirements in new developments, decide what to do with existing parking facilities and develop programs to retrain the employees who work there. The key, Mr. Peduto and the report said, is to begin planning before the changes become apparent.

"We know that public policy is notoriously slow," Mr. Peduto said. "There is no time to waste. We will take what comes out of this summit and begin to immediately put it in motion."

# Peduto predicts changes in self-driving economy

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For example, the report urges cities to identify their

goals — such as improving transportation options in poor communities — and work with companies developing self-driving vehicles on pilot projects to help meet those goals.

"Whether promoting adaptive reuse of parking structures and parking lots, redesigning public rights of way that prioritize bicycles and pedestrians access, or better connecting transportation hubs regionally, cities are positioned to lead this process," the report said. "Working together, and starting immediately, we can engineer this mobility revolution to design the future of cities and the best possible outcomes for all."

The principles call for mobility options to be available for everyone; operate safely; share data with cities; improve walkability and mass transit; work collaboratively with cities; be financially self-sustaining; and reduce the overall number of vehicle trips.

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