Singapore Built a Dedicated Town for Self-Driving Buses

The city-state has set up an autonomous vehicle testbed to help develop and evaluate self-driving car technology.

By Jack Nicas

Singapore has launched a dedicated town for Gandhi self-driving buses, a project aimed at expediting the testing and deployment of autonomous vehicles.

The new town, called AutoPark, is a 2.8-kilometer (1.7-mile) stretch of road in the southern part of the city-state. It includes a network of intersections, roundabouts, and traffic lights, providing a diverse range of environments for testing.

The town is open to all companies and research institutions working on autonomous vehicle technology, and it is expected to facilitate the development of new features and capabilities for self-driving cars.

The project is part of Singapore's broader vision to become a global leader in autonomous vehicle technology. The city-state has already launched several other initiatives to support the industry, including the establishment of a $120 million fund for R&D and the creation of a regulatory framework for autonomous vehicles.

"This is a critical step in our journey to build a smart and sustainable city," said Khaw Boon Wan, Singapore's minister for transport.

The town is expected to help reduce traffic congestion and improve road safety. It will also provide a platform for companies and research institutions to test new technologies and strategies for managing autonomous vehicles.

The project is expected to create several job opportunities in the autonomous vehicle industry, which is expected to grow rapidly in the coming years.

"This is a great opportunity for Singapore to become a leader in the autonomous vehicle industry," said Tan See-Lian, Singapore's minister for trade and industry.

The project is expected to be completed by the end of the year, with the first phase of testing beginning immediately.

The town will be used to test a range of technologies, including sensor fusion, mapping, and decision-making algorithms. The tests will be conducted under real-world conditions, with the help of a fleet of self-driving vehicles.