



The 2019 Buick Regal was singled out for its improved dependability.

GM Earns Top Dependability Marks in J.D. Power Survey

by Jim Stickford

Dependability is a great reason to love a car, which perhaps makes releasing the J.D. Power 2020 U.S. Vehicle Dependability Study (VDS) the week of Valentine's Day appropriate.

"Love is in the air," said J.D. Power spokesman Geno Effler. "Maybe it's the proximity to Valentine's Day or maybe it's that owners see dependability of their three-year-old vehicles improving in 2020. According to the J.D. Power 2020 VDS, overall vehicle dependability improved 1.5 percent from 2019."

Effler said that among Detroit automakers, Cadillac showed considerable improvement with a reduction of 35 PP100 from 2019. Other above-average brands with strong improvement included Lincoln (by 28 PP100), Ford (by 20 PP100) and Buick (by 15 PP100).

General Motors Company received five segment awards: for the Buick Encore and Buick Regal, and for the Chevrolet Equinox, Chevrolet Silverado HD and Chevrolet Tahoe.

"Despite the increased adoption of complex vehicle technology, dependability continues to improve," said Dave Sargent, vice president of global automotive at J.D. Power.

"There's no question that three-year-old vehicles today are better

built and more dependable than same-age vehicles were in previous years. However, the rapid introduction of technology is putting increased pressure on dependability, so it would not be surprising to see problem levels plateau, or even increase, over the next few years."

The study, now in its 31st year, measures the number of problems per 100 vehicles (PP100) experienced during the past 12 months by original owners of their three-year-old vehicles, Effler said. The 2020 study measures problems in model-year 2017 vehicles. A lower score reflects higher quality, and the study covers 177 specific problems grouped into eight major vehicle categories.

Following are key findings of the 2020 study vehicle. Dependability improves, but at a slower rate: The industry average in 2020 is 134 PP100, which is an improvement of just 2 PP100 from 2019. (However, in 2019, there was an improvement of 6 PP100 from 2018.) Despite the slowing rate of improvement, 2020 marks automakers' best performance in the history of the study.

Effler said dependability gains were driven by crossovers and SUVs. Crossovers and SUVs still have slightly more problems than

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FCA, Detroit Looking for Artists to Create Mural for New Mack Ave. Jeep Complex

Who says an industrial manufacturing facility has to be ugly?

Not FCA. This Valentine's Day, company representatives joined a Detroit art program – the Office of Arts, Culture and Entrepreneurship and City Walls Detroit murals program – in showing the city some love, said FCA spokesman Kevin Frazier.

FCA and the City issued a

global open call to artists to create murals that will comprise one of the largest municipal art installations in Detroit's history.

City Walls Detroit has worked with FCA to identify the canvases for the murals near FCA's new auto assembly plant, Frazier said. FCA announced recently that it would invest \$1.6 billion

to convert two existing Mack Avenue facilities into a new assembly site for a new, three-row, full-size Jeep SUV and the next-generation Jeep Grand Cherokee.

FCA is also investing \$900 million at Jefferson North to retool and modernize the plant for continued production of Dodge

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A rendering of the Sound wall at Southeastern High School showing where artists will create several murals.

Another UAW Official Enters a Guilty Plea

by ED WHITE
Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) – A former senior official at the United Auto Workers pleaded guilty Feb. 7 to a broad corruption scheme, admitting that he conspired with others to conceal the use of union cash for vacation villas, golf, cigars and booze.

Vance Pearson was based in the St. Louis area as director of UAW's Region 5, which covered more than a dozen states. His conviction is significant because he worked closely with Gary

Jones, who had Pearson's job before becoming national president in 2018.

Jones hasn't been charged in a corruption probe that has netted nine guilty pleas from union officials and a spouse, and three more from Fiat Chrysler employees. But agents searched his Detroit-area home in August under the eye of local TV news cameras.

Jones and Pearson resigned their union posts in November. Pearson is cooperating with federal agents, according to his plea agreement.

"The UAW needs to be led by men and women of integrity who are dedicated to bettering the lives of the hard-working members of the union, not dedicated to lining their own pockets," Detroit U.S. Attorney Matthew Schneider said.

Pearson pleaded guilty to a single charge of conspiring to embezzle union money and use a tool of interstate commerce to aid racketeering. His involvement in the embezzlement was limited to an amount between

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Ford selected the three groups it will sponsor to help create transportation solutions for Detroit.

Ford Seeking New Solutions For Detroit Traffic Problems

Ford has been working to find transportation solutions in cities around the country and around the world. But that doesn't mean they've neglected the company's home town.

After working collaboratively with residents in Detroit to identify transportation challenges and propose new ways to improve mobility in their communities, the city of Detroit has announced the winning pilot proposals for the City:One Michigan Central Station Challenge, said Ford spokesman Martin Günsberg.

Mercy Education Project, AbleLink Smart Living Technologies, as well as a team that includes the Downtown Detroit Partnership, DTE and local artists, have been chosen as winners of the City:One Challenge, Günsberg said.

The three teams will split \$250,000 in funding to test the implementation of their proposals in a real-world setting as they aim to improve mobility in the communities surrounding Michigan Central Station.

Mercy Education Project is a nonprofit charitable organization that proposed the creation of Rock City Mobility Stations, which would increase access to information and various types of mobility options, Günsberg said. Each station would feature a kiosk stocked with signage, maps, bus schedules, parking information and more.

Outside the kiosk would be a central location for various modes of transportation, including

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First Mid-Engine 2020 Corvette Rolls Off Line

So it's begun. Regular production of the 2020 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray coupe began Feb. 3, 2020, at General Motors' Bowling Green Assembly in Bowling Green, Ky. Initial vehicle shipments to dealers are expected to begin in late February or early March, said GM spokesman Kevin Kelly. There has been great anticipation for the 2020 Corvette Stingray, Kelly said. It won the 2020 *MotorTrend* Car of the Year award, earning the mid-engine masterpiece, he said, a top spot among the best vehicles the world has to offer for the third time in Corvette's history. The honor, previously awarded to Corvette in 1984 and 1998, was presented to Tadde Juechter, Corvette executive chief engineer and Michael Simcoe, General Motors vice president of Global Design, at an event featuring industry executives and celebrity guests at MotorTrend's headquarters in El Segundo, Calif. "It's an honor for the Corvette team to receive this coveted award from MotorTrend against the best the industry has to offer," said Juechter. "Our design and engineering teams spent several years sweating the details to deliver the first mid-engine Corvette. To have a third party validate our hard work makes it all worthwhile." Chevy's first-ever production mid-engine Corvette represents the fastest, most powerful entry-level Corvette in the vehicle's 66-year history, reaching 0-60 mph in 2.9 seconds when equipped with the Z51 Performance Package, Kelly said. The reimagined iconic vehicle boasts new and exotic proportions and a modern design inspired by racing and aeronautics to deliver unprecedented levels



This is the first of many 2020 Corvette Stingrays that are coming off GM's Bowling Green production line.

of quality, customization, technology and craftsmanship, said Kelly. Powered by the next-generation 6.2L Small Block V8 LT2 engine, the 2020 Corvette Stingray packs 495 horsepower and 470 lb.-ft. of torque. Something that GM engineers are proud of. "We have been looking forward to the arrival of the mid-engine Chevrolet Corvette for so long that you'd think there is no way it could live up to the weight of expectations, but the all-new C8 Corvette epitomizes what it means to be MotorTrend's 2020 Car of the Year," said *MotorTrend* Editor-in-Chief Edward Loh. "Corvette delivers stunning design and world-class performance, around an exotic mid-shp

layout, yet it remains a truly livable grand touring sports car, all at an almost unbelievable price point. "Our 2020 Car of the Year is the one that democratizes the supercar – the Chevrolet Corvette." The 2020 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray coupe will accelerate 0 to 60 mph in less than three seconds with the available Corvette Z51 Performance Package, Kelly said. The brand confirms the Corvette sportscar with the available Z51 Package can reach 60 mph in 2.9 seconds and cross the quarter-mile mark in 11.2 seconds at 121 mph. Even without the available Z51 Package, a base Stingray, starting at \$59,995 (including destination

charges, excluding tax, title, license, and dealer fees), can reach 60 mph in three seconds flat and cross the quarter-mile mark in 11.2 seconds at 121 mph, Kelly said. These performance numbers may vary for different drivers, as different climates, tire conditions and road surfaces may affect driving results. "The performance of the 2020 Stingray has far exceeded our expectations," said Alex MacDonald, Chevrolet vehicle performance manager. "Moving more weight over the rear wheels helps us get off the line quicker, but it's the integration between the powertrain and chassis that really takes the performance to new levels."

Warren Library Has Interesting March Offerings

Here are some upcoming programs at the Warren Public Library Civic Center Branch, said librarian Paul Konkolesky. **Forensic Artist** – 6 p.m. Thursday, March 5, Civic Center Branch Library. Michigan State Police Lieutenant Sarah Krebs will explain how evidence-based drawings and three-dimensional reconstructions aid in the investigation of unidentified remains, the apprehension of suspects, and the resolution of missing person cases. **Bridging the Gap: High School to College** – 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, Civic Center Branch Library. This presentation by MCC is designed to help parents and students understand more about the college process and how to prepare for the next steps while still in high school. It promotes career investigation, college discovery, and using resources that are currently available to high school and junior high students and parents. **Better Made: A Chip Story** – 6 p.m. Thursday, March 12, Civic Center Branch Library. Author Karen Dybis will visit the library to discuss her book *Better Made* in Michigan: The Salty Story of Detroit's Best Chip. Discover how *Better Made* came to be, how its potato chips are made, and how competition has shaped the industry. **Community Narcan Training** – 6 p.m. Thursday, March 19, Civic Center Branch Library. Join Mark Kilgore from CARE of southeastern Michigan in learning how you can help stem the opioid overdose crisis. Attendees will receive a free dose of Narcan, Narcan kits, and Medication Safety Training.

A man wearing a light-colored fedora, glasses, and a blue and white striped shirt is looking out of the open driver's side door of a car. The background is a blurred outdoor scene with trees and sunlight.

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Robot Maker Nuro Can Test AV Delivery System

Feds Give Company Temporary Permission to Use NewTech

by TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) – For the first time, the U.S. government’s high-way safety agency has approved a company’s request to deploy a self-driving vehicle that doesn’t need to meet the same federal safety standards for cars and trucks driven by humans.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration granted temporary approval for Silicon Valley robotics company Nuro to run low-speed autonomous delivery vehicles that were designed without any accommodations for human drivers. That means no side and rear-view mirrors, windshield wipers, steering wheels or brake pedals.

The vehicles previously were subject to federal standards for low-speed vehicles that travel under 25 miles per hour. Those didn’t need to have steering wheels, brake pedals or human backup drivers, but were required to have windshield wipers, backup camera displays and mirrors. Nuro’s battery-powered vehicles can be monitored and controlled remotely by a human operator, if needed.

The approval is the first sign that NHTSA is moving from ab-

stract statements and voluntary standards governing au-tonomous vehicles to actual reg-ulation, said Bryant Walker Smith, a University of South Carolina law professor who studies vehicle automation. It’s a signal that the agency, which has stated publicly that it doesn’t want to stand in the way of the new tech-nology, is likely to approve more vehicles, he said.

“This is the first time that the agency said ‘yes we approve this vehicle that does not meet tradi-tional driver-oriented stan-dards,’” he said. “That’s a big step because it makes it much more concrete, more real for the agency and really for the public.”

Under the temporary approval, Nuro will have to make real-time safety reports to the agency. Nuro also will have to hold regu-lar meetings with the agency and reach out to the community in ar-eas where the vehicles will trav-el.

“NHTSA is dedicated to facili-tating the safe testing and de-ployment of advanced vehicle technologies, including innova-tive vehicle designs, which hold great promise for future safety improvements. As always, we will not hesitate to use defect author-ity to protect public safety as

necessary,” said NHTSA Acting Administrator James Owens.

The agency will use enforce-ment powers if it finds any evi-dence of an unreasonable risk to safety, the statement said.

In December, Nuro announced plans to use its low-speed deliv-ery vehicles in partnership with Walmart to deliver groceries to customers in Houston. The serv-ice was to start early this year and use the vehicles as well as automated Toyota Prius hybrid cars. Nuro also was testing deliv-eries with Kroger in Arizona and Houston.

Nuro, of Mountain View, Calif., announced a new version of its automated delivery vehicle called the “R2” on Feb. 6. It’s the second generation of a vehicle that’s custom-built to deliver goods, but not people.

The company said it plans to deploy fewer than 100 vehicles this year, but has permission from NHTSA to eventually run as many as 2,500.

The delivery vehicles, equipped with laser, camera and radar sensors, will travel with regular traffic on public roads.

The exemption from motor ve-hicle standards from NHTSA also allows Nuro to run its rear cam-eras all the time. Current stan-

dards require backup camera dis-plays to turn off when vehicles are moving forward so the dis-plays don’t distract human driv-ers, the company said.

Nuro said in a statement that the R2 has a front end that pro-protects pedestrians by collapsing inward.

It’s also equipped with temper-ature controls to keep perishable goods or meals fresh.

The vehicles make curbside deliveries to humans who can open the storage compartments with a code that’s sent to them and unload the goods.

Nuro said NHTSA’s approval came after three years of work with the agency.

“By replacing heavy passenger vehicles utilized for shopping and other errands, Nuro is usher-ing in a new era of neighborhood-

friendly and socially responsible zero-occupant vehicles,” the company said in its statement.

Company co-founder and Pres-ident Dave Ferguson said NHT-SA’s decision “shows that exemp-tion can mean more safety.”

Still unresolved is an applica-tion from General Motors to al-low a self-driving Chevrolet Bolt that doesn’t meet safety stan-dards for human-driven vehicles that travel at higher speeds. GM wants the Bolt to be allowed without a steering wheel or brake pedals.

Tech companies and automak-ers have been able to test au-tonomous vehicles without NHT-SA approval in the past because they have had steering wheels, brake pedals and other features required of human-piloted cars and trucks.

Wuhan Virus Could Affect FCA Production

MILAN (AP) – Fiat Chrysler Au-tomobiles said Feb. 13 that while the virus outbreak in China posed no immediate business risk, production at one European plant could be affected if supply chains remain blocked.

The company said it has iden-tified one European plant where production could be affected in the next two to four weeks if the Chinese supply chain continues to be blocked by the virus.

“There is no immediate impact on the group,” the carmaker said in a statement. “The group will continue to monitor the situation and continues to develop contin-gency plans to support its global manufacturing.”

CFO Richard Palmer told an an-alyt conference call that “the potential coronavirus impact, as of today, is not quantifiable.”

The U.S.-Italian carmaker made the comments as it reported record fourth-quarter profits boosted by more than one-third by unprecedented sales of Ram trucks in the United States.

Fiat Chrysler, which is in the process of merging with French rival PSA Peugeot, reported net profit in the three months ended Dec. 31 of 1.58 billion euros (\$1.74 billion), up from 1.17 bil-lion euros last year.

CEO Mike Manley called 2019

“a historic and pivotal year on many fronts.” He cited its strengthened financial position, key product investments and the nearly \$50 billion merger agree-ment with PSA Peugeot, which will be completed by the end of 2020 or early 2021.

Its North America division re-ported record adjusted earnings before taxes, depreciation and amortization of over 2 billion eu-ros. It accounted for 97 percent of adjusted EBIT generated world-wide.

Based on the results, about 44,000 eligible employees repre-sented by the United Auto Work-ers’ Union will receive a profit-sharing bonus of \$7,280. That brings to \$36,000 the amount hourly employees have received in profit sharing over a decade.

The profits in American con-trasted with losses in Asia and at luxury carmaker Maserati as well as declining profits in Europe and the Middle East. Outside of North America, only Latin Amer-ica contributed to boosting quar-terly profits, up 9 percent to 135 million euros.

During the full year, Ram sales in the United States soared 18 percent, led by the Ram Heavy-Duty, Ram 1500 and Ram 1500 Classic, to 703,000 units.

Jeep volumes were down over-

all, despite an 8 percent increase in sales of Jeep Cherokee to 243,000 units.

The division was looking to the new Jeep Gladiator, the brand’s return to trucks, for future growth. The Gladiator’s Super Bowl advertising featuring Bill Murray reprising his role in “Groundhog Day,” has won accolades.

Still, 2019 global deliveries were down 9 percent, to 4.4 mil-lion units, which Fiat Chrysler said was due to dealer stock re-ductions in North America and Maserati, which is up for a re-launch this year. Deliveries also were hit by lower shipments by the joint venture in China along with discontinued models in Eu-rope, namely the Punto and Alfa Romeo Mito.

The company confirmed 2020 guidance of adjusted earnings before taxes, depreciation and amortization above 7 billion eu-ros, and industrial cash flow of more than 2 billion euros.

Manley said that the PSA Peu-geot merger should help acceler-ate turnaround plans in Europe, where the carmaker is moving to renew its aging showroom with launches this year of a new Fiat 500 as well as plug-in hybrid ver-sions of the Jeep Compass and Renegade.

Oakland Deputy Arrests a Man in Phony Police Vehicle

WATERFORD, Mich. (AP) – A man driving what appeared to be a police car didn’t fool a sus-picious sheriff in suburban De-troit.

Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard said he was driving away from a meeting Feb. 6 when he spotted a vehicle with police-style bumpers.

The vehicle in question also had an array of lights on the back and a decal that read “emergency response.”

Bouchard activated his emer-gency lights and stopped the ve-hicle.

He said there was a fake radar on the dashboard and a police-style computer. He also discov-ered a loaded gun and a large knife.

“He looks at me and says, ‘Who are you?’ And I said, ‘I’m the sheriff. Who are you?’” Bouchard told WDIV-TV.

The man was arrested. Charges are pending.

“We’re still trying to run down what he was doing with this vehicle

or if he’s stopped anyone in the past,” the sheriff said. “He initially said that sometimes he helps po-lice. I don’t know what that means.”

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China's Car Sales Slumping

By JOE McDONALD
AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) – China's auto sales plunged in January, deepening a painful downturn in the industry's biggest global market and adding to economic pressures as the country fights a virus outbreak.

Sales of SUVs, sedans and minivans fell 20.2 percent from a year earlier to 1.6 million, an industry group, the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers, reported Feb. 13.

"Enterprises are under huge pressure," the organization said in a statement to the media and the public.

The industry was hurt by Beijing's decision to extend January's Lunar New Year holiday in order to keep families at home and reduce chances that infection might spread.

That kept factories and dealerships closed beyond what is normally done for the Lunar New Year holiday.

Demand already was weak due to consumer jitters about a tariff war with Washington, slower economic growth and possible job losses. Sales fell 9.6 percent last year, their second annual decline.

January's slump looks even worse due to the timing of the holiday, when shops and factories close two weeks.

This year's shutdown fell in January, closing factories and dealerships even before the anti-disease controls, while last year's holiday didn't start until February.

February sales usually would look stronger because the holiday has ended, but automakers have yet to restart production halfway through the month.

The public has been told to avoid crowds, keeping many customers who might normally be interested in purchasing a new automobile away from dealerships.

"In the short run, auto production and sales will be greatly affected," CAAM said. "The components supply system will be disrupted."

Losses to Chinese industry as a whole due to the most sweeping anti-disease measures ever imposed are expected to be so large that forecasters have cut this year's economic growth outlook.

The sales slump is a blow to global automakers that are counting on China to drive revenue amid flat demand for new vehicles in the United States and Europe.

China accounts for 27 percent of global auto production, up from 7 percent in 2003, according to UBS.

The extended closure of factories also is disrupting the global flow of auto components. China's share of global exports of auto parts is about 8 percent, up from 1 percent in 2003, according to UBS.

The slump is squeezing revenues for global and Chinese auto brands.

This slump is coming at a time when automobile manufacturers are spending billions of dollars to develop electric vehicles under pressure to meet government sales targets.

Sales of electric and gasoline-electric hybrid passenger vehicles tumbled 54.5 percent in January to 39,000, CAAM said.

China is the biggest market for electrics, accounting for half of global sales, but demand plummeted when Beijing ended multi-billion-dollar subsidies in mid-2019.

Forecasters expect demand for new vehicles to rebound later in the year.

"We expect many customers are merely postponing their purchase and that long-term demand growth remains largely unaffected," Gerwin Ho of Moody's Investors Service said in a report last week.

FCA, Detroit Looking for Artists to Create Mural for New Mack Ave. Jeep Complex

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Durango and the next-generation Jeep Grand Cherokee.

In total, the move will create 4,950 new jobs.

The Canvases for the Mural Project:

- The North Wall, which runs along Beniteau Street, immediately across from Southeastern High School.
- The South Wall, located at Beniteau Street and Kercheval Avenue, faces a new stormwater park that includes a walking path, pollinator gardens and an educational pavilion.

When the project is completed, Detroit's east side will have one of the largest municipal mural installations in the region at 15 feet high by 1,500 feet long, Frazier said.

"Our commitment to this city goes well beyond our facility," said Mark Stewart, Chief Operating Officer of FCA - North America. "We (FCA, the City of Detroit and residents) have a shared responsibility for the neighborhood around the new plant. These murals will reflect the val-

ues and identity of the community and our shared vision for a positive future."

The Goals for the Mural Project are:

- To ensure that the design represents both the rich history and bright future of Detroit's eastside neighborhoods and engage its residents, especially students, in creating the mural's design.
- To create a mural that leads residents and FCA to partner on further beautification efforts.
- To create art that has both educational and aesthetic value.
- To create art that reflects the values and identity of the community.

In an effort to ensure that the mural reflects the culture and identity of Detroit's eastside neighborhoods, the City and FCA are engaging local residents, especially students, in creating the mural's design, Frazier said. Residents of both the Beniteau and Lillibridge communities, and students at Southeastern High School and Detroit Enterprise

Academy, will help select a theme for the mural installation.

City Walls Detroit has issued the open call and details about the application and selection process were on the City Walls Web site on Feb. 14.

The selection committee will choose an artist or team by June 1. The project is expected to be completed by Oct. 30.

"This wonderful gift from FCA is just another example of how much arts and culture are alive and well and thriving here," said Rochelle Riley, the City's director of Arts and Culture. "And even more great things are coming in Detroit, where the arts are a way of life."

The mural project is part of the Community Benefits Agreement between FCA and the City of Detroit, a partnership that provides more than \$35 million in support for neighborhood improvements, housing, workforce development, education and training programs, and environmental initiatives, Frazier said.

For more information, contact John Roach at City Hall at roachj@detroitmi.gov or 313-244-7857 or Rochelle Riley at 313-720-1016 or rileyro@detroitmi.gov.

Ford Seeking Solutions to Detroit Traffic

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ing bike-sharing, scooter and ride-sharing services.

AbleLink is a technology solutions provider that proposed improving transportation for individuals with cognitive disabilities or other special needs with its WayFinder ecosystem, Günsberg said.

Whether they have a disability or low English proficiency, people will be able to download a customized WayFinder app and get instructions from a cloud-based WayFinder SMART Route Library to help route them to their destination and travel independently.

Finally, a team of the Downtown Detroit Partnership, DTE and local artists proposed improving the safety and walkability of the Michigan Avenue Bridge over the Lodge Freeway to better connect Corktown and Southwest Detroit to the downtown area.

The project involves the installation of colorful public art commissioned from two Detroit-born artists, Freddy Diaz and Donald Calloway, paired with street furniture and amenities.

This will make the bridge more inviting for people using all modes of transportation, including pedestrians, cyclists and drivers, Günsberg said.

"The quality of the proposals submitted for the City:One Challenge was simply outstanding," said Mark de la Vergne, chief of mobility innovation for the city of Detroit. "We are truly appreciative for all the time and energy spent in understanding mobility in the area of Michigan Central Station and proposing solutions. The fact that two of the three winners are local residents demonstrates the creativity and passion that Detroiters have for mobility."

Launched in Detroit in June 2019, City:One Challenge is a crowd-sourcing platform created by Ford to help prepare cities for the future by identifying new mobility designs and innovations that could improve the way people get around.

The platform program brings together government officials, local residents, startups and entrepreneurs in an effort to understand mobility issues and design solutions.

With a goal of improving mobility for people living in, working in

and visiting the community surrounding Michigan Central Station, the Challenge encouraged participants to submit mobility solutions that complement existing transportation services.

"The City:One Challenge builds on our commitment to advance the state's robust mobility landscape while providing greater access to transportation solutions for residents in the Corktown community and beyond," said Amanda Roraff, managing director of PlanetM, the mobility initiative of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

"We're excited to welcome these pilots to Michigan's mobility ecosystem, and to learn from them to develop better mobility solutions in the future."

In addition to funding provided by Ford and PlanetM, the City:One Challenge is also sponsored by AT&T, Dell Technologies and Microsoft, whose participation is key in bringing a diverse group of stakeholders together to solve for tough mobility challenges, said Ginsberg.

After hearing from more than 2,000 local Detroit residents, the City:One Challenge received more than 164 unique proposals for mobility solution pilots, Günsberg said. The Challenge's steering committee, comprised of industry experts, partner representatives and local stakeholders, selected 12 finalists.

Those finalists had the opportunity to work with mentors to further refine their proposals and prepare pitch presentations before winners were selected.

"A key goal for the City:One Challenge is to help preserve the unique fabric of the communities surrounding Michigan Central Station, even as the area sees expanded development," said Jeff Jones, vice president of Ford City Solutions. "By reaching out to residents, businesses and community groups through this program, we can better understand the issues people face on a daily basis and support ideas that will have a direct impact on their lives."

Throughout the Challenge, people were encouraged to submit ideas that could create immediate benefits for residents, workers and visitors of neighborhoods around Michigan Central Station while also supporting long-term mobility improvements, Günsberg said.

Key areas to consider included

improving access to mobility information, making mobility more affordable, building a safe and inviting environment for all and connecting people, places and opportunities with mobility services that work together.

In June 2018, Ford announced its acquisition of Michigan Central Station and plans to restore it to its original grandeur as the centerpiece of a new mobility innovation district in Corktown. Covering four key buildings and new public spaces, this will be a platform for partnership where mobility innovators and disruptors from around the world come to develop, test and launch new products and services that solve urban transportation challenges.

GM Dependability Scores Showing Big Improvement

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cars, but the gap is narrowing. On average, owners of crossovers/SUVs experience 134 PP100, compared with 127 PP100 by car owners.

This 7 PP100 gap has narrowed considerably from 2019. With crossovers/SUVs now accounting for more than 50 percent of new vehicle sales annually, it is critical that automakers achieve the same level of quality and dependability as for cars.

Effler said in-vehicle technology shows greatest improvement. Audio/Communication/Entertainment/Navigation (ACEN) is the most improved category (by 2.3 PP100), but still accounts for more problems than any other category in the study, Effler said. Owners continue to cite problems with voice recognition, Bluetooth connectivity and navigation systems.

"Many owners complain about these systems early in the ownership experience and, three years later, they're still frustrated with them," Sargent said. "We're seeing improvement, but automakers still have a long way to go to before they can declare victory in this area."

The 2020 U.S. Vehicle Dependability Study is based on responses from 36,555 original owners of 2017 model-year vehicles after three years of ownership, Effler said. The study was fielded from July through November 2019.

Ex-UAW Official Enters Guilty Plea

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\$250,000 and \$500,000, the plea deal states.

"Pearson and other UAW officials spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in UAW funds to rent villas in gated communities in Palm Springs for senior UAW officials for long periods of time outside of the dates set for the UAW conferences," the U.S. Attorney's Office said.

"In one instance, a high-level

UAW official received the use of a Palm Springs villa for four months, all paid for with UAW funds," prosecutors said.

The scandal has greatly embarrassed the UAW, which was in contentious contract negotiations last year with General Motors amid unflattering headlines about excesses by the union's top brass.

The UAW said it continues to make changes "so this type of conduct cannot happen again."

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AMT Hires New Executives

Applied Manufacturing Technologies (AMT) of Orion, North America’s largest independent automation engineering company supporting manufacturers, robot companies, systems integrators, line builders, and users of robotic automation worldwide, has promoted Rick Vanden Boom to Vice President of Sales and the hire of Mark McGinnis as Director of Systems Engineering.

Vice President of Automated Systems Group (ASG) Rick Vanden Boom has been promoted to Vice President of Sales at AMT, where he will focus on setting sales strategy, managing the sales team, and managing key customer relationships. Joining the company as business development manager in 2013, Vanden Boom has risen through the organization to director and vice president of ASG until his recent promotion to vice president of sales.

A graduate of the National Insti-

tute of Technology, Vanden Boom holds a degree in electronics engineering.

“A true team player and RISE Core Value Award recipient, Rick took the reins for ASG operations at a critical time for AMT,” said President and CEO Michael Jacobs. “He has been responsible for building the most capable ASG team that we’ve ever had. Rick has a passion for people and the business of AMT, and we will continue to support him in his new role as v.p. of Sales.”

Mark McGinnis joined AMT this month as Director of Systems Engineering, and has direct responsibility for the ASG group, which is dedicated to the design and build of turnkey automated robotic systems. Prior to joining AMT, McGinnis served for 16 years in a variety of leadership roles at a large automation systems integrator and has worked more than 25 years in the automation industry.



It’s now possible to get a 360 degree view of different Cadillac interiors thanks to 3D technology.

Cadillac 3D Technology Gives Customers Glimpse of What Their Vehicles Can Be

It used to be hard to visualize something before encountering it in real life. But no more, thanks to Cadillac’s 3D visualizing technology, said Robert Benbow, Cadillac Escalade marketing manager.

With no less than eight interior color and trim options, multiple 22-inch wheel options and the new 38-inch curved OLED display, the next-generation 2021 Escalade – available late 2020 – is all about customization, Benbow said. Customers can now customize a 2021 Escalade using a new 3D visualizer.

The Cadillac Escalade visualizer uses a 3D model of the Escalade Premium Luxury Platinum

to allow customers an immersive 360-degree view of the new Escalade from every angle, and to let them get inside and explore the Escalade’s richly-detailed interior, Benbow said.

Customers can switch between eight available exterior colors and three available interior configurations for the Premium Luxury Platinum trim.

They can also customize their 2021 Escalade with a choice of four wheels.

Using computer-generated imagery, the tool is designed to be mobile-friendly and intuitive.

“The visualizer allows customers to engage with the 2021 Escalade right from their phone

or desktop, six months before the vehicle is available in showrooms,” said Robert Benbow, Cadillac Escalade marketing manager. “And it will only get better over time.”

As the vehicle receives updates, the visualizer will as well, Benbow said. It will update throughout the lifecycle of the vehicle, as new wheels, colors and more become available.

After customizing their Escalade, customers have the option to share images on their social channels or via email. Customers are also able to use the visualizer to sign up to stay up to date on all aspects of the 2021 Cadillac Escalade.

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Auto Writers Praise Lincoln’s Newest SUVs

The Lincoln Motor Company continues to gain recognition for its impressive lineup of luxury vehicles, said Lincoln spokeswoman Anika Salceda-Wycoco. Both the Aviator and Navigator, she said, are being recognized for their versatility, features and overall performance at this year’s Chicago Auto Show.

The event was open to the media last week.

Members of the Midwest Automotive Media Association voted Lincoln Aviator the winner of the 2020 MAMA Luxury Family Vehicle of the Year award, ahead of the BMW X7 and Cadillac XT6, Salceda-Wycoco said.



MAMA writers appreciated the 2020 Navigator for its versatility.

A nonprofit group of automotive journalists and public relations professionals, Midwest Automotive Media Association developed its award to assist car-shopping families in making a wise, knowledgeable purchase decision.

“Choosing a family vehicle is an important decision,” said Tim Healey, MAMA award coordinator. “Whether it’s a premium brand or mainstream model, it should be versatile, reliable, efficient and reasonably priced. MAMA members pooled their expertise and experience to select the best family vehicles from an outstanding group of new and significantly refreshed models and ... Lincoln Aviator came out on top.”

To qualify for the award, vehicles had to have four doors, appear at one of MAMA’s two annual rallies, and be new or significantly updated within a year of the 2019 Spring Rally, which took place last May, Salceda-Wycoco said. The MAMA Spring and Fall Rallies feature a broad range of

manufacturer vehicles for journalists to drive and evaluate.

Voting took place at both rallies, and the field of contenders was then narrowed down for a last round of voting. Mainstream finalists were the Ford Escape, Ford Explorer, Honda Passport, Hyundai Palisade, Jeep Gladiator, Kia Telluride, Mazda 3, and Subaru Outback. The finalists in the luxury category were the BMW X7, Cadillac XT6, Lincoln Aviator, Lincoln Nautilus, and Mercedes-Benz AMG CLS 53 Coupe.

In each round of voting, three points were awarded for a first-place vote, two points were given for a second-place vote and third-place votes were valued at one point each.

MAMA media members then voted in one final round, and 99 automotive journalists participated. The 2020 Lincoln Aviator was crowned Luxury Family Vehicle of the Year with 192 points, edging out the 2019 BMW X7, which netted 148 points. The

2020 Cadillac XT6 rounded out the top three with 108 points.

That isn’t the only good news about Lincoln, Salceda-Wycoco said. In addition, *Consumer Guide*, the leading publisher of authoritative, unbiased new and used car reviews for 53 years, named Lincoln Navigator an Automotive Best Buy in its premium large/SUV category.

Consumer Guide editors use objective criteria, such as price, features, performance, accommodations, fuel economy, reliability records and resale value, to assess each vehicle.

Key to the awards is the evaluation of every aspect of each vehicle as it relates to consumers’ real-world driving experience.

“The new three-row Lincoln Aviator defines effortless performance among premium SUVs, offering impressive power and capability, while the full-size Lincoln Navigator continues to drive brand momentum as a client favorite,” Salceda-Wycoco said.

Wrangler, GT350 and Silverado on Kelley Residual Value List

When buying a new car, it can be difficult to know what that brand-new purchase might be worth in a few years. That's why Kelley Blue Book has done the hard work.

The automotive information company has just released its best resale value list and Detroit automakers have topped quite a few of their categories.

Editors wrote that: with rising average transaction prices topping \$35,000, resale value is more important than ever when buying or leasing a new vehicle. Whether you buy a vehicle and keep it for a long time or are in a short-term lease, what your vehicle is worth at the end of your experience impacts your total ownership cost.

During the first five years of new-vehicle ownership, depreciation costs more than fuel, maintenance and insurance combined. Finding the right vehicle with high retained value is the secret to saving money in the long run.

"Kelley Blue Book's experience in establishing used vehicle valuation for more than 90 years is key to establishing our Best Resale Value Awards," said Eric Ibara, director of Kelley Blue Book's Residual Values.

"Using the latest research and analysis, our values are based on current vehicle specification and trim levels, sales data, market conditions, competition within individual segments, future economic factors and the combined experience of our team of market and pricing analysts. This wealth of information can inform your car-buying decision, and it's yours at no cost."

The 2019 Chevrolet Tahoe was tops in the "Best Full-Size SUV/Crossover category." Editors said the resale value after 36 months is 55 percent of retail price and 43 percent after 60 months.

They wrote that there "aren't many vehicles out there with a resume that includes a towing capacity of over 8,500 pounds, the ability to accommodate a family of up to nine, and an interior that can be a Wi-Fi hotspot and rolling entertainment center, but the Chevrolet Tahoe can do all that and more."

The 2019 Jeep Wrangler was the winner in the "Best Off-Road SUV/Crossover" category. Editors estimated that the 2019 Wrangler keeps 67.4 percent of full retail value after 36 months and 58.8 percent after 60 months.

When describing the Wrangler, editors wrote the "new generation of the Jeep Wrangler Unlimited retains the SUV's iconic looks,



2020 Jeep Wrangler

and adds better ride quality, improved fuel economy, more tech and advanced safety features, and even better off-road capability to the mix. The longer, roomier 4-door Wrangler Unlimited has class-leading resale value in the off-road SUV category, and the 2-door is right behind it in second place.

"The iconic Jeep Wrangler has once again successfully defended its top position in the off-road SUV segment. Additionally, the lofty residual values associated with the Wrangler earn it a place among Kelley Blue Book's Top 10 vehicles with the highest residual values."

"Joining the Wrangler on this list, in its inaugural year, is the Jeep Gladiator," said Eric Ibara, director of Kelley Blue Book's Residual Values.

And the winner in the "Full-Size Car" category might surprise some. It's the 2019 Dodge Charger. Kelley Blue Book editors acknowledged this when they wrote: the "2018 Dodge Charger isn't your typical full-size family sedan. Where competitors like the front-drive (FWD) Toyota Avalon and Chevrolet Impala impart a sporty look, the rear-wheel-drive (RWD) Dodge Charger displays a rowdy, all-American bravado backed up by a team of powerful engine options, including a 707-horsepower Hemi V8 found in the Charger SRT Hellcat. "Of course, not every family has \$66,000 to drop on a car, which is why it's nice that even the least expensive Charger still offers a potent yet fuel-efficient 292-horsepower V6 engine, great handling, a roomy interior and plenty of features."

Kelley editors estimate that the 2019 Charger keeps 48.3 percent of retail value after 36 months and 35 percent after 60 months.

Ford also had a winner with its

2019 Mustang Shelby GT350. Editors estimated that this vehicle will keep 58.5 percent of its value after 36 months and 46.5 percent after 60 months.

They wrote that the "original GT350 was a legendary race-ready Mustang built by Carroll Shelby in the 1960s. Truth is, in all important performance categories, today's 2019 Ford Mustang Shelby GT350 trounces that hallowed original, which is just one of multiple reasons why this latest high-performance Mustang has earned the distinction of winning the Sports Car category of the 2019 KBB Best Resale Value Awards.

The 2019 Chevrolet Silverado HD was the winner in the "Best Full-Size Pickup Truck" category. Editors estimate that it will keep 65.3 percent of its full retail value after 36 months and 62.5 percent after 60 months.

The score of the Chevy Silverado just beat out the score of 2019 GMC Sierra HD, which had numbers of 64.9 percent after 36 months and 62.1 percent after 60 months; and the 2019 Ford F-Se-



2020 Shelby GT350



2020 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD

ries Super Duty, which had numbers of 64.9 percent after 36 months, and 56.4 percent after 60 months.

Kelley editors liked the Silverado HD, stating, "Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD (3/4-ton) and 3500HD (1-ton) pickups are hardcore haulers that are brought in when serious work needs to get done. Want the ability to carry

more than 6,000 pounds of payload?

"Chevrolet's HD trucks can tow more than 23,000 pounds. And you can do all of this without a commercial driver's license. Not only are the trucks known for their durability, the Silverado HD duo has the top projected resale value of any heavy-duty truck for 2019."

U.S. Company to Build Chinese SUVs

DETROIT (AP) – A California company says it will build and sell Chinese-designed automobiles in the U.S. at the end of next year or early in 2022.

HAAH Automotive Holdings says it has an agreement with large Chinese automaker Chery Automobile to provide the vehicles, which will be assembled in a U.S. factory. HAAH says the first vehicle sold will be a mid-size SUV.

It's the latest effort to bring passenger vehicles designed in China to the United States, but other efforts so far have seen limited success. GAC OMotor of China has appeared at the last two Detroit auto shows to tout plans to enter the American market. But its plans have been delayed until June of this year.

General Motors Co. and Sweden's Volvo Cars export Chinese-made vehicles to the United States. China's BYD Auto sells battery-powered buses to U.S. transit companies.

Other Chinese brands have announced U.S. sales plans but

have struggled to meet safety and emissions standards.

HAAH of Irvine, California, says it will sell Geely-designed autos under the Vantas brand name. The company will develop a U.S. dealership network and have flexible online sales. HAAH will be recruiting dealers at the National Automobile Dealers Association convention, which starts later this week in Las Vegas.

Chery and HAAH are reviewing sites for a U.S. factory but have not reached a decision, the company said. It is considering existing buildings as well as undeveloped sites.

Initially the SUVs will be assembled from kits to hit HAAH's on-sale target date. But the plant will move to full manufacturing over time, HAAH said.

The company didn't give an estimate of how many people the factory will employ once the operation is up and running.

HAAH also has a partnership with Chinese automaker Zotye Auto, which plans to start selling vehicles in the United States in 2020.

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FCA Belvidere Assembly Has Silver Manufacturing Status

FCA had some good news for buyers of the new Jeep Cherokee.

The FCA Belvidere Assembly Plant in Illinois, home of the Jeep Cherokee, is the latest plant to be designated silver in the company's World Class Manufacturing (WCM) program, said FCA spokeswoman Jodi Tinson.

Recognized for its efforts in expanding the implementation of WCM principles, the Illinois facility is the company's 10th North American manufacturing location overall to achieve the silver milestone and the first plant this year, Tinson said.

WCM is the structured and rigorous FCA production system designed to make plants more flexible and competitive by eliminating waste and losses, improving safety and quality, and increasing productivity in a systematic and organized way, Tinson said.

First implemented by Fiat in 2006 and introduced to Chrysler Group as part of the alliance between the two companies in June 2009, WCM principles are applied to all aspects of the plant organization, from quality to maintenance, operations to logistics, with the goal of continuous improvement.

WCM also engages the workforce to provide and implement suggestions on how to improve their jobs and their plants, promoting a sense of ownership, Tinson said.

"Achieving silver status is a major accomplishment for all the men and women who work at Belvidere Assembly and I congratulate them on this milestone," Jorge Lares, head of Manufacturing, FCA North America, said. "The achievement of WCM award levels recognizes the long-

term commitment of our workforce in fostering a culture of continuous improvement that consistently places Belvidere at the top of the list for quality in North America."

Belvidere earned the silver milestone after being recognized with the bronze award in July 2016, Tinson said. Silver was awarded following a three-day audit during which the plant earned a minimum of 60 points in 10 technical and 10 managerial pillars by demonstrating clear WCM know-how and competence through employee-conducted pillar presentations and a review of projects that have been expanded across the shop floor.

Award levels are confirmed through independent audits and awarded plants have a role in accelerating the implementation of WCM throughout the organization as coaches and mentors, Tinson said.

During an audit, zero to five points are scored for each of the 10 technical pillars, which include safety, workplace organization, logistics and the environment, and for each of the 10 managerial pillars, such as management commitment, clarity of objectives, allocation of highly qualified people, motivation of operators and commitment of the organization.

A score of 85 would indicate World Class level, Tinson said.

In addition to Belvidere, nine other North American plants hold a silver designation, having been elevated from bronze. Silver is awarded to plants that have taken a preventive approach to implementing the WCM methodology throughout the facility. The silver plants are:



Thanks to efforts like this from employees, FCA's Belvidere assembly plant earned Silver WCM status.

- Windsor (Ontario) Assembly Plant.
 - Dundee Engine Plant.
 - Toledo (Ohio) Assembly Complex.
 - Saltillo (Mexico) South Engine Plant.
 - Saltillo (Mexico) Van Assembly Plant.
 - Warren Stamping.
 - Toledo (Ohio) Machining.
 - Sterling Stamping.
 - Tipton (Ind.) Transmission Plant.
- Currently, there are 14 North American facilities that hold the WCM bronze designation:
- Saltillo (Mexico) Truck Assembly.
 - Toluca (Mexico) Assembly.
 - Trenton (Mich.) Engine Complex.
 - Brampton (Ontario) Assembly.
 - Kokomo (Ind.) Transmission Plant.

- Indiana Transmission Plant I (Kokomo, Ind.).
- Indiana Transmission Plant II (Kokomo, Ind.).
- Kokomo (Ind.) Casting.
- Warren (Mich.) Truck Assembly.
- Jefferson North Assembly Plant.
- CPK Interiors, Port Hope (Ontario).
- Etobicoke (Ontario) Casting.
- Sterling Heights (Mich.) Assembly Plant.
- CPK Interiors, Guelph (Ontario).

Construction of the Belvidere Assembly Plant began in 1964 and the first car rolled off the line on July 7, 1965.

In 2016, the company announced another \$350 million investment to retool the plant to build the Jeep Cherokee, which

was being relocated from the north plant of the Toledo (Ohio) Assembly Complex. Production of the Jeep Cherokee began in June 2017. The plant employs more than 3,800 people working two shifts.

Belvidere was awarded a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Green Building System certification for meeting the highest environmental standards in April 2015. LEED, administered by the United States Green Building Council, is a comprehensive system to define, measure and validate green buildings.

Certification in the national recognition program is based on strict standards in five key areas: site planning, water management, energy, material use and indoor environmental quality,

Volvo Considering a Merger

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) – Swedish automaker Volvo Cars and its owner Chinese automaker Geely Holding said Feb. 10 they are considering combining their businesses to create a company that "would accelerate financial and technological synergies between the two companies."

A combined company would preserve the distinct identity of each of the brands Volvo, Geely, Lynk & Co and Polestar, Volvo's electric brand.

The proposal comes at a time when carmakers face huge investments to develop electric cars to meet tougher CO2 emissions limits, particularly in China and Europe, as well as innovation like driverless vehicles.

In a joint statement, the two companies said that a combined group "would have the scale, knowledge and resources to be a leader in the ongoing transformation of the auto industry."

It would be listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange "and with the intention to subsequently list in Stockholm as well."

The two will create a joint working group to prepare a proposal for their respective boards. A deal would be subject to the approval by the boards and shareholders of Geely and Volvo Cars, as well as by regulators.

Volvo Cars is based in Goteborg, Sweden, but has been owned by Geely since 2010.

Last year, the global sales for Volvo Cars, which is a separate company from truckmaker AB Volvo, reached a record 705,452 cars across about 100 countries. It has about 41,500 full-time employees with plants in Sweden, Belgium, South Carolina in the United States; and Chengdu, Daqing and Zhangjiakou in China.

Geely Holding is headquartered in Hangzhou. Its Geely Auto unit is made up of the brands Geely Auto, Geometry, Lynk & Co., Proton, and Lotus. The company also acquired British taxi maker The London Electric Vehicle Company in 2013. The group sold over 1.5 million cars in 2018.

State Tests Alcohol Breath Machines

LANSING, Mich. (AP) – All 203 of Michigan's alcohol breath testing devices are back in service amid a fraud investigation of the company that supplies the equipment.

Michigan State Police launched a criminal investigation last month into contract employees with Intoximeters Inc. and suspended its contract after evidence suggested the company falsified records and misrepresented the devices' accuracy.

State police had announced that all Datamaster DMT devices had been sidelined until the agency could verify that each was properly calibrated, the *Detroit Free Press* reported. Nearly 40 devices were back online a few days later. The machines

were certified around the end of January, First Lt. Michael Shaw said Feb. 11.

The devices are used at local police stations and detention centers to test blood-alcohol levels in cases of suspected drunken driving.

While the devices were out of service, police departments were instructed to conduct blood draws.

The Missouri-based company did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

State police say they found the technicians were unable to maintain and certify the machines in a timely fashion, while incorrectly recording data from the tests and sharing password information with jail staff in August 2019.

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BAE Creating AV ‘Soldier’ of Future

by Jim Stickford

To many adding robots to the work place can mean more trouble than it’s worth, but to the soldiers of the U.S. Army it can be a matter of life and death.

Which is why Jim Miller, director of Business Development for BAE Combat Mission Systems, has led a team of designers and engineers at BAE’s Sterling Heights facility in creating a prototype called the Robotic Technology Demonstrator (RTD).

Miller said that the U.S. Army is investing heavily in autonomous vehicle technology because having vehicles that go and do things in places where it’s possible to come under enemy fire can save lives.

Miller noted that WWII general “Texas” Bill Simpson, commander of the U.S. Ninth Army in Europe, drilled into his subordinate officers: “Never send an infantryman to do a job that an artillery shell can do for him.”

The same principle applies to AVs. Having a robotic vehicle to, say, clear mine fields or do reconnaissance in enemy territory is a very attractive ideal, Miller said.

So BAE Systems, at its Sterling Heights facility, has been developing the RTD.

The vehicle is a prototype meant to showcase the capabilities of AVs and has been specifically designed to be adaptable for future weapons systems, sensor technologies and payload capacities, Miller said.

“The RTD features AV mobility technology to help keep soldiers out of harm’s way,” Miller said. “It uses a hybrid electric drivetrain for fuel efficiency and also carries a 30mm remote weapons station cannon, a suite of sensors for 36-degree situational awareness and surveillance, a compos-

ite rubber track system and a small-legged robot for reconnaissance missions.”

So yes, the tracked AV will carry a small robot that can walk on four legs, Miller said. The idea is that the secondary robot can go places that the tracked vehicle can’t. The 30 mm cannon can be used for defense or to actually attack positions.

So if the RTD were to actually spot, say, a machine gun next, the remote control operator could use its cannon to take out the target. A safer alternative to sending a squad of soldiers to perform the same mission.

Miller said that it’s also important to remember that the RTD is a prototype and has been designed to be a “rolling lab” that can be used to test different sys-

tems and adapt to the Army’s requirements. That’s why it has a modular look.

The vehicle itself was developed and built in Sterling Heights, Miller said. It’s not being tested by the Army and they expect more prototypes to be integrated with Army units in the next couple of years to get a more thorough field test.

If they Army likes what it sees, then the RTD could go into production. But testing this kind of equipment to make sure that it meets Army specs takes time, so there’s no exact timetable.

“We are far away from even thinking about where this vehicle would be built,” Miller said. “We’re still in the early stages of the whole process. The technology is changing so quickly.”



This AV prototype is designed so improvements can easily be added.



Oakland County Executive David Coulter (right) swears in Thiele.

FCA Executive’s Efforts Help Promote Minority Business

When it comes to increasing minority participation in its supply chain, FCA does more than just talk.

The Michigan Minority Supplier Development Council (MMSDC) named FCA North America Head of Purchasing and Supply Chain Management Scott Thiele as Chairman of the Board for the next two years, said FCA spokesman Mike Palese.

Replacing DTE Chief Procurement Officer Tony Tomczak, he will be leading the group’s efforts to advance opportunities for minority-owned businesses.

“Our commitment to diversity and inclusion at FCA extends far beyond our walls,” said Thiele. “I’m proud to serve the MMSDC as they continue supporting minority business owners in creative ways.

Diversity drives innovation and innovation drives growth for all of us. I am excited about this opportunity to contribute to the future success of minority suppliers and our communities.”

FCA recently joined a partnership formed between MMSDC and Plug and Play, the largest global innovation platform for startups and corporations, to bring a new innovation hub to Detroit by June 2020.

Plug and Play Detroit Powered by AmplifyD (Amplify:Diversity) will provide streamlined access to all technology startups, with an emphasis on those owned by women and minorities, Palese said. The partnership underpins FCA’s approach to the rapid advancement of select technologies through smart and strategic collaborations that promote a culture of innovation and safety.

In 2019, FCA and MMSDC also launched the Collaborative Growth Initiative, which includes nine automakers and suppliers working together with 18 minority-owned businesses to define, measure and facilitate sustainable sourcing opportunities in the indirect/non-production commodity space.

The goal is to ensure strategic business growth, Palese said.

“Over the past two years, Scott has served as vice chair of our organization and I’m sincerely excited to have such an action-oriented, knowledgeable leader at the helm of our organization during a significant time of

growth and opportunity,” said Michelle Sourie Robinson, president and CEO of MMSDC.

“Scott is decisive, smart and forward-thinking. He’s not afraid to step outside the box, which is critical as we experience and embrace a season of exponential growth.”

Since 1983, the company has purchased more than \$88.2 billion from minority-, women- and veteran-owned suppliers, Palese said. In 2019, FCA was honored with the following award for the company’s innovative approaches and programs to expand opportunities for diverse suppliers:

- Corporation of the Year for 2018, Class 4 from the National Minority Supplier Development Council.
- Best-in-Class for Excellence in Supplier Diversity from the at Lakes Women Business Council.
- Benchmark Award from Rainbow PUSH.
- President’s Award from the Canadian Aboriginal and Minority Supplier Council.
- America’s Top Corporation for Women’s Business Enterprises from the Women’s Business Enterprise National Council.

The company celebrated the 20th annual MatchMaker event through a series of high-impact engagements with more than 250 diverse businesses. MatchMaker has generated more than \$4 billion in new business opportunities for exhibitors since inception in 1999.

Nearly 10 years ago, FCA established its High Focus Program with an aim to take suppliers with greater potential for diverse spending and equip them with the tools and support to achieve their diversity targets.

The diversity spend status of each supplier is monitored monthly and reviewed with the supplier quarterly.

In 2019, 25 suppliers remain in this program.

FCA has a long-standing, enterprise-wide commitment to diversity and inclusion, which includes supporting 10 business resource groups representing a range of affinity communities that pursue initiatives that celebrate multicultural differences and provide developmental opportunities for employees.

Takata Troubles Force an Audi Recall

DETROIT (AP) – Volkswagen is recalling nearly 107,000 older vehicles sold by its Audi luxury brand because Takata driver’s air bag inflators may not function properly or they could hurl shrapnel in a crash.

The vehicles may have one of the 1.4 million air bag inflators that Takata recalled in December. They have a new and distinct problem from previous Takata recalls, but still can explode with too much force and blow apart a metal canister. The new problem has led to at least one death.

Many of the cars in the Audi recall are more than two decades

old. They include certain 2000 and 2001 TT Roadsters, the 2000 TT Coupe, the 1999 A8, and the 1998 through 2000 A6 and A4.

Unlike previous Takata recalls, this batch of inflators does not contain volatile ammonium nitrate. But they can still malfunction due to a manufacturing error, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said in documents posted on its website Feb. 6.

VW will notify owners in March, but there are no replacement parts available at present. Owners will get a second letter when the parts are made.

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Brock Earns Lifetime Achievement Award

EyesOn Design is proud to announce Peter Brock has been selected as the recipient of EyesOn Design's 2020 Lifetime Design Achievement Award.

Brock was chosen by a group of top automotive designers for his outstanding career in vehicle design.

Brock enjoyed a career centered around performance and race cars. Besides his successful racing team, Brock Racing Enterprises (BRE), he is perhaps most known for his work on the XP-87 Corvette Stingray Racer and the Shelby Daytona Coupe.

The 2020 Lifetime Design Achievement Award will be presented to Brock on Tuesday, June 9, as part of the EyesOn Design Awards at the North American International Auto Show at TCF Center in Detroit.

The award is unique in that the selection is made by the previous winners of the award, which include automotive designers from around the world.

Previous winners of the award include Chris Bangle, Nuncio Bertone, Wayne Cherry, Walter de'Silva, Willie G. Davidson, Leonardo Fioravanti, Tom Gale, Giorgetto Giugiaro, Chuck Jordan, Robert Lutz, Shiro Nakamura, Patrick le Quement, Sergio Pininfarina, Stewart Reed, Peter Schreyer, Jack Telnack, Ed Welburn and the late Syd Mead.

The EyesOnDesign biography of Brock stated that everybody "knows Peter Brock for a different reason. To historic Corvette fans he's the guy who penned the lines of the original Sting Ray racer and by extension the production 1963 Corvette.

"To Cobra fans, Peter's the guy who took the brick-like Shelby Cobra roadster and turned it into the slippery Cobra Daytona Coupe – the first American car to beat out the European regulars



Peter Brock

and grab the FIA's GT World Championship, motorsports' ultimate prize in worldwide sports-car racing. America got its first World Championship-winning sports car, and Peter got a first-hand education in negotiating the world of provincial race officials. That education was about to serve him well."

The biography further stated that Datsun devotees love to remember the Pete Brock of Brock Racing Enterprises during the late '60s and early '70s; that fun-loving hipster who, behind his crowd-pleasing polka-dot scarves and hip-hugging slacks, coolly called the shots as BRE's 510 coupes decimated the Alfas and BMWs of the Trans-Am 2.5 series.

The biography went on to state that in Japan, Brock became a serious motoring celebrity. His success with BRE earned him a lot of respect, while his outrageous Hino Samurai Group 7 prototype – a wildly showy mid-engined GT for the prestigious Japan GT series – made him a cult hero.

While teaching auto design in the early '90s back at his Alma Mater, Art Center College of Design, Brock said he decided to start writing about racing and illustrating his stories with photographs he had taken.

"I started by writing a history of the Shelby era, 'Daytona Cobra Coupes,'" Brock said. "This book created a series of inquiries from magazine editors to cover upcoming races. After turning down the opportunity to go to Le Mans three years in a row, I decided maybe I didn't have my priorities in order and I jumped in. It just kind of took off then getting a life of its own. It was a way to stay closely involved with cars and racing.

"I love racers and the art of

building fast cars. With all the roles I've had in the industry, I'm first and foremost a designer. I can't look at a design and not evaluate its racing capabilities and esthetics. It doesn't matter what type of racing is involved because I've found that all racers are driven by the same desire to just do something better than the next guy."

Then needing a trailer to tow his own car, Brock said he was amazed at the lack of understanding of aerodynamics in the trailer industry and decided to design and build his own trailer. When done, he was approached by others who said they wanted one, too. His wife Gayle named it the Aerovault and began their trailer business which to-date has built and sold more than 100 Aerovaults out of their home base in Henderson, Nev. In addition, Brock is involved in public speaking, personal appearances, Concours judging and is still involved with design such as the South African-built Superformance Brock Coupe and a luxury watch he designed with Baume & Mercier.

Here is some of his industry recognition:

- Road Racer's Drivers Club (RRDC) - Phil Hill Award;
- Art Center College of Design – Designer's Choice for Inspired Design;
- Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum – Spirit of Competition Award;
- International Automotive Media Award (IAMA) - Lifetime Achievement Award;
- Art Center College of Design - Lifetime Achievement Award;
- International Society for Vehicle Preservation – Lifetime Achievement Award
- Corvette Hall of Fame Inductee.

BorgWarner Reports \$220M Earnings

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) – BorgWarner Inc. (BWA) on Feb. 13 reported fourth-quarter earnings of \$220 million.

On a per-share basis, the Auburn Hills, Michigan-based company said it had net income of \$1.06. Earnings, adjusted for one-time gains and costs, came to \$1.17 per share.

The results topped Wall Street expectations. The average estimate of four analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research was for earnings of \$1.12 per share.

The auto parts supplier posted revenue of \$2.56 billion in the period, which met Street forecasts.

For the year, the company reported profit of \$746 million, or \$3.61 per share. Revenue was reported as \$10.17 billion.

BorgWarner expects full-year earnings in the range of \$3.85 to \$4.15 per share, with revenue in the range of \$9.75 billion to \$10.07 billion.

BorgWarner shares have dropped 20 percent since the beginning of the year, while the Standard & Poor's 500 index has climbed nearly 5 percent.

The price of the company's stock has fallen 14 percent in the last 12 months.



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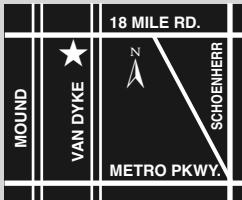
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2021 Escalade Brings New Luxury and Technology to SUVs

Call it big news from Cadillac. The brand has unveiled the new 2021 Escalade, completely redesigned with pioneering technologies that add new dimension to the iconic luxury SUV, according to said Cadillac President Steve Carlisle.

Featuring exclusive, first-to-market technology advances, including a curved Organic Light Emitting Diode (OLED) screen, the first AKG automotive audio system and Cadillac's acclaimed Super Cruise driver assistance technology, the fifth generation of Cadillac's flagship expands on its more than 20 years of segment-defining leadership.

"There is something special about driving an Escalade," said Carlisle. "It has the bold presence and exclusive technology to elevate the extraordinary and make every drive feel like an occasion."

Launching in the third quarter this year in North America, the 2021 Escalade has been completely redesigned, said Carlisle, to deliver improved driving dynamics and significantly greater passenger and cargo capacities.

"The 2021 Escalade takes its leadership into a new era of mobility, with comprehensive upgrades that are transformative to the driving experience," said Carlisle. "It's more than a new Escalade. It's a new experience."

The 2021 Escalade features OLED and camera technologies developed to enhance driver vision, while its signature design, said Carlisle, evolves and strengthens, with added layers of craftsmanship and unique appearances for Sport and Luxury models.

This industry-first technology, he/she said, uses a curved OLED display that offers more than 38 inches of total diagonal display area, with twice the pixel density of a 4K television.

The technology delivers bold imagery, perfect blacks and the

largest color range of any automotive display in production today.

The system includes three screens: a 7.2-inch-diagonal touch control panel driver information center to the driver's left, a 14.2-inch-diagonal cluster display behind the steering wheel and a 16.9-inch-diagonal Infotainment screen to the driver's right. The OLED is paper-thin, and its curvature positions the displays for optimal visibility.

The Escalade incorporates several other advanced, vision-oriented features, including:

- New, available Augmented Reality-enabled navigation, which uses live street views with directional overlays and more to enhance driving directions.
- Surround Vision, a standard feature that employs four exterior cameras to provide a 2-megapixel bird's-eye view of the scene around the vehicle.
- An available Trailering Integration Package, which offers up to nine camera views (including rear camera guidelines) to support easier hitching. The package also includes an integrated trailer brake controller and a trailering app that offers trailer profiles, tire pressure and temperature monitoring, and an Extended Side Blind Zone Alert.
- Rear Camera Mirror, an available feature that streams a rear-facing camera view on the conventional in side mirror screen.
- Night Vision, an available feature that uses infrared technology to enhance forward visibility, including detection of pedestrians and large animals, projected on the center cluster display.
- New rear-seat entertainment features a pair of 12.6-inch-diagonal independent touch



Cadillac made sure redesigned the 2021 Escalade has greater cargo and passenger space in its interior

displays with navigation as well as streaming capability to play games, music and videos through HDMI and USB inputs. The screens can also mirror Android smartphones. Additionally, destination "suggestions" can be "sent" by rear passengers to the front navigation screen, for the driver to accept or decline.

Augmented Reality Navigation is a new, available feature with the 2021 Escalade's turn-by-turn navigation.

A live street view in front of the vehicle is projected on the cluster display with turn indicators and other directional information overlaid on the scene.

It includes features such as direction-based audio prompts. For example, a "turn left" audio prompt comes through the left speakers to further emphasize the navigation instruction – with the volume increasing as the turn approaches.

"Escalade has always made a bold statement that says you've



Cadillac uses the latest technology to offer an easy-to-read panel.

arrived," said Therese Pinazzo, exterior design manager. "We have updated that statement for a new era, adding layers of sophistication."

"The goal was to create a new Escalade that is unmistakable at a glance, and then rewards you with greater details on the second or even third read."

"The expectations and desires of Escalade customers are factors everyone in the Cadillac design studio unequivocally understands," said Phil Kucera, interior design manager.

"This allowed us to reach greater levels of depth and detail than Escalade has ever had before."

Tesla, in a Move That Surprised Wall Street, Launching \$2 Billion Public Stock Offering

by TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) – Tesla said that is selling \$2 billion worth of additional stock, that its U.S. revenue fell last year and that securities regulators are scrutinizing its finances.

All of the developments Feb. 13 were disclosed in filings with U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, which in December subpoenaed financial data and contracts, including the company's financing arrangements.

The Palo Alto, California, company's shares jumped 3.7 percent despite the disclosures and the additional 2.65 million shares that could dilute the value of the 180 million shares now on the market.

The surprise sale taps into Tesla's rocketing stock price over the past eight months, but comes just two weeks after CEO Elon Musk said the company had enough cash to fund its capital programs and it didn't need to raise any more money.

In a prepared statement, Tesla said Musk will buy \$10 million worth of the stock while billionaire board member and Oracle co-founder Larry Ellison will buy shares worth \$1 million.

The electric car and solar panel maker will use the proceeds to strengthen its balance sheet and for general corporate purposes.

In the Feb. 13 filing, Tesla Inc. said underwriters of the share sale have a 30-day option to buy another \$300 million in common stock. The company estimated that the net proceeds from the

sale would be \$2.31 billion if the underwriters exercise the options.

The numbers assume that the shares would be sold for \$767.29 each, the closing price of the stock on Feb. 12. Each additional dollar on the share price would add about \$2.6 million to the proceeds, the filing said.

Since June of last year the stock has more than quadrupled in value and was trading at \$795.49 Feb. 13.

On the company's fourth-quarter earnings conference call on Jan. 29, Musk was asked about raising capital since the stock had gone up so dramatically.

He replied that the company was spending money as fast as it could spend sensibly, yet it's still generating cash. "So in light of that, it doesn't make sense to raise money because we expect to generate cash despite this growth level," he told analysts.

In a note to investors, Wedbush analyst Daniel Ives called the stock sale a smart move because the shares are in a strong position as electric vehicle demand is starting to reach an inflection point, with China as the main driver.

He also wrote that the sale removes a potential cash shortage down the road. "The bulls (which we agree with) will say this essentially rips the Band-Aid off and takes the doomsday cash crunch scenario some predicted down the road now off the table," Ives wrote.

Tesla also disclosed on Feb. 13 in its annual report that the SEC subpoenaed information in De-

cember about the company's financing arrangements but gave no further details. Tesla also said the U.S. Justice Department has asked for information about Musk's statements that he had funding secured to take the company private, and about production rates for the Model 3 sedan. The funding had not been lined up.

The SEC probe into statements about taking the company private was closed with a \$40 million settlement, Tesla said. The securities agency also closed its probe last year into projections of Model 3 production rates, the annual report stated.

"To our knowledge no government agency in any ongoing investigation has concluded that any wrongdoing occurred," the filing said.

Also in the annual report, Tesla disclosed that its U.S. revenue fell 15 percent last year to \$12.65 billion, despite record vehicle sales. The U.S. is by far its largest market. But overall revenue rose nearly 15 percent to \$24.58 billion on increases in China, the Netherlands and Norway.

The company said that at the end of last year it had 48,016 employees, 801 fewer than in 2018.

Tesla lost \$862 million last year and has never posted an annual profit. But it made \$105 million in the fourth quarter. At the end of last year, it had \$6.27 billion in cash and equivalents on hand, almost 70 percent better than at the close of 2018. But its debt grew from \$9.4 billion at the end of 2018 to \$11.6 billion in December of 2019.

U.S. Budget Hurts AV Firm

DETROIT (AP) – The Trump administration's budget proposal scraps a loan program that could help an upstart electric vehicle company's plans to reuse the now-closed General Motors factory in Lordstown, Ohio.

In a summary of the budget for the coming fiscal year, the administration said Feb. 10 it wants to eliminate the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Loan Program, which was created in 2007 to foster development of fuel-efficient vehicles.

Lordstown Motors Corp., a new venture that's trying to reopen the former Lordstown GM factory east of Cleveland to build electric trucks, is considering asking for a \$200 million from the loan fund. It's also getting a \$40 million loan from GM.

But it's not clear just yet whether the loan program's demise would cut off money for Lordstown Motors. There are still just over seven months left in the current budget year, and the program still has more than \$17 billion available to loan, according to the Department of Energy, which runs the program.

Lordstown Motors said Feb. 10 that is has not yet applied for the loan and that it is just one of several financing options under review.

"We will factor this new information into our decision-making process, but our business model stands on its own without it," the company said in a statement.

Lordstown Motors could still apply for a loan during the current budget year, the Energy Department said.

Eliminating the program could be problematic for President Donald Trump, who campaigned

on bringing back manufacturing jobs to Ohio, a key state in his reelection campaign. Trump lambasted GM for plans to close the Lordstown plant and then praised the new electric truck venture.

According to a summary of Trump's budget plan, the administration wants to eliminate the loan program and others because the private sector should have a primary role in taking risks on new commercial projects.

"The government's best use of taxpayer funding is in earlier stage R&D," the document says.

U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan, a Democrat who represents the area and has been helping Lordstown Motors with the loan application, said he plans on talking with the Trump administration and is optimistic there is a way to make sure the money is available.

"I can't see why they wouldn't want to be a part of this," Ryan said. "It'd be something we could work on together, and at the end of the day this will lead to jobs with good wages and benefits."

These type of public-private partnerships, he said, are needed to help create a new manufacturing economy and rebuild the middle class.

The Advanced Technology Vehicles manufacturing program started under the Obama administration with \$25 billion, the Energy Department said. It loaned \$5.9 billion to Ford Motor Co. to upgrade its factories to build efficient vehicles, and another \$1.45 billion to Nissan Motor Co. to retool a Tennessee factory to build EVs. Nissan repaid its loan, as did Tesla Inc., which got \$465 million for its California, plant.

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The Best Price...
PERIOD!

2020 EQUINOX LT



- DRIVER CONFIDENCE PKG.**
- Color Touch Screen Radio!
 - Keyless Start and Entry!
 - Rear Vision Camera!
 - Side Blind Zone Alert!
 - Forward Collision Alert!
 - Lane Keep Assist with Lane Departure Warning!
- Stock# Q12001

MSRP \$29,170 Sale Price: \$20,800*

24 MONTH LEASE

\$188*

\$999 Down

NO Security Deposit required. Tax, title and plate fees extra.

The Best Price...
PERIOD!

2020 SILVERADO 4WD DOUBLE CAB



CUSTOM VALUE PKG.

- 310HP 2.7L Turbo Engine!
 - 40/20/40 Front Bench Seat with Armrest Storage!
 - 20" Aluminum Wheels
 - Remote Start and Entry!
 - Trailer Package with Locking Rear Differential!
- Stock# L55696

MSRP \$41,530 Sale Price: \$29,201*

39 MONTH LEASE

\$189*

\$999 Down

NO Security Deposit required. Tax, title and plate fees extra.

The Best Price...
PERIOD!

2020 MALIBU RS



- Sport Grille w/Black Bowties!
 - Keyless Start and Entry!
 - Rear Vision Camera!
 - 18" Bright Machined Aluminum Wheels!
 - Chrome Dual-Exhaust Outlets!
 - Power Driver's Seat!
- Stock# L55725

MSRP \$25,470 Sale Price: \$20,667*

36 MONTH LEASE

\$222*

\$999 Down

NO Security Deposit required. Tax, title and plate fees extra.

The Best Price...
PERIOD!

2020 BLAZER 2LT



- 3.6L V6 SIDI DOHC VVT Engine!
 - Keyless Start and Entry!
 - HD Rear Vision Camera!
 - Aluminum Wheels!
 - Color Touch Screen Radio!
 - Bluetooth for Phone!
- Stock# L55351

MSRP \$34,570 Sale Price: \$28,287*

36 MONTH LEASE

\$224*

\$999 Down

NO Security Deposit required. Tax, title and plate fees extra.

The Best Price...
PERIOD!

2020 TRAVERSE LS



- 3.6L DI DOHC V6 Engine!
 - 8 Passenger Seating!
 - Keyless Start and Entry!
 - Rear Vision Camera!
 - Aluminum Wheels!
 - Bluetooth for Phone!
- Stock# L55261

MSRP \$34,170 Sale Price: \$27,192*

36 MONTH LEASE

\$264*

\$999 Down

NO Security Deposit required. Tax, title and plate fees extra.

The Best Price...
PERIOD!

We'll Give You \$2500 Minimum for Your Trade-In... GUARANTEED!*



RICH MILNE
rmilne@moranautomotive.com



DAVID BERCEL JR.
dberceljr@moranautomotive.com

SHOWROOM HOURS:

Monday	8:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Tuesday	8:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Wednesday	8:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Thursday	8:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Friday	8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

(586) 791-1010



FIND NEW ROADS™

35500 S. Gratiot Avenue... North of 15 Mile / Clinton Township

Pictures may not represent actual sale vehicle. All applicable incentives including bonus cash, bonus tags, private offers, competitive brand, lease conquest and/or lease loyalty offers have been deducted from Sale Prices/Payments and are subject to change by the manufacturer without notice and are plus title, tax, plate, \$24 CVR fees and documentation fees (when applicable) and were valid at time of printing. Leases are 10,000 miles per year with A1 approval through GM Financial. Silverado lease is with S tier approval through Ally. GM Lease loyalty requires a GM Financial Buick, GMC or Chevrolet lease in household. Blazer and Traverse requires an Equinox, Malibu or Cruze lease to be terminated with GM Financial. GM Employee discount required except where noted. \$395 disposition fee will be charged if you do not re-lease or purchase through GM Financial at lease termination. Equinox is a former courtesy transportation vehicle with approximately 2500 miles. \$1000 Kelley Blue Book trade in offer is on 2005-2016 model vehicles with clean Carfax minus reconditioning costs. Restrictions apply, see dealer for complete details on all incentives/offers. Sale ends 2/21/2020.