

# CTfastrak: BRT and Autonomous Vehicle Buses

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Lyle Wray, Executive Director  
Capitol Region Council of Governments  
MAP Online Conference June 19, 2020



# CTfastrak Brief Video







860-527-NOWE  
Apartments

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TICKET



TAKE  
TICKET






















**DOWNTOWN  
NEW BRITAIN**

 **CTfastrak**

↑ Cent Main Street  
↑ Myrtle Street









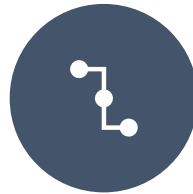
# CTfastrak Story

- Concept started in the 1990s
- Opened March 2015
- Ridership solid and growing (COVID-19 excepted)
- Ridership rising in corridor for CTfastrak but falling in some other parts of the state
- More than half of regional interstate congestion on I-84 west of downtown Hartford
- Evaluation of highway expansion, rail and BRT
- \$567 million total cost





CTfastrak is Connecticut's first Bus Rapid Transit system. It is a system of bus routes that utilize a bus-only guideway for all or a portion of your trip.



CTfastrak routes are integrated with the CTtransit system, making it easy to connect, transfer, and pay your fare.



The CTfastrak system provides a one-seat, no-transfer ride to many major regional employment, shopping, and healthcare destinations as well as connections to rail service via the New Haven Line Waterbury Branch in Waterbury and the CTrail Hartford Line in Hartford.





Hartford

West Hartford

East Hartford

Manchester

Newington

Bristol

New Britain

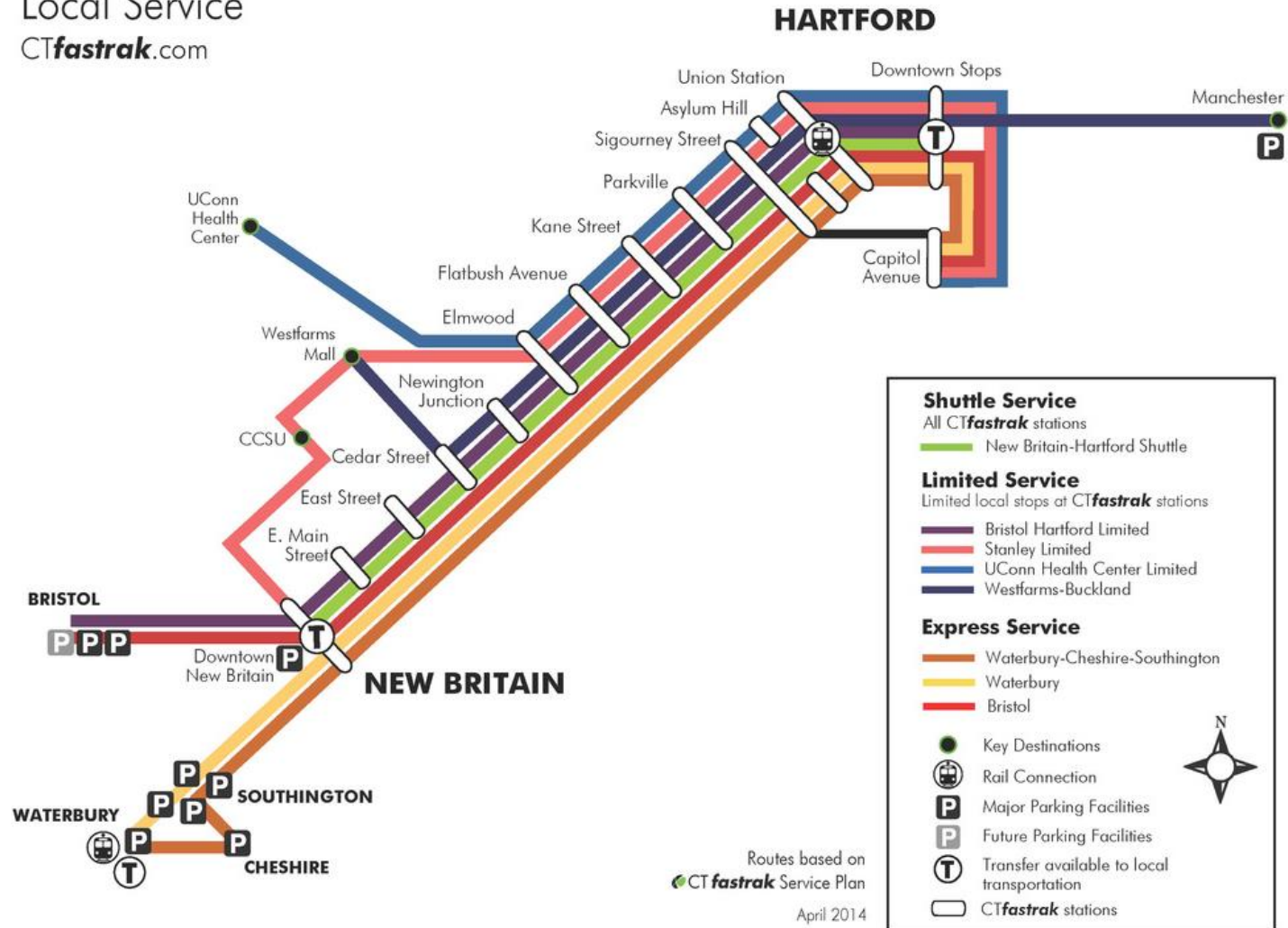
Southington





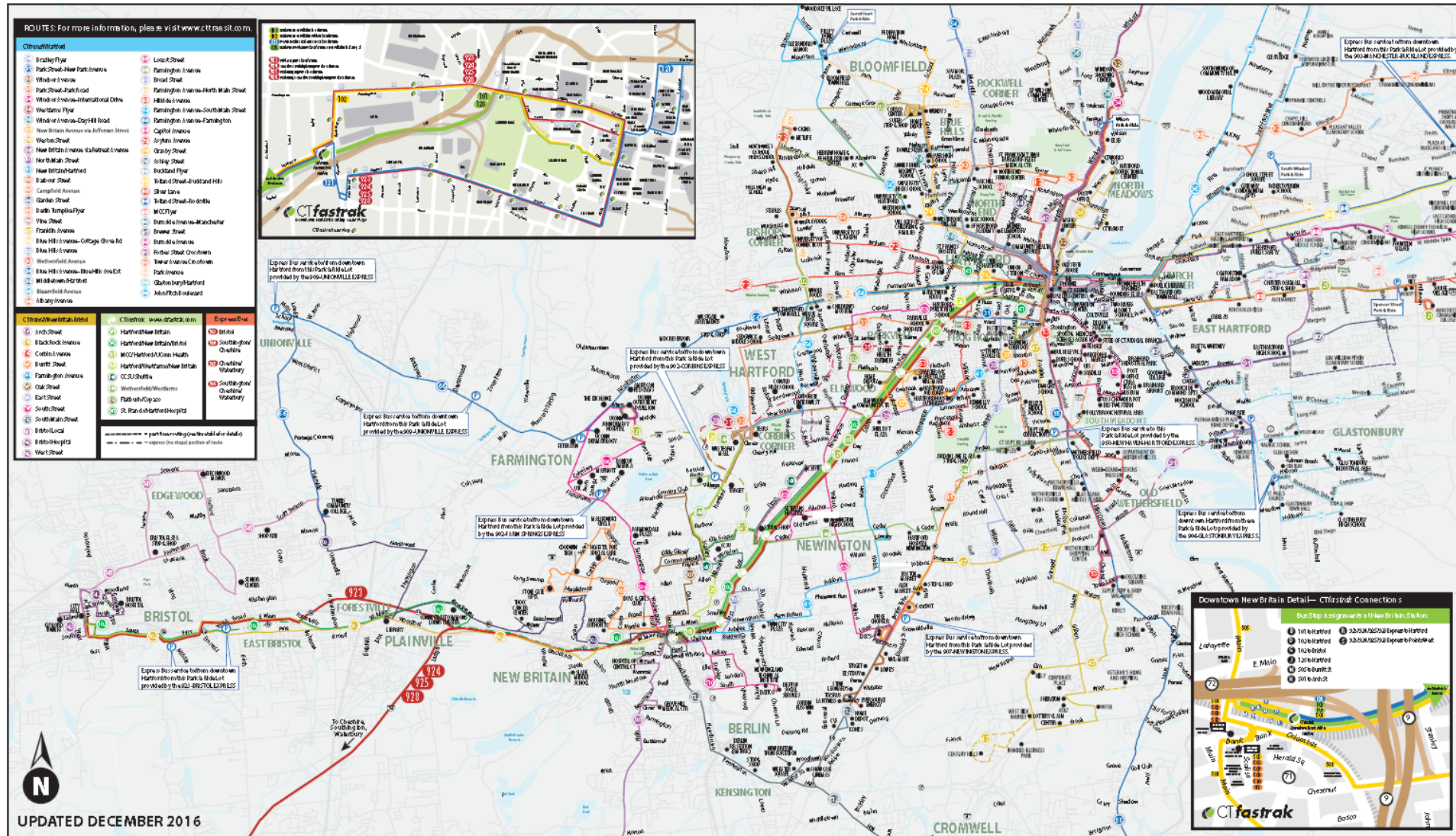
Local Service

CTfastrak.com





## CTFASTRAK SYSTEM MAP





## CTfastrak Routes

101 Hartford/New Britain

102 Hartford/New Britain/Bristol

121 MCC / Hartford / UConn Health

128 Hartford / Westfarms-New Britain

140 CCSU Connector

144 Wethersfield / Westfarms

153 Flatbush / Copaco

161 St. Francis Hospital / Hartford Hospital

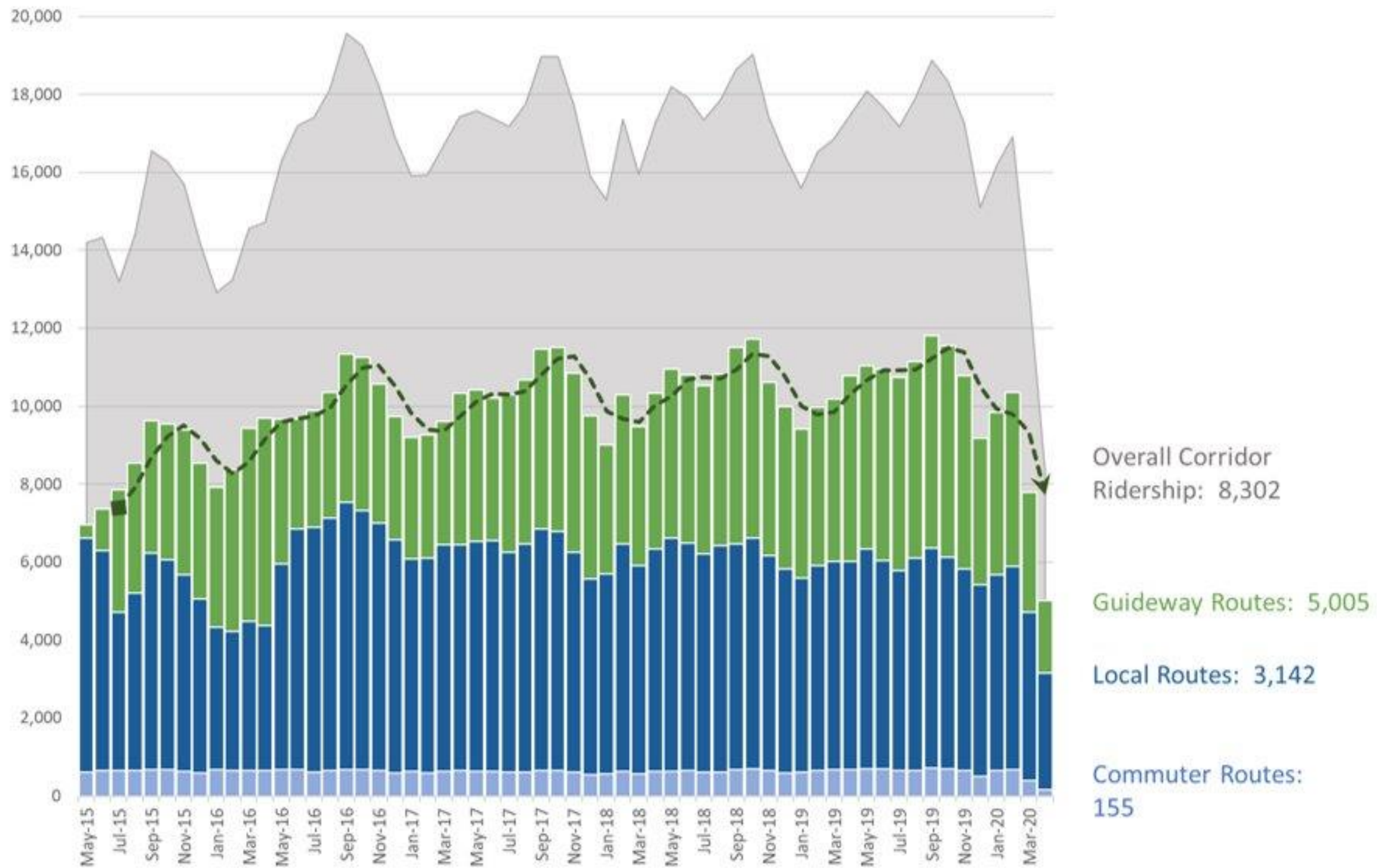
923 Bristol Express

924 Southington-Cheshire Express

925 Cheshire - Waterbury Express

928 Southington-Cheshire-Waterbury Express







# CTfastrak Next

- Expansion recommendations developed by CTDOT's CTfastrak Expansion Study (2016)
  - Connection to UConn Storrs added in 2017: Express bus with good ridership; HOV corridor for most of the distance
- BDL Airport Linkage
  - Recommendations developed by CRCOG's Comprehensive Transit Service Analysis (2017)
- Complementary priority transit corridors with limited stops and faster boarding
  - To be studied by CRCOG in upcoming Transit Priority Corridors Implementation Strategy effort

# Connecticut Looks To Test Self-Driving Buses

By TERRY SHERIDAN • DEC 9, 2019

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COURTESY OF CTFASTRAK / FACEBOOK

Connecticut is moving closer to testing self-driving buses. The state Department of Transportation has applied for a \$9 million federal grant to run three of the buses on the CTfastrak busway between Hartford and New Britain.



# CTfastrak Autonomous Bus Demonstration



\$2 million from FTA's Accelerating Innovative Mobility (AIM) Program (March 2020)

- Two-year pilot program to test three electric-powered, 40-foot self-driving buses
- First such autonomous public bus pilot in the nation
- Ideal controlled environment for such a pilot because of the limited number of stops on the guideway



There will also be an operator on board: "On the busway they wouldn't be touching the controls. Obviously, they would be able to take control if something, an issue, arose. And then there is a loop where it goes off the track through downtown Hartford. During that time they will be controlling it."



\$1.9 million from FTA's Low or No Emission Vehicle Program - 5339(c) (June 2020)

- Second grant received to purchase electric autonomous vehicles

# Thank You!



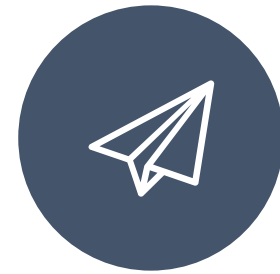
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