SELF-DRIVING CARS

Opinions

- ☐ Fully automated self-driving vehicles will be a reality within a few decades - no need for driver's licenses or steering wheels.
- ☐ Transportation will be more affordable: people will be able to share driver-less vehicles and travel anywhere on-demand.
- ☐ Self-driving cars will be the norm, but there will be locations and circumstances where the human driver must be in control .
- ☐ Self-driving cars will be common, but a significant percentage of cars will still be human-driven. To take advantage of fully-automated driving, there will be special lanes and zones dedicated to self-driven vehicles (like HOV lanes).
- ☐ The vision for fully-automated self-driving vehicles will not be realized. People will not get over the psychological hurdle of machines killing people. Machines will never be better than humans at recognizing unusual situations.
- ☐ _____

Beliefs

- ☐ Will be safer. Humans make mistakes, drive distracted and intoxicated, and have slow reaction times in emergencies.
- ☐ Have significant technical risks. Poor weather and visibility or unpredictable surroundings can "confuse" the automation systems.
- ☐ Will be more efficient, reducing traffic congestion and increasing average speeds.
- ☐ May be too expensive for everyone to afford.
- ☐ Will require a lot of computing power and network connectivity to communicate with other vehicles and network control systems.
- ☐ Will free up time for humans to do more valuable activities.
- ☐ Can enable people with disabilities to be more self-reliant.
- ☐ Will change car ownership and reduce the number of cars on the road.
- ☐ Will dramatically reduce traffic fatalities, but people may never accept that machines will make decisions that kill people.
- ☐ Will take a long time to perfect and be adopted, so our roadways will have a mix of self-driving and "regular" cars. It only takes a few humans to mess up an automated system.
- ☐ Will require a lot of education and training for drivers to understand the limitations of the technology, pay attention, and take over the controls at a moment's notice.
- ☐ Will require new legal and ethical rules for liability in accidents and how much to blame machines and their manufacturers.
- ☐ Can be a threat to privacy and security by tracking people and their actions.
- ☐ Will enable criminals to hack location information, steal cars, disrupt traffic, kidnap people, and use cars as ballistic weapons.
- ☐ Will impact vehicle-related jobs, such as delivery, buses, taxis, and long-haul trucking.
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

INSTRUCTIONS

For the Respondent

Review the survey. You should be able to find some statements that you agree with and check them off. Feel free to add some of your own opinions and beliefs. Perhaps add a personal note. Then, ask that the document be stored in a way that a future generation will discover it.

For the Surveyor

Find someone in your life who is part of an older generation. Don't confront them. Just work with them to capture their point of view. Archive the document in a way that someone you trust can access it in the year 2070. Storing a digital image is a fine idea, but how many of the thousands of images you have stored will ever see the light of day? Consider preserving a physical copy.

Background Information

There are many strongly held opinions about this survey topic. There is some uncertainty about how it will play out over the next few decades. Many of us will not be here to defend ourselves when future generations judge us. More importantly, how will our direct descendants remember us?

You can fill out and archive this survey for yourself. Or you can ask someone else to fill it out and archive it for them. The survey is meant to cover a wide range of beliefs about a topic without being biased. Whoever fills out the survey should be able to find a few comments that they agree with. There are blank lines for respondents to write-in their own beliefs. If respondents do not have clearly defined beliefs on this topic, then it is OK for them to take a little time and do some research.

This survey may inspire you to archive hard copy versions of documents and photos that are important to you. We all have thousands of digital files and images stored in the cloud or backup drives. It won't hurt to print and store key items from your life: birth and marriage certificates, concert tickets, family portraits, and this survey! Use acid-free paper (most ordinary copy paper will do). Keep items away from sunlight, heat, humidity – a closet is better than the attic or garage.

Call to Action

Be ready for the year 2070. We may not be there, but our adult children or grandchildren probably will be. At a family gathering, our descendants might be pulled aside by a young child. That child will ask about the olden days, back in the early 21st century, saying, "What were they thinking?" Don't let your adult descendants be caught flat-footed. Don't let them misrepresent your views – throw you under the bus – and blame you and your generation for the state of the world in 2070. Make sure your adult descendants have a record of your thoughts and beliefs. This survey is the simplest way to do that.

Good luck