

Avenue, Seventh Street between Stewart and Mesquite and Mesquite between Las Vegas Boulevard and Seventh. • Alta Drive, between Rainbow Boulevard and Lorenzi Street, will be closed through May 22. The city of Las Vegas is working on an \$8.7 million flood control improvement project, Traffic on Rainbow and Lorenzi is not expected to be affected, and motorists who typically take Alta are advised to use Charleston Boulevard instead. • Executive Airport Drive from Volunteer Boulevard to Executive Terminal Drive will be closed for two months. Volunteer from the Anthem boundary west to Executive Airport Drive will be under construction but will remain open to motorists. Residents leaving Anthem will be detoured west on Volunteer past Executive Airport Drive to Las Vegas Boulevard. The closures are because of reconstruction of Volunteer and Executive Airport Drive. LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

They also have "adaptive cruise control," which uses lasers to detect fellow motorists on all sides of the car. If the vehicle traveling ahead of the driverless car is too slow, the high-tech car will move over, pass and then return to its original lane.

O'Toole envisions driverless vehicles mingling with traditional cars at first. The driverless vehicle would simply see other cars being objects they detect, but designated lanes similar to highoccupancy lanes could be created for the new cars. Sponsored Links

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The greatest obstacle at this point is, you guessed it, the government, which O'Toole said would rather push high-speed, taxpayer-subsidized trains on us.

It's political, he said.

Driverless vehicles could be the norm by 2018 barring any major hurdles, he said. "They would be institutional and bureaucratic, not technological. Turning vehicles into driverless cars is basically a software update," O'Toole said.

So how exactly would this new technology improve congestion on the stretch between Southern Nevada and Los Angeles or address pollution problems?

O'Toole believes if everyone rode in a driverless vehicle, our highways could accommodate 6,000 vehicles per lane per hour, three times the amount today. Great, so how does that help with pollution and congestion? They would all be moving at consistent speeds and traffic jams would be headaches of the past. Fewer cars idling equals less pollution.

Ultimately, speed limits might be raised because driverless vehicles are viewed by some as safer.

"Collisions are caused by slow reflexes; computers won't have that," O'Toole said.

Europeans are testing an advanced system in which a truck travels along the freeway and sends out a signal behind it. Driverless vehicles can link into the signal and the operator can kick back and nap or read until their desired exit approaches. Then they simply turn the signal off and take control themselves.

This all might sound far-fetched, but it appears the chances of us riding in but not driving our own cars are about as good as any of us riding in a Las Vegas-to-Anaheim high-speed train anytime soon.

If you have a question, tip or tirade, call Adrienne Packer at 702-387-2904, or send an e-mail to roadwarrior@reviewjournal .com. Please include your phone number.

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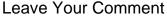
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