

# What are the Health Impacts of Autonomous Vehicles?

**Goal: Fund a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) to understand the health, safety and equity impacts of autonomous vehicle adoption**

## Background

The Autonomous Vehicle (AV) Work Group was established by the legislature in 2018 (SHB 2970) to study autonomous vehicles and provide annual policy recommendations. One of the recommendations in this year's report was to fund a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) to understand the health and equity impacts of autonomous mobility.

An HIA is a process that identifies the potential health and safety effects prior to a major change, such as the transformational effects of automated mobility. An HIA also provides policy and legislative recommendations to improve health and safety outcomes, with an emphasis on equity and identifying disproportionate impacts on historically marginalized populations.

## Study outline

**Lead.** DOH, WTSC, community-based organizations working with historically underserved and underrepresented people.

**Outreach.** Agencies, stakeholders (including people of color, low-income users and potential users, those with limited English proficiency, those with visual impairments and other disabilities, immigrants and refugees)

**Timing.** Research and outreach in 2020, report produced by early 2021.

**Budget request.** \$750,000

## Study components

**Public engagement.** Partner with community-based organizations to engage the public, as well as stakeholders groups with limited access to the State AV committee, on concerns, questions and goals for AV policy.

**Scenario planning.** Identify potential scenarios for automated vehicle adoption, including privately owned versus fleet-based scenarios. How will AVs be accessible? What infrastructure is required? Include underlying assumptions.

**Health impacts and equity analysis.** What are the potential positive and negative health and safety impacts? How will populations identified above be impacted?

**Policy recommendations.** Develop recommendations focused on how AV policies can maximize health and equity benefits, and limit disproportionate impacts to health, equity and safety. What are model policies?