Weekly Ethicacy
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Self-Driving Cars: Do We Need Them?

Background

Autonomous cars are typically defined as versions of our current vehicles that are capable of taking over from the driver under certain circumstances, whereas driverless cars are even more automated and usually have no steering wheel or pedals. The following discussion is targeting the impact of driverless vehicles.

Pros

- Self-driving cars are safer. They will save thousands and thousands of lives.
- Greater Independence for those who may not be able to currently drive like people with disabilities and seniors
- Help avoid the costs of crashes, including medical bills, lost work time and vehicle repair.
- More Productivity - could allow drivers to recapture time.
- Reduced Congestion - cars can communicate with each other reducing potential for accidents and reducing stop and go waves that cause traffic.
- Environmental Gains - fewer traffic jams save fuel and reduce greenhouse gases from needless idling.

Cons

- Self-driving cars may lead to more driving, more traffic congestions, and more pollution
- Economic impact: unemployment; auto industry and auto insurance industry; ownership of vehicle
- Safety concerns: system malfunction or misinterpretation; system being hacked; privacy issues
- Change us as humans: increase in drug and alcohol use and create other health issues; losing the ability to self-navigate; let robots take over our life.

Resources

- Self-driving cars face uncertain path to U.S. deployment
- Self-driving cars were supposed to take over the road. What happened?
- Benefits of Self-Driving Cars - Coalition for Future Mobility
- 25 Astonishing Self-Driving Car Statistics For 2022
- SELF-DRIVING CARS: WILL THEY SOON BE A REALITY?
- The Unintended Consequences of Self-Driving Cars
- Driverless cars won't be good for the environment if they lead to more auto use.
- Advantages and Disadvantages of Driverless Cars - AxleAddict