

# Memorandum of Understanding Regarding the Automotive Industries of Michigan and Australia

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN** and **THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT** represented by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, hereinafter referred to as the “Participants”.

The Participants wish to strengthen ongoing bilateral cooperation across their respective automotive and technology sectors with the goal of promoting emission reduction outcomes, digitalisation in the transport sector, workforce development and reskilling. It is recognized that research supporting sustainability and the decarbonization of vehicles are fundamental to future growth and prosperity. As global leaders in the collaborative research development, Participants share the understanding that international collaboration is mutually beneficial to our transport and educational institutions, researchers and businesses. To succeed in the global innovation economy, Participants see a need to strengthen their respective abilities to accelerate the commercialization of emerging technologies and the growth of domestic firms. Increasingly, global automotive supply chains are needed for resilient communities and to support efficient and competitive international markets. Participants aspire to accelerate and secure the significant social and economic benefits that transport technologies will bring future generations and vulnerable sectors of society around the world.

To further these goals, the Participants have come to the following understanding:

## **a. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (“MoU”) is for the Participants to enhance cooperation between their respective government bodies, knowledge based institutions, transport ecosystems, Indigenous communities and businesses in all areas of future transport research, technology, trade and skills, reflecting their great potential social and economic benefits.

## **b. OBJECTIVES OF COLLABORATION**

- i. Increase cooperation in future transport technologies**, which, as appropriate, may include:
  - a. Sharing, as appropriate, regulatory, policy, scientific and technological knowledge and experiences;
  - b. Sharing knowledge and experiences to accelerate decarbonisation of the road transport sector and alternative fuel energies and electrification;
  - c. Sharing best practices in skilled trades and workforce development programs;
  - d. Jointly developing new programs to address emerging transportation needs; and
  - e. Co-hosting bilateral and multilateral meetings, workshops and conferences, including those devoted to technology deployment and policy.
- ii. Enhance our interconnected automotive supply chain**, which, as appropriate, may include establishing and promoting events to foster supply chain opportunities in Michigan and Australia, such as Michigan’s Pure Michigan Business Connect program or ITS Australia’s exhibition and conference.

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- iii. **Promote the demonstration and deployment of innovative transport technologies and processes**, which, subject to each Participant's absolute discretion, may include:
  - a. Supporting bilateral cooperation on connected, automated and autonomous vehicle technologies that leverages existing test beds operated by research collaborators, including but not limited to:
    - 1. Austroads;
    - 2. ITS Australia;
    - 3. The Australian Integrated Multimodal EcoSystem (AIMES) Consortium;
    - 4. American Centre for Mobility;
    - 5. MCity; and
    - 6. The Ann Arbor Connected Vehicle Test Environment (AACVTE).
  - b. Supporting bilateral cooperation and automotive supplier and aftermarket development collaboration that leverages existing institutions, including but not limited to:
    - 1. Automation Alley (Detroit, Michigan);
    - 2. MICHauto (Detroit, Michigan);
    - 3. World Economic Forum's US Centre for Advanced Manufacturing (Troy, Michigan);
    - 4. Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA);
    - 5. Center for Automotive Research (CAR) (Ann Arbor, Michigan); and
    - 6. Additional Michigan and Australian institutions.
- iv. **Promote research collaboration on innovative transport systems** which, as appropriate, may include:
  - a. Supporting bilateral cooperation and transport research collaboration that leverages existing institutions, including but not limited to:
    - 1. University of Melbourne Department of Infrastructure Engineering;
    - 2. Swinburne University of Technology;
    - 3. University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI);
    - 4. University of Michigan Data Science Center;
    - 5. Michigan State University; and
    - 6. Additional Michigan and Australian institutions.
- v. **Explore transport-related opportunities for business development with the Indigenous communities of Michigan and Australia** which, as appropriate, may include:
  - a. Organizing meetings seeking input from interested Indigenous communities to develop a plan for engagement and target outcomes<sup>1</sup>.

### **c. LEGAL AND RELATED CONSIDERATIONS**

The Participants accept that all actions they undertake under this MoU will be subject to applicable national, state and local law, and any other applicable rules and obligations.

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<sup>1</sup> This objective to be delivered by the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade) on behalf of the Australian Government.

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## **d. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

In the event that any intellectual property rights should arise from activity undertaken in accordance with this MoU, the Participants understand it will be attributed and protected in accordance with the Participants' respective state and national laws, subject to any alternative arrangements that may be decided upon by those participating in the activity.

## **e. COORDINATION AND FACILITATION OF COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES**

- i. The Participants understand that cooperation under this MoU will be shaped and largely carried out by research collaborators; in addition, a wide range of major stakeholders will be kept informed by – and offer advice to – the Participants; the engagement of such stakeholders will be subject to their own discretion.
- ii. The Participants will, as appropriate, encourage and facilitate the development of direct contact between interested academic institutions and academics, government institutions, and businesses.
- iii. The Participants expect to hold regular meetings to develop collaborative opportunities and review progress between themselves and research collaborators.

## **f. FUNDING**

- i. The Participants understand that cooperation under this MoU is dependent on the interest of the respective stakeholders and subject to the availability of their respective resources.
- ii. The Participants understand that this MoU does not commit either Participant to financially support any activity carried out under this MoU.
- iii. Each Participant will bear its own costs incurred in connection with this MoU.

## **g. STATUS**

This MoU is not legally binding under national or international law. It does not restrict cooperation by the Participants with any other partners.

## **h. FINAL DISPOSITIONS**

- i. This MoU will take effect on the date of its last signature by the Participants and will remain valid for a period of 5 years or until the date it is terminated, if earlier.
- ii. The Participants may amend or terminate this MoU at any time upon their mutual written consent.
- iii. A Participant may terminate this MoU without the other Participant's consent by giving a written notice to the other Participant. Should this occur, the Participants will consult to determine how any outstanding matters should be addressed.

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Signed at 4:03 pm on May 16, 2023.  
*Detroit, Michigan*

**FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF  
INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT, REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT, COMMUNICATIONS AND THE  
ARTS**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF MICHIGAN**



The Hon Catherine King MP  
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional  
Development and Local Government



Gretchen Whitmer  
Governor of Michigan