



# TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC WORKS

**Autonomous Vehicles**  
**October 27, 2023**



TRANSPORTATION  
PUBLIC WORKS

**Transportation Code Section 545.452** EXCLUSIVE  
REGULATION OF THE OPERATION OF AUTOMATED  
MOTOR VEHICLES AND AUTOMATED DRIVING SYSTEMS.

(b) A political subdivision of this state or a state agency may not impose a franchise or other regulation related to the operation of an automated motor vehicle or automated driving system.

**Bottom Line: As a City, we cannot regulate or permit AVs.**

# Our History With AVs

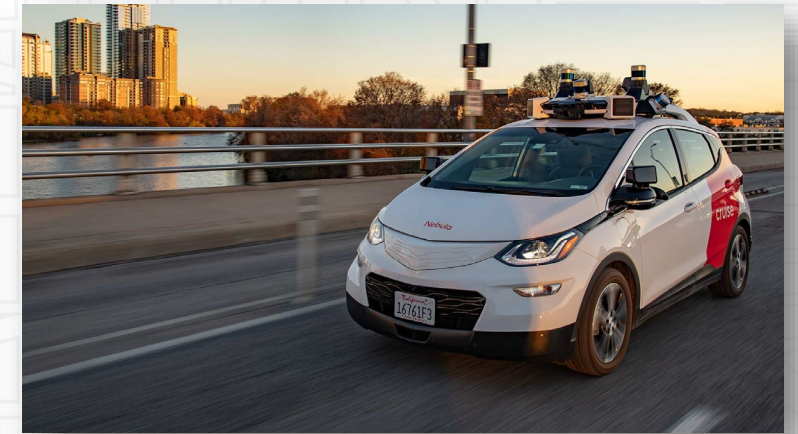
Smart Mobility  
Roadmap **2017**

SB2205 gives the  
State exclusive AV  
oversight **2017**

Ford – ARGO AI begin  
testing AVs in Austin  
**2019**

Cruise begins  
operating driverless  
rideshare **2022**

AV Working Group  
formed July **2023**



*As AV demonstrations and discussions are occurring across the nation, City officials are cooperating with other cities, industry, research and government experts to develop best policies and practices for our region.*

3  
10/25/2023



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# Federal Regulation

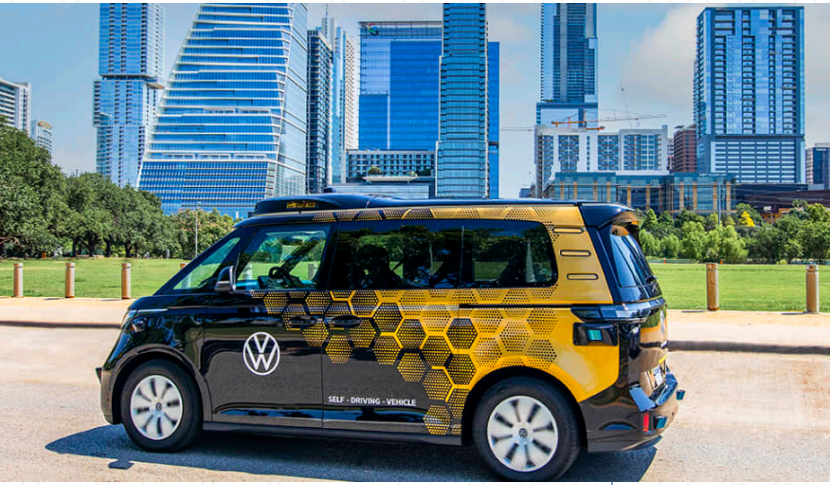
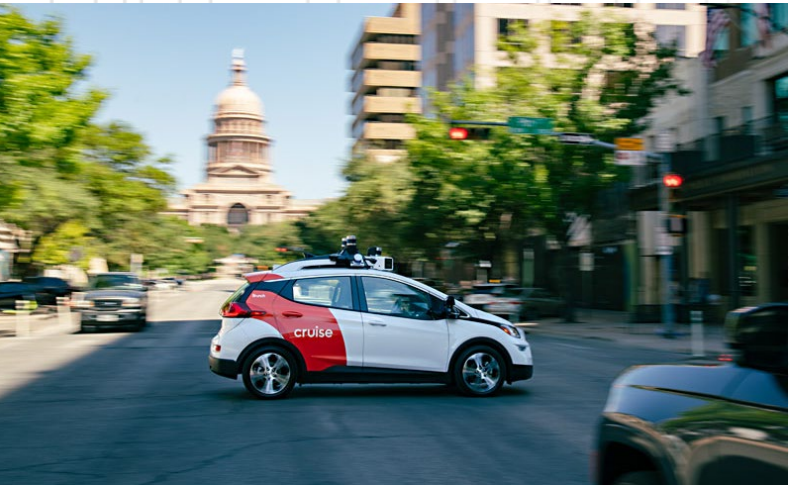
**Typically, the Federal Government regulates the vehicle, and the State Government regulates the driver**

- All vehicles must comply with the Federal Motor Vehicles Safety Standards (**FMVSS**).
- National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (**NHTSA**) – has a voluntary federal data-sharing program called Automated Vehicle Transparency and Engagement for Safe Testing Initiative (*AV TEST*), soon to be called AV STEP in fall 2023.
  - We anticipate additional rules promulgated in the future by NHTSA.
- Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (**FMCSA**) is building a safety plan for autonomous driving systems for commercial vehicles (freight).



# AV Companies Currently Deployed & Estimated Fleet Size

Company	Number	Status	Model
Cruise	150	Most fully-driverless	Chevy Bolt
Waymo	25	Includes Test Drivers	Jaguar I-PACE
ADMT (Volkswagen)	10	Includes Test Drivers	VW ID Buzz (European model)
AV Ride	4	Includes Test Drivers	Hyundai Sonata & Ioniq



*Data current as of 10/20/23*

# AV Safety Working Group



Even though the City cannot regulate AVs, the City has been proactive by establishing the AV Safety Working Group to:

- Prepare and train for incidents
- Collect data and standardize documentation
- Facilitate Communication



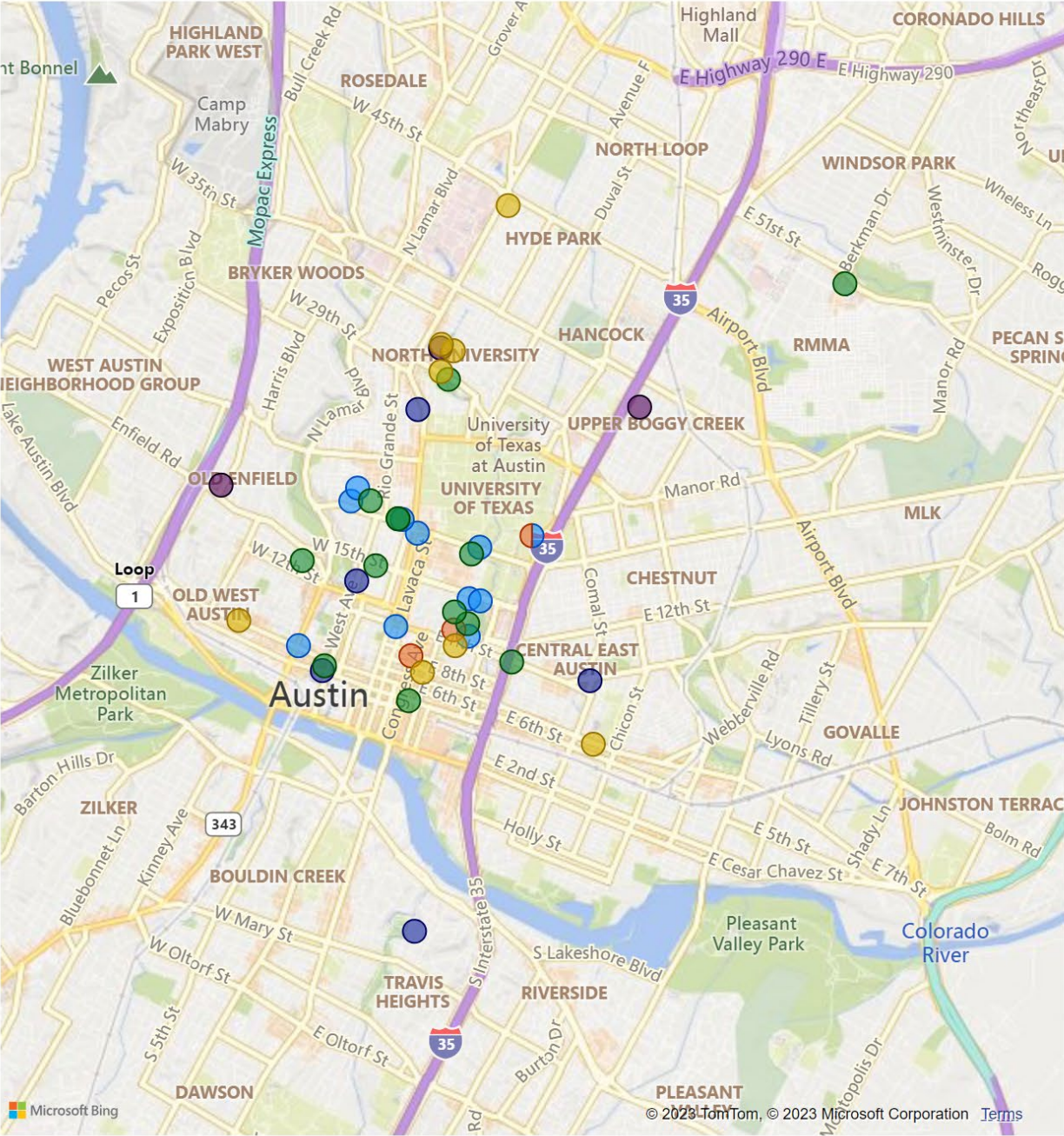
# AV Safety Working Group

- Creates a single group to communicate about incidents, communicate with AV companies, create procedures, and share data.
- Develop expectations around AV deployment and communication.
- Bring in all public safety departments for trainings and include Texas DPS and UT Police.
- Gather data and analyze it to determine “hot spots” and frequent issues. Communicate with AV companies to identify remedies.



Location and Issue

Issue   ● Blocking Traffic   ● Collision   ● Ignore APD Direction   ● Near Miss   ● Nuisance   ● Safety Concern



Count of Feedback by Type and Issue

