



TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC WORKS

Autonomous Vehicles
December 5, 2023



TRANSPORTATION
PUBLIC WORKS

Texas State Law

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

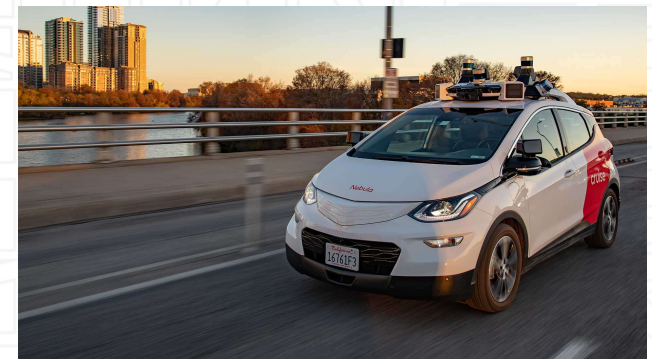
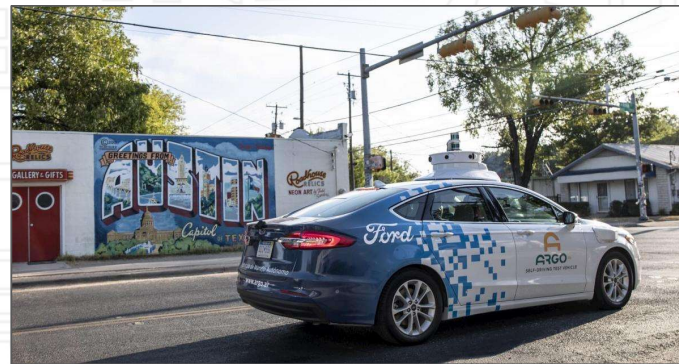
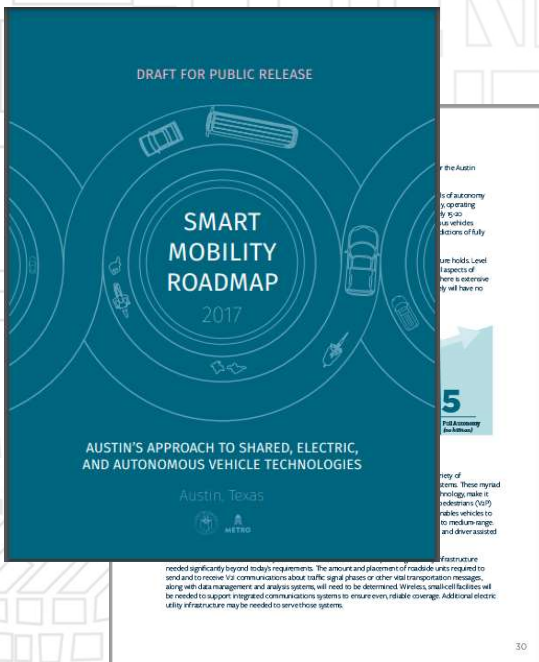
Smart Mobility
Roadmap **2017**

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.

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11/30/2023

Federal Regulation

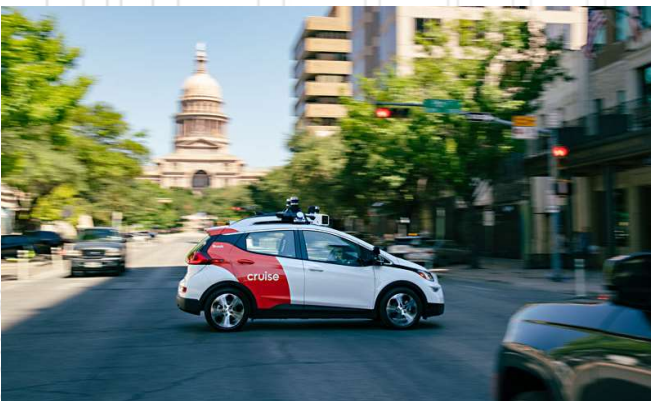
Typically, the Federal Government regulates the vehicle, and the State Government regulates the driver

- 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	<i>Not currently operating in Austin</i>		
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 11/30/23

AV Safety Working Group



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

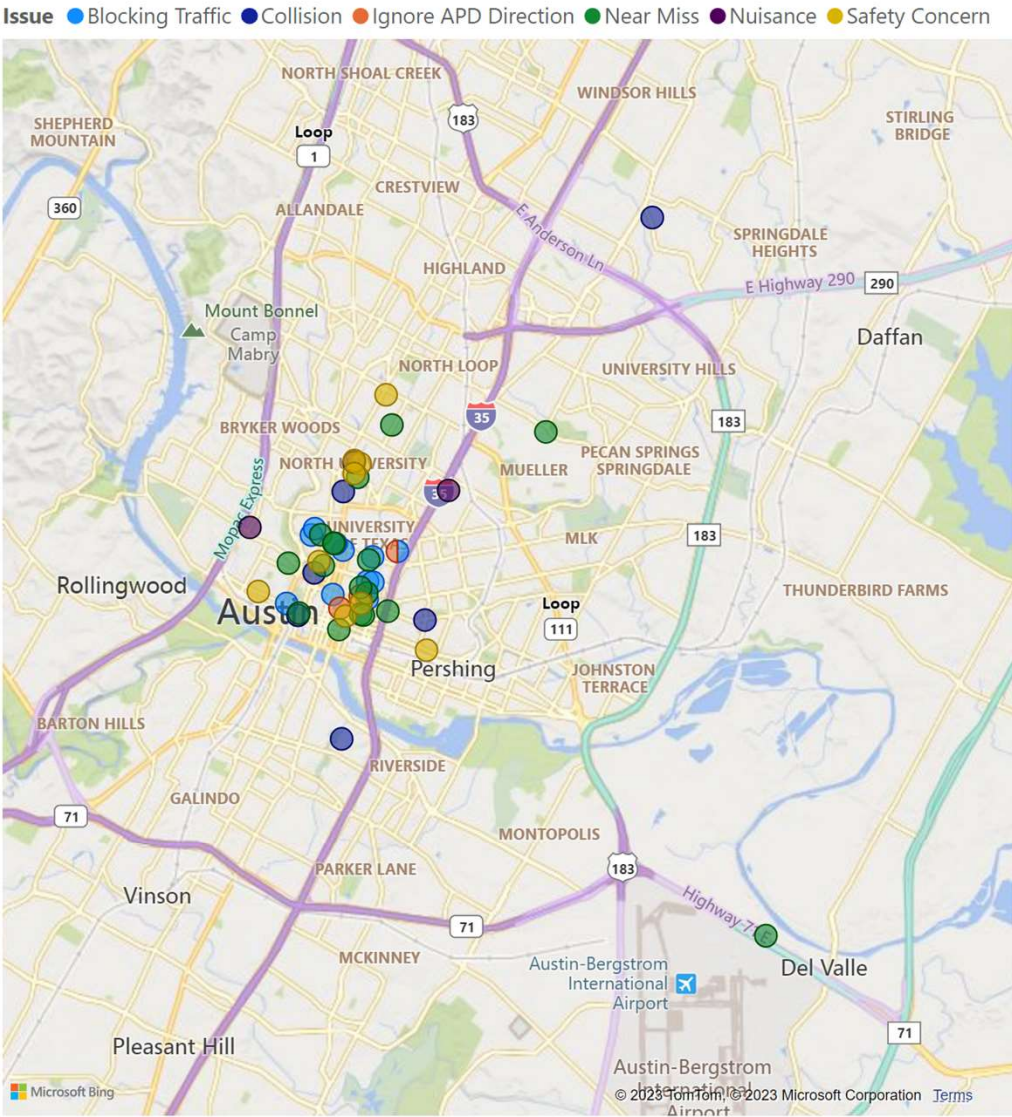
- Prepare and train for incidents
- Collect data and standardize documentation
- Facilitate Communication

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



Count of Feedback by Type and Issue

