# Study: Not all risks solved by self-driving cars

By Tom Krisher
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT – A new study says that while autonomous vehicle technology has great promise to reduce crashes, it may not be able to prevent all mishaps caused by human error.

Auto safety experts say humans cause about 94 percent of U.S. crashes, but the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety study says computer-controlled robocars will stop only about one-third of them.

The group says that while autonomous vehicles eventually will identify hazards and react faster than humans, and they won't become distracted or drive drunk, stopping the rest of the crashes will be a lot harder.

"We're still going to see some issues even if autonomous vehicles might react more quickly than humans do. They're not going to always be able to react instantaneously," said Jessica Cicchino, and institute vice president of research and co-author of the study.

The IIHS studied over 5,000 crashes with detailed causes that were collected by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, separating out those caused by "sensing and perceiving" errors such as driver distraction, impaired visibility or failing to spot hazards until it was too late. Researchers also separated crashes caused by human "incapacitation" including drivers impaired by alcohol or drugs, those who fell asleep or drivers with medical problems. Self-driving vehicles can prevent those, the study found.

However, the robocars may not be able to prevent the rest, including prediction errors such as misjudging how fast another vehicle is traveling, planning errors including driving too fast for road conditions and execution errors including incorrect evasive maneuvers or other mistakes controlling vehicles.

For example, if a cyclist or another vehicle suddenly veers into the path of an autonomous vehicle, it may not be able to stop fast enough or steer away in time, Cicchino said. "Autonomous vehicles need to not only perceive the world around them perfectly, they need to respond to what's around them as well," she said.

Just how many crashes are prevented depends a lot on how autonomous vehicles are programmed, Cicchino said. More crashes would be stopped if the robocars obey all traffic laws including speed limits. But if artificial intelligence allows them to drive and react more like humans, then fewer crashes will be stopped, she said.

"Building self-driving cars that drive as well as people do is a big challenge in itself," IIHS Research Scientist Alexandra Mueller said in a statement. "But they'd actually need to be better than that to deliver on the promises we've all heard."

Partners for Automated Vehicle Education, a group with many self-driving vehicle companies as members, said Thursday that the study incorrectly assumes superior perception and lack of distraction are the only ways autonomous vehicles can drive better than humans.

Autonomous vehicles, for instance, can be programmed to never break traffic laws, which the study blames for 38 percent of crashes. "The assumption that these behaviors could be altered by passengers in ways that so dramatically reduce safety is inconsistent with what our members tell us about the culture they bring to AV development," said a statement from the group, which includes Ford, General Motors, Waymo, Lyft, Daimler, Volkswagen and others.

Study numbers show autonomous vehicles would prevent 72 percent or crashes, the group said, but the vehicles are so complex that the ultimate impact is only a guess.

Yet Missy Cummings, a robotics and human factors professor at Duke University who is familiar with the study, said preventing even one-third of the human-caused crashes is giving technology too much credit. Even vehicles with laser, radar and camera sensors don't always perform flawlessly in all conditions, she said.

"There is a probability that even when all three sensor systems come to bear, that obstacles can be missed," Cummings said. "No driverless car company has been able to do that reliably. They know that, too."

Researchers and people in the autonomous vehicle business never thought the technology would be capable of preventing all crashes now caused by humans, she said, calling that "layman's conventional wisdom that somehow this technology is going to be a panacea that is going to prevent all death."

IIHS researchers reviewed the crash causes and decided which ones could be prevented, assuming that all vehicles on the road were autonomous, Cicchino said. Even fewer crashes will be prevented while self-driving vehicles are mixed with human driven cars, she said.

Virginia-based IIHS is a nonprofit research and education organization that's funded by auto insurance companies.

More than 60 companies have applied to test autonomous vehicles in California alone, but they have yet to start a fully-robotic large-scale ride-hailing service without human backup drivers.

Several companies including Alphabet Inc.'s Waymo and General Motors' Cruise had pledged to do it during the past two years, but those plans were delayed when the industry pulled back after an Uber automated test vehicle hit and killed a pedestrian in March 2018 in Tempe, Ariz.

Tesla Inc. CEO Elon Musk last year promised a fleet of autonomous robotaxis would start operating in 2020. But recently he has said he hopes to deploy the system with humans monitoring it in early 2021, depending on regulatory approval.

Getty Images file photo

**Auto safety experts say humans cause about 94 percent of U.S. crashes, but a new study says computer-controlled robocars will stop only about one-third of them.**


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**Invitation to Bid**
BakerRipley is accepting bids for the interior construction of a new Workforce Solutions Office in Lake Jackson. Bidders must attend a MANDATORY pre-bid conference on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. at 206 Highway 332 W., Lake Jackson, Texas 77566. Bids must be submitted in hardcopy to the Sr. Director of Facilities Planning, at 4450 Harrisburg Ste. 200 Houston, TX 77011 by 2 p.m. Thursday July 02, 2020. Format submission and tardiness are grounds for rejection. Bid documents will be available on civcastusa.com/bids by no later than Wed, June 3, 2020.

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**LEGAL PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**
In accordance with the Federal Regulations, Aldine ISD is providing notice to all nonprofit, private schools, which includes home schools with nonprofit status that the district will be making applications for federal funds for the 2020-2021 school year. Federal funds are available to serve private schools who meet federal guidelines. The meeting will be held Friday, June 12, 2020 from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. for out-of-district boundary schools and from 9:30am to 10:30am for in-district boundary schools. Due to COVID-19, this is a virtual meeting on Zoom. If you are interested in participating or have questions regarding eligibility information, please send an email to Nancy Gauthier at nlgauthier@aldineisd.org and the virtual link for the meeting will be shared with you.

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**
**The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO) is planning to issue the procurement documents listed in this advertisement.**
**IFB No. 4020000134: Purchase of Non-Emergency Ada Compliant Rear Entry Minivans**. Solicitation will be available on or about 6/1/2020.
**IFB No. 4020000157: Universal Accessibility Construction Projects.** Solicitation will be available on or about 6/3/2020.
**RFP No. 4020000158: Life, ADD, Disability and FMLA** . Solicitation will be available on or about 06/01/2020.
Prospective bidders/proposers can view and download these solicitations by visiting METRO's website at https://www.ridemetroapp.org/procurement/
If you are unable to download the documents or are having difficulty, please contact METRO Plan and Bid Room at (713) 739-4881.

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Revised Notice of Draft Federal Operating Permit
Draft Permit No.: O2234

**Application and Draft Permit.** Rohm and Haas Texas Incorporated, PO Box 1000, Deer Park, TX 77536-1000, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a renewal of Federal Operating Permit (herein referred to as Permit) No. O2234, Application No. 29745, to authorize operation of the P-North, an All Other Basic Organic Chemical Manufacturing facility. The area addressed by the application is located at 1900 Tidal Rd in Deer Park, Harris County, Texas 77536-2416. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to the application. You can find an electronic map of the facility at: http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=29.726388&lng=-95.102777&zoom=13&type=r. This application was received by the TCEQ on November 13, 2019.

The purpose of a federal operating permit is to improve overall compliance with the rules governing air pollution control by clearly listing all applicable requirements, as defined in Title 30 Texas Administrative Code § 122.10 (30 TAC § 122.10). The draft permit, if approved, will codify the conditions under which the area must operate. The permit will not authorize new construction. The executive director has completed the technical review of the application and has made a preliminary decision to prepare a draft permit for public comment and review. The executive director recommends issuance of this draft permit. The permit application, statement of basis, and draft permit will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ Central Office, 12100 Park 35 Circle, Building E, First Floor, Austin, Texas 78753; the TCEQ Houston Regional Office, 5425 Polk St Ste H, Houston, Texas 77023-1452; and the Deer Park Library, 3009 Center St, Deer Park, Texas 77536-5063, beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The draft permit and statement of basis are available at the TCEQ Website:

**www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/tvnotice**

At the TCEQ central and regional offices, relevant supporting materials for the draft permit, as well as the New Source Review permits which have been incorporated by reference, may be reviewed and copied. Any person with difficulties obtaining these materials due to travel constraints may contact the TCEQ central office file room at (512) 239-2900.

**Public Comment/Notice and Comment Hearing.** Any person may submit written comments on the draft permit. Comments relating to the accuracy, completeness, and appropriateness of the permit conditions may result in changes to the draft permit.

**A person who may be affected by the emission of air pollutants from the permitted area may request a notice and comment hearing.** The purpose of the notice and comment hearing is to provide an additional opportunity to submit comments on the draft permit. The permit may be changed based on comments pertaining to whether the permit provides for compliance with 30 TAC Chapter 122 (examples may include that the permit does not contain all applicable requirements or the public notice procedures were not satisfied). The TCEQ may grant a notice and comment hearing on the application if a written hearing request is received within 30 days after publication of the newspaper notice. The hearing request must include the basis for the request, including a description of how the person may be affected by the emission of air pollutants from the application area. The request should also specify the conditions of the draft permit that are inappropriate or specify how the preliminary decision to issue or deny the permit is inappropriate. All reasonably ascertainable issues must be raised and all reasonably available arguments must be submitted by the end of the public comment period. If a notice and comment hearing is granted, all individuals that submitted written comments or a hearing request will receive written notice of the hearing. This notice will identify the date, time, and location for the hearing.

**Written public comments and/or requests for a notice and comment hearing should be submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087, or electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/ and be received within 30 days after the date of newspaper publication of this notice.** Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record.

**A notice of proposed final action that includes a response to comments and identification of any changes to the draft permit will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments, a hearing request, or requested to be on the mailing list for this application.** This mailing will also provide instructions for public petitions to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to request that the EPA object to the issuance of the proposed permit. After receiving a petition, the EPA may only object to the issuance of a permit which is not in compliance with the applicable requirements or the requirements of 30 TAC Chapter 122.

**Mailing List.** In addition to submitting public comments, a person may ask to be placed on a mailing list for this application by sending a request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address above. Those on the mailing list will receive copies of future public notices (if any) mailed by the Chief Clerk for this application.

**Information.** For additional information about this permit application or the permitting process, please contact the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Public Education Program, MC-108, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087 or toll free at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained for Rohm and Haas Texas Incorporated by calling Mr. Rafael Mendez at (281) 228-2872.

Notice Issuance Date: May 1, 2020

**The Houston Housing Authority ("HHA"), is soliciting sealed proposals for** its Project Based Voucher Program in accordance with the requirements and the terms and conditions specified in Request for Proposal (RFP) 20-32.

**Interested parties who wish to respond to this solicitation must submit the required documents in a sealed envelope by 10 A.M. Central Daylight Time (CDT) June 18, 2020 to the Houston Housing Authority Attn: Kevin M. Coleman, MS, C.P.M., Subject: RFP 20-32 Project Based Voucher DO NOT OPEN 2640 Fountain View Drive Houston, Texas 77057.**

RFP 20-32 can be obtained by going to the doing business with HHA section of HHA's website at www.housingforhouston.com, or by sending an e-mail to HHA's Procurement Dept. at Purchasing@housingforhouston.com with RFP 20-32 in the subject line.

A Fair and Equal Employment Opportunity Agency. For assistance: Individuals with disabilities may contact the 504/ADA Administrator at 713-260-0528, TTY 713-260-0574 or 504ADA@housingforhouston.com

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**The Houston Planning** Commission has received an application to allow the replatting of Sunset Plaza Meadows being all of Lots 1 & 2, Block 1 as recorded in Film Code No. 687548 of the Harris County Map Records for the purpose of creating 1 reserve.

The new subdivision is Sunset Plaza Meadows Replat No 1

The City will send out written notices of a public hearing, to owners of properties within 250' of the boundary of the plat and all parcels along or across from a block face that abuts any street or private roadway extending 500' from the plat as measured along the centerline of any street or private roadway that abuts the boundary of the plat.

The Houston Planning Commission will hold a virtual meeting and public hearing on this replat on Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 2:30 PM via Microsoft Teams. The video conference will allow for a two-way video/ audio communication with the Houston Planning Commission.

For information on how to join the meeting or submit comments as a speaker, visit our website: www.houstonplanning.com or Call: 832-393-6624. Contact the applicant at 713-780-0909 or the City of Houston Planning Department at (832)393-6600 for any additional information

Chambers County Commissioners Court is seeking Sealed Bids from qualified vendors to provide Emergency and Non-emergency rental or leased vehicles and equipment, to support Chambers County operations.

It is the intention of Chambers County to execute standby contracts to employ pre-, active, and post- emergency preparedness, response and recovery equipment, supplies and services for County Departments and Cities who are signatory to the County's Emergency Management Plan. These firms may be activated to provide motorized and non-motorized vehicles and equipment. These service demands may arise out of vehicle or equipment failures, accidents, surge demands, or resulting from such events, but not limited to, Haz Mat/biohazard spills or releases, accidents, storms, crimes, equipment failure, fires, hazardous building materials or products or other similar events for a duration of three (3) – five (5) years. Chambers County will make selections based on availability, capabilities, costs and inventory.

**SEALED BIDS DUE: 2:00 PM, June 25th, 2020**
SUBMIT SEALED BIDS TO:
CHAMBERS COUNTY JUDGE JIMMY SYLVIA
P. O. Box 939 / 404 Washington Ave.
Anahuac, TX 77514
For Proposals & Attachment "A"
Contact:
George Barrera
P. O. Box 1380 ˜ Anahuac,
Texas 77514
Email Gbarrera@chambetx.gov
Office 409-267-2448

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**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**
The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO) is planning to issue the procurement documents listed in this advertisement.
**RFP No. 4020000148: METROLIFT Minivan Transportation Services.** Solicitation will be available on or about 6/8/2020.
**RFP No. 4020000163: For Signals and Communications**. Solicitation will be available on or about 6/8/2020.
**RFP No. 4020000164: For Traction Powers.** Solicitation will be available on or about 6/8/2020.
**RFTP No. 4020000165: For Track Maintenance** Services. Solicitation will be available on or about 06/08/2020.
Prospective bidders/ proposers can view and download these solicitations by visiting METRO's website at https://www.ridemetroapp.org/procurement/
If you are unable to download the documents or are having difficulty, please contact METRO Plan and Bid Room at (713) 739-4881.

**San Jacinto College** (SJC)
Request for Proposals
Debt Collection Services
Project No. 20-05
SJC is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified firms to provide debt collection services. Solicitation documents are available and proposals may be submitted at https://sanjac.ionwave.net until 2:00 p.m. CST on June 23, 2020. Direct inquiries to Genevieve.Scholes@sjcd.edu or 281-998-6349.

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**Request for Quotes**
**RFQ 20-03**
**Reprographic Services**

Harris County Housing Authority (HCHA) hereby solicits quotations from interested Offerors to provide Reprographic Services, for its central office at 1933 Hussion Street, Houston, TX 77003. **Proposals Due**: No later than 3:00 PM on Thursday, June 25, 2020. **Proposals shall be submitted to**: Harris County Housing Authority, P.O. Box 53028, Houston, TX 77052, Attn: Finance Department. RFQ 20-03 will be posted on and can be downloaded from HCHA's website www.hchatexas.org.

**Sealed Proposal Solicitation #AV11-20**
**Houston-Galveston Area Council**
**Cooperative Purchasing Program**
**Statewide Automated Vehicle Procurement**
Response Deadline: 6/30/20 @ 1pm
Public Opening: 6/30/20 @ 2pm
3555 Timmons Lane, Houston, TX.
Per ADA, reasonable accommodation provided with 24 hour prior notice.
713-499-6693 or www.hgacbuy.org for info.

**The Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc. (AAL)** invites qualified General Contractors to submit a esponse to a Request for Proposal for Construction Management/General Contractor services (CMGC). AAL is seeking a skilled, professional, and dedicated firm for assistance in installing a modular classroom building. The selected firm will provide site improvements and flat work, entrance deck/ramps, skirting, utilities extensions and connections, and overall preparation for building placement (by others).

Proposal deadline is 2:00 pm on Monday, June 22, 2020.

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**
IDEA Public Schools will accept sealed proposals until 5:00 PM, CT, **June 9, 2020** for:
**Cloth Face Masks**
**Desk Sneeze Guards**
**Mobile Outdoor Portable Hand Washing Stations**
**#2-RFP-GNRL-2020**
Proposals will be available beginning **May 29th, 2020**. Interested vendors may request a bid package via email to: sandra.martinez@ideapublicschools.org. Proposals will be accepted via email to: sandra.martinez@ideapublicschools.org.
*Addendum #1 Issued June 2nd removal of Statement #4, page 7
*Addendum #2 Issued June 4th spec modifications to Items 1-4, on Attachments A & B

**KIPP Texas Public** Schools, Inc. is seeking night cleaning services for four campuses located in Austin, starting August 1, 2020. Initial contract terms will be for two years with two one-year option terms. A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held virtually at website: https://bluejeans.com/254767213 or phone dial-in: (408) 419-1715; Meeting ID: 254 767 213 on June 15, 2020 at 10:00am CST. Proposals are due on June 22, 2020 on or before 11:00 AM CST. Proposals should be submitted electronically to Cyme.Abdul@KIPPTexas.org. Bids documents will be available at www.KIPPTexas.org/current-bids. Late proposals will not be evaluated. KIPP reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or waive any or all irregularities.

**AT&T Mobility, LLC is proposing to construct a 33-foot overall height small cell pole telecommunications structure near 7718 Bellfort Street, Houston, Harris County, Texas (N29° 40' 19.9", W95° 16' 49.4"). AT&T Mobility, LLC invites comments from any interested party on the impact the tower may have on any districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Comments may be sent to Environmental Corporation of America, ATTN: Megan Gomez, 1375 Union Hill Industrial Court, Suite A, Alpharetta, GA 30004 or via email to publicnotice@eca-usa.com. Ms. Gomez can be reached at (770) 667-2040 x 405 during normal business hours. Comments must be received within 30 days. For questions please call Dina Bazzill 770-667-2040x111. RJE/ W1248**

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