

The New York Times

Wheelies: The BMW X6-Fighter Edition

By BENJAMIN PRESTON APRIL 10, 2014

A roundup of motoring news from the web:

- Mercedes-Benz showed off a concept coupe Wednesday that it said was a preview of its coming 2015 MLC large crossover. Featuring rather bulbous proportions, the vehicle is based on the ML Class and appears aimed at competing with the BMW X6. The production model is scheduled to be unveiled this month at the Beijing auto show. ([Autoweek](#))
- Cadillac and Buick topped J. D. Power's customer satisfaction survey, which was released Wednesday. It was the first win for Cadillac, which unseated Lexus, which had topped luxury marques for five years. Buick led mainstream brands and was trailed by Chevrolet and GMC, which were also in the top five. ([Automotive News](#), subscription required)
- A battery supplier for General Motors told Reuters Tuesday that G.M. would offer two versions of its Volt hybrid-electric for 2016: the one currently on the market and another, less-expensive model with a smaller battery pack and shorter driving range. Since it began selling the Volt three years ago, Chevrolet has sold 58,158 Volts, whereas the automaker [sold 42,247 Silverado pickup trucks](#) last month alone. ([Reuters](#))
- A leaked draft of a United Nations study on the causes of climate change indicates that greenhouse gasses emitted by vehicles may have risen 71 percent since 2010. The report said that vehicle emissions levels are more than twice as high as in 1970 and that road vehicles account for about 80 percent in the increase in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. The final version of the report, which examines transport, industry, building, agriculture and forestry, is due to be released on Sunday. ([Bloomberg](#))
- A plan approved last year by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to set aside 900 of the city's 281,000 street parking spaces for car-share vehicles has been set into motion. The agency selected three companies – Zipcar, City Carshare and Getaround – to run the program. City Carshare is a nonprofit, and Getaround helps people rent their personal vehicles when they're not using them. ([The San Francisco Chronicle](#))

■ Ford conducted a lot of research in designing its new aluminum-bodied F-150 pickup trucks, and this week the automaker released a series of YouTube videos showing the various modes of “torture testing” the bodies underwent during development. The trials covered running bumps, gravel courses, steep grades in a fully assembled truck and machine-generated twisting and shaking exerted upon various components. ([Autoblog](#))

■ Trains are still backed up as a result of severe weather this winter, and the delays are holding up delivery of new vehicles. Automobile production has reached levels not seen in 10 years, leading automakers to ship them via truck, which is more expensive than rail transport. ([Automotive News](#))

■ North Korea has approved three BBC shows for airing on the country’s television network. “Top Gear,” “Dr. Who” and “Teletubbies” were selected by the North Korean government for their entertainment value and, as one of The Independent’s sources in Pyongyang said, because they were nonpolitical. ([The Independent](#))