Approximately half of Americans now believe they are familiar with autonomous (self-driving) vehicles. As that awareness grows, acceptance of these emerging technologies also increases. As HNTB’s latest America THINKS national public opinion survey demonstrates, among the 52 percent of Americans surveyed who believe they are knowledgeable or familiar with autonomous vehicles, almost six in ten (58 percent) believe they will be commonplace within the next 10 years.

Among these Americans, 58 percent believe these vehicles will be commonplace within 10 years; 57 percent are willing to ride in them; and 51 percent believe they are safer than people-driven vehicles.

Increased mobility for non-drivers is recognized as the single most important benefit of autonomous vehicles. 52 percent of respondents believe this is a significant advantage. 43 percent of respondents believe that autonomous vehicles will reduce accidents and increase safety, and 23 percent believe these vehicles will help improve the environment. 23 percent believe autonomous vehicles can improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists; 22 percent believe autonomous vehicles can reduce congestion; 19 percent believe autonomous vehicles can increase the ability of existing highways to handle more traffic; and 19 percent believe there are no benefits from autonomous vehicles.
HNTB's America THINKS survey, Sharing the Road with Autonomous Vehicles-2019, polled a random nationwide sample of 1,018 Americans, ages 18 and older, between April 5 and April 8, 2019. Quotas were set to ensure reliable representation of the entire U.S. population ages 18 and over. The margin of error is +/- 3.1 percent.

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