DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

49 CFR Chapter V

[Docket No. NHTSA–2017–0082]

Automated Driving Systems: A Vision for Safety

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of public availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: NHTSA is releasing new voluntary guidance on automated driving systems—Automated Driving Systems: A Vision for Safety. The new voluntary guidance is based on public comments received on the Federal Automated Vehicles Policy (FAVP) released in September 2016. The purpose of this new voluntary guidance is to support industry innovators, States and other key stakeholders as they consider and design best practices relative to the testing and deployment of automated vehicle technologies, while informing and educating the public and improving roadway safety. NHTSA invites public comment on the voluntary guidance and additional ways to improve its usefulness.

This new voluntary guidance is an important part of DOT’s multi-modal efforts to support the introduction of automation technologies that hold the promise of fulfilling NHTSA’s mission of reducing the number of injuries and fatalities on our roads. As an update to the FAVP this new voluntary guidance serves as NHTSA’s current operating guidance for Automated Driving Systems (ADSs—SAE International Automation Levels 3–5). NHTSA intends to continue to revise and refine the guidance periodically to reflect continued public input, experience, research, and innovation, and will address significant comments in preparing future iterations of the guidance. This guidance supports that effort.

DATES: You should submit your comments early enough to ensure that Docket Management receives them no later than November 14, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to the docket number above and be submitted by one of the following methods:

• Federal Rulemaking Portal: Please submit one copy to http://www.regulations.gov. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

Mail: Please submit two copies to Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., West Building Ground Floor. Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590–0001.

Hand Delivery: Please submit two copies to 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Instructions: For detailed instructions on submitting comments and additional information on the rulemaking process, see the Public Participation heading of the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this document. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to http://www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided.

Privacy Act: Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT’s complete Privacy Act Statement in the Federal Register published on April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19477–78) or at http://www.transportation.gov/privacy.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to http://www.regulations.gov or to the street address listed above. Follow the online instructions for accessing the dockets.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For technical issues related to the Voluntary Guidance: Ms. Dee Williams of NHTSA’s Office of Vehicle Safety Research at (202) 366–8537 or by email at av_info_nhtsa@dot.gov.

For legal issues: Mr. Steve Wood of NHTSA’s Office of Chief Counsel, at (202) 366–2992 or by email at steve.wood@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), under the U.S. Department of Transportation, was established by the Highway Safety Act of 1970, to carry out safety programs under the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966 and the Highway Safety Act of 1966. NHTSA is responsible for reducing deaths, injuries, and economic losses resulting from motor vehicle crashes on our nation’s roadways. It accomplishes these tasks by conducting research, setting and enforcing safety performance standards for motor vehicles and motor