

Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario  
October 20, 2017

# RESOLUTION

## COLLABORATION

among the

CONFERENCE OF GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE

GOVERNORS and PREMIERS

the

MARINE AUTONOMY COALITION

and the

NORWEGIAN FORUM for AUTONOMOUS SHIPS

**WHEREAS**, maritime trade, tourism and recreation in the United States, Canada and Norway are essential to manufacturing, regional and national economies, environmental community and social well-being, especially to coastal communities and their associated ports; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region and its member States and Provinces have made substantial investments and progress in vehicle autonomy and mobility, including the multi-state Smart Belt Coalition, for the creation of an automated vehicle infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, States and Provinces have advanced the development of vehicle autonomy as shown by Michigan's American Center for Mobility and Ohio's Transportation Research Center, testing and product development facilities designed to validate connected and automated vehicle technology, and develop standards; and

**WHEREAS**, this expertise and experience with vehicle autonomy is being shared with the maritime transportation industry to help establish the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region as a global center of excellence for surface and subsurface vessel autonomy and mobility; and

**WHEREAS**, Norway with its advanced ship and maritime service industry, research and education institutions and with the support of its maritime authorities has developed a global center of excellence with the formation of the NTNU AMOS Centre for Autonomous Marine Operations and Systems, the Norwegian Forum for Autonomous Ships, several full scale autonomous ship development projects and an official test bed for autonomous shipping at Trondheimsfjord as the first coastal area in the world officially dedicated to the development of technology for autonomous ships. This testing area will become a vital facility for the future of commercial shipping; and

**WHEREAS**, the Norwegian Coastal Administration and the Norwegian Maritime Authority as members of the Norwegian Forum for Autonomous Ships will use their membership to exchange experiences with other countries and regions to support the development of international autonomous guidelines and regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, fully or partly autonomous surface and subsurface vessels will play an important role in global transportation, research and related water-borne applications once challenges like environmental conditions, sensor technology, computer networking, biometrics, cybersecurity, human-controlled versus fully autonomous vessel interaction, and public acceptance are addressed; and

**WHEREAS**, many of these challenges are shared with autonomous automotive vehicle research and development that are efficiently addressed by a global, cross-functional partnership of industry, academia and government rather than individually and by country; and

**WHEREAS**, such a partnership will foster the exchange of research, lessons learned, and validate innovation for future deployment of enabling technologies and common strategies for refinement and commercialization of autonomous surface and subsurface vessels; and

**WHEREAS**, the Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers, the Marine Autonomy Coalition and the Norwegian Forum for Autonomous Ships are in critically important positions to implement and advocate for the changes necessary to foster development of and improve the opportunities for autonomous vessels of any size and type.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers hereby create a collaboration with the Marine Autonomy Coalition, a broad-band cooperative research and development support network, and the Norwegian Forum for Autonomous Ships for the benefit of our respective regions and our economies.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers invite policy recommendations from the Marine Autonomy Coalition and the Norwegian Forum for Autonomous Ships within one year to improve technology, safety and public acceptance, and, more generally, further develop our regions into global centers of excellence for autonomous vessels.

*Adopted by the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers on this 21st day of October 2017.*

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Richard D. Snyder, Chair, Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers

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Ørnulf Jan Rødseth, Secretariat, Norwegian Forum for Autonomous Ships