

Breakout Session # 25

Ethical and Social Implications

Summary of Key Findings and Lessons Learned

- Lots of attention on ethics of crashing, but more pressing challenges in routine driving and vehicle design.
- Ethics are relevant in non-crash events, e.g. decelerating to a stop sign in a way that's considerate to the following vehicle.
- Ethics are also important in no-crash-risk scenarios through social justice and fairness, e.g. ensuring that high resolution maps are created in both wealthy and poor neighborhoods.
- Difficult to show compliance with NHTSA guideline on ethical considerations – what is the right level of transparency, how to demonstrate approach was developed “consciously and intentionally”?
- Respecting customer preference on ethics is challenging, but mostly with privately owned vehicles. Experiences from early automated ride-sharing experiences may provide useful insights here.

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Recommended Action Items

- More research into the limits of utilitarian reasoning in automated vehicle ethics
- Encourage AV developers to comply with NHTSA ethics guidelines (or other future requirements) by demonstrating competency by hiring experts, then integrating them into the entire design process.
- Study early automated TNC deployments for customers' revealed preferences for ethical behavior
- Consider ethics of automated vehicles beyond crash events, considering both routine driving that generates risk, as well as societal, psychological, and economic impacts