**Summary:**

**AB 1444**

AB 1444 will authorize the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) to conduct a pilot project for the testing of low-speed, multi-passenger, electric shared autonomous vehicles.

**Background**:

With the advent of autonomous vehicles and the rapid development of autonomous vehicle technologies and connected vehicle applications, California is on the cusp of transforming everyday transportation, increasing road safety and improving mobility.

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) is a public transit agency exploring innovative first/last mile connections to mass transit systems. LAVTA, in partnership with the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA), has joined the efforts currently underway to pilot autonomous vehicle technologies in Northern California.

The City of Dublin, California, located in Alameda County, is adjacent to Contra Costa County, where CCTA is currently testing autonomous vehicle technology. This legislation would allow LAVTA to test the autonomous vehicle technologies and connected vehicle applications on public roadways in Dublin, California.

**Need for legislation:**

In 2016, Assembly Bill 1592 (Bonilla) was signed into law, authorizing CCTA to conduct a pilot project for the testing of shared autonomous vehicles not equipped with a steering wheel, brake pedal, or operator. The bill authorized testing at GoMentum Station and a private business park within Contra Costa County designated by CCTA, including any public roads intersecting the designated property.

In 2012, Senate Bill 1298 was signed into law, authorizing the operation of autonomous vehicles on public roads for testing purposes. This bill required the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to adopt regulations for the operation of autonomous vehicles on public roads, including any testing, equipment, performance, and insurance standards no later than January 1, 2015. In September 2014, DMV enacted regulations setting forth the requirements for testing autonomous vehicles, but they are still drafting a second set of regulations for the full deployment of autonomous vehicles for public operation. While DMV is still drafting the final regulations for the full deployment of autonomous vehicles on public roads, it is imperative that research, development and testing of such rapidly advancing technologies are not stalled.

For California to remain on the cutting edge of transportation technology and a potential hotbed for investment, development, and new jobs, it is imperative that the State continues to support the growth of testing programs that advance shared autonomous vehicle technology and support the State’s climate goals.

**This bill:**

Specifically, this bill:

* Authorizes LAVTA to conduct a pilot project for the testing of shared autonomous vehicles not equipped with a steering wheel, brake pedal, or operator.
* Authorizes the testing to occur on public roadways in the City of Dublin.
* The shared autonomous vehicle shall operate at speeds less than 35 miles per hour.