TRANSPORTATION
PUBLIC WORKS

Autonomous Vehicle Update

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TRANSPORTATION
PUBLIC WORKS

Texas Legislative Update

Currently: Texas Transportation code 545.452 – **local governments cannot regulate or permit AVs**.

SB 2807 effective September 1, 2025:

- Texas Department of Motor Vehicles has authority to:
  - Require AV companies to submit applications for permits for any commercial use of autonomous vehicles.
  - Suspend, revoke, or cancel permits.

- AV permit application must provide:
  - A *First Responder Plan* that includes:
    - How to communicate with fleet support staff.
    - How to safely remove the vehicle from the road and tow.
    - How to recognize the AV is in autonomous mode.

The DMV anticipates ***enforcement*** beginning Spring 2026.

Autonomous Vehicle Operation Phases

Mapping

- The vehicle is driven by a person across the intended area of operations, collecting data.
- Data compiled into a detailed map.

Testing

- The vehicle drives itself in AV mode.
- A safety driver may be present in tests as a precaution.

Deployment

- Vehicle accepts commercial passengers and operates on the roadway, fully autonomous.

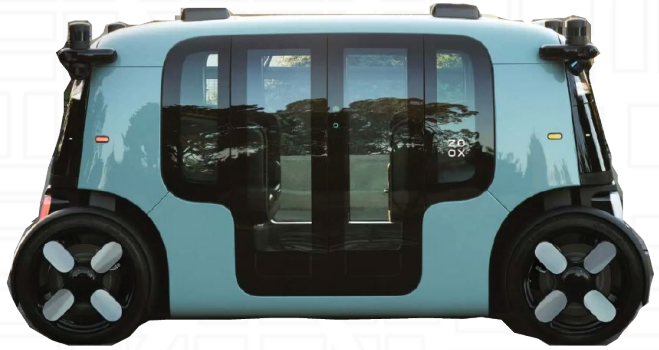
Current AV Operations in Austin

Deployed

Waymo
Jaguar i-Pace
100+

Tesla
Model Y
10-20

Zoox
Toyota Highlander
20



Zoox
Robotaxi – Not yet in Austin

VW ADMT
ID. Buzz
12

Avride
Hyundai IONIQ 5
12

AV Safety Working Group

The City has been proactive by establishing the AV Safety Working Group to:

- Prepare and train for incidents,
- Facilitate communication,
- Collect data and standardize documentation.

Data for Geofences

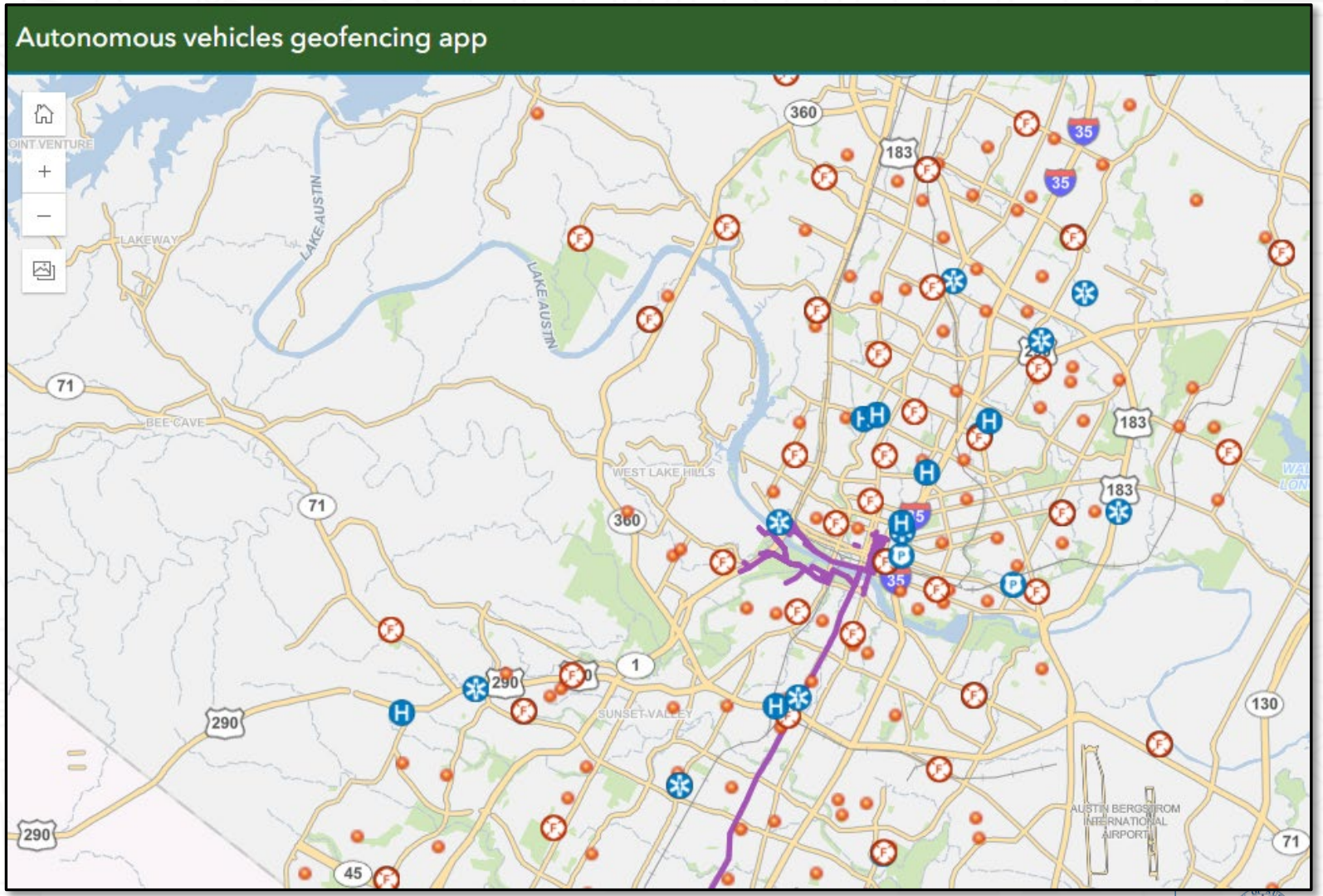
Infrastructure & Events

- Hospitals
- Fire Stations
- EMS Stations
- Police Stations
- Special Events
- Schools & School Zones

Emergencies

An email is **automatically** sent from our Computer-Aided Dispatch system.

Our expectation is an exclusion zone of 1,000 feet for one hour.



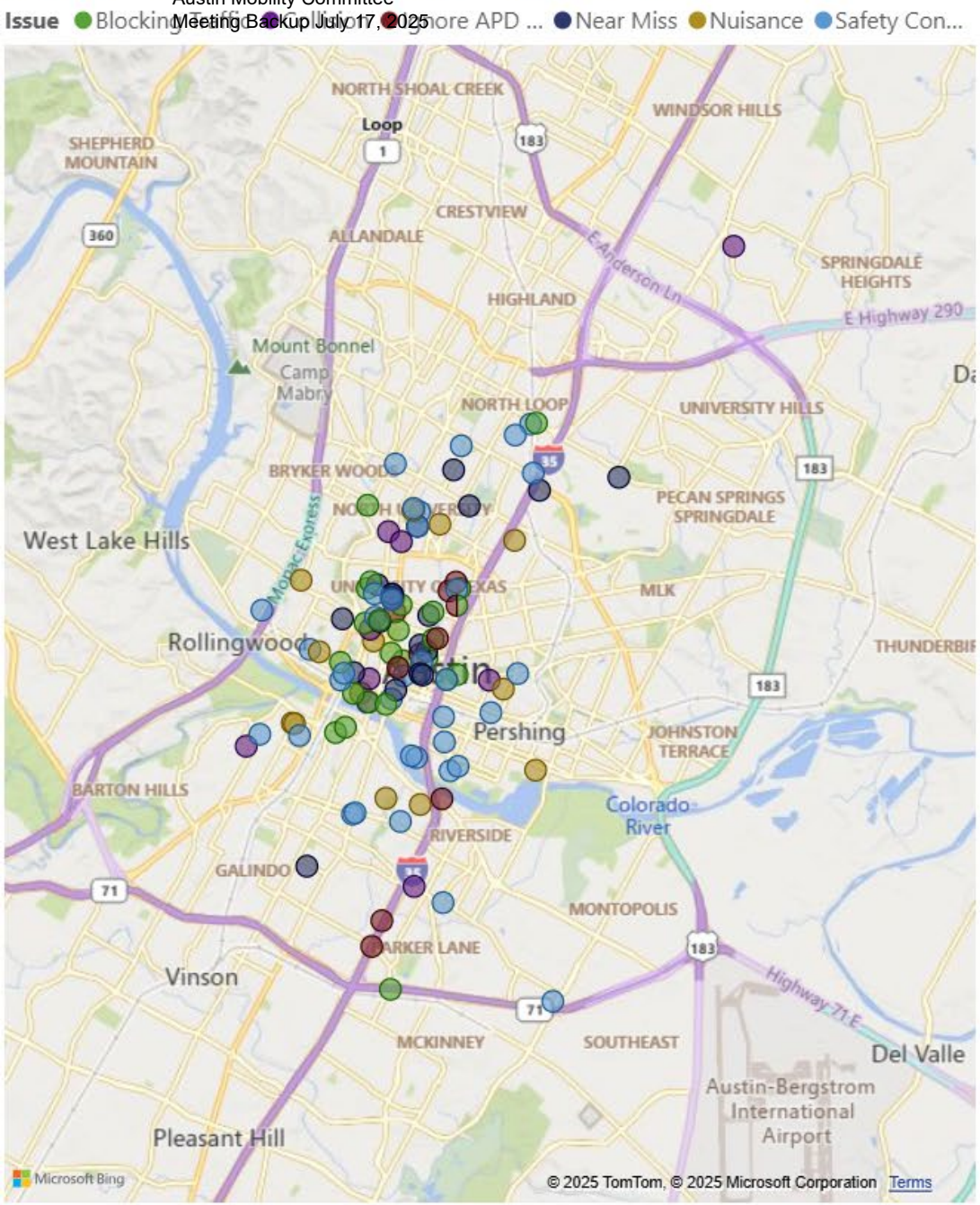
From -AFD -1Alarm /BOXL- Structure Fire | RAP -00-2202 @2425 E Riverside Dr , AUSTIN | XStreets:WILLOW CREEK DR TO RIVERSIDE TRN/E RIVERSIDE | On -AT FCOM S| Time:20:08:38| Inc#23163009 | For - FTAC201,BAT04,ENG06,ENG22,ENG07,LAD22 Lat: 30235340 Lon: 97724702

AVs & Citations

- The City of Austin can cite AVs for moving violations. But not by giving them a ticket.
- APD can register complaints with the court for traffic misdemeanors.
- The City also cites AVs for parking violations.
- Keeps AVs accountable to traffic laws.

Austin Mobility Committee
Meeting Backup July 17, 2025

Incident Date and AV Company by Location and Issue

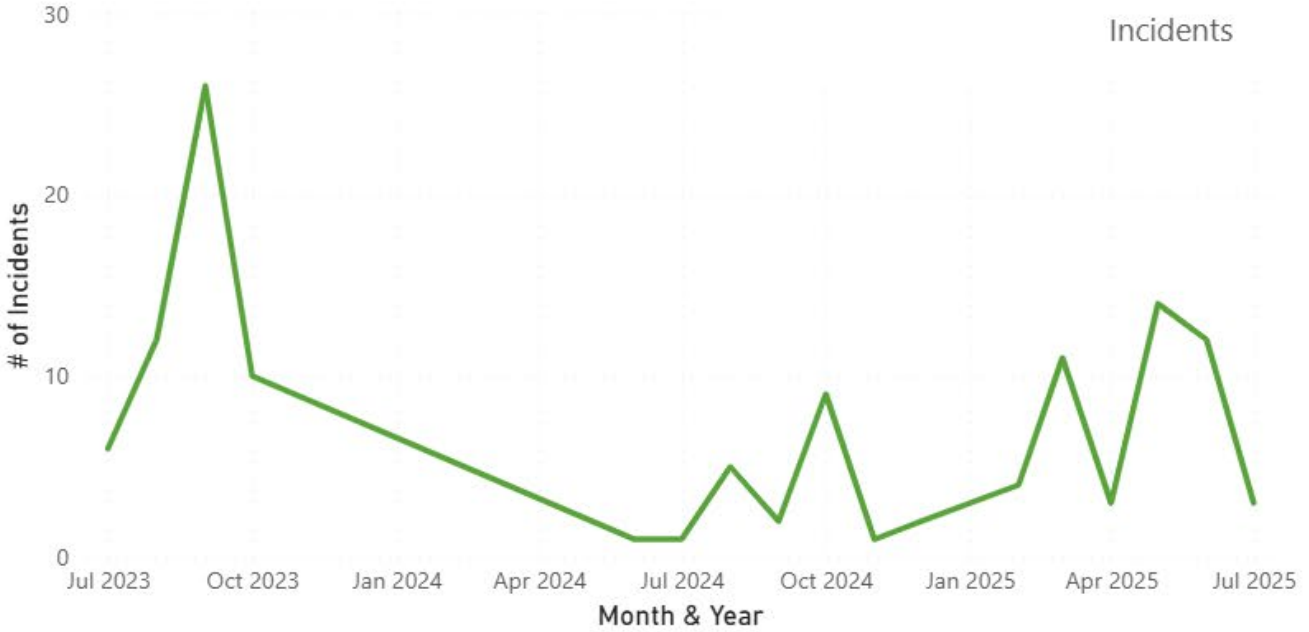


AV Company: All

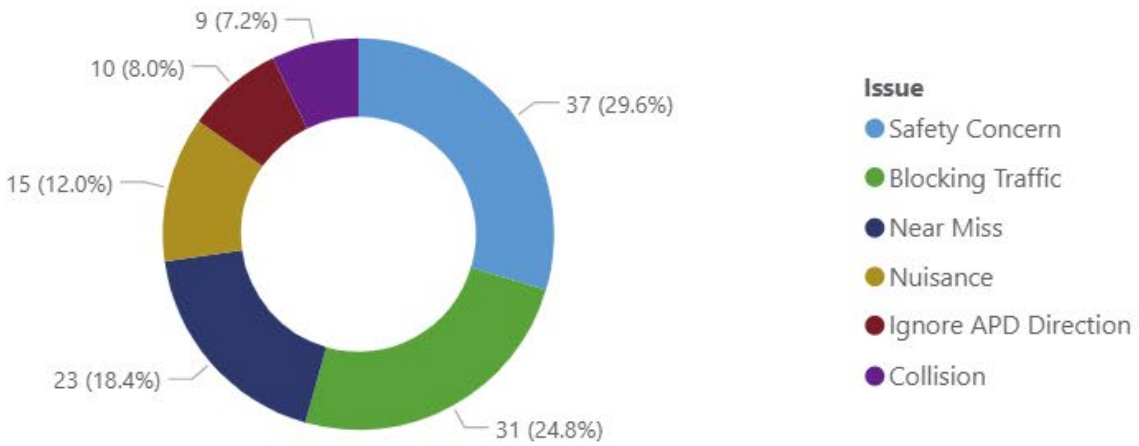
Year Filter: All

125
Incidents

Incidents over Time



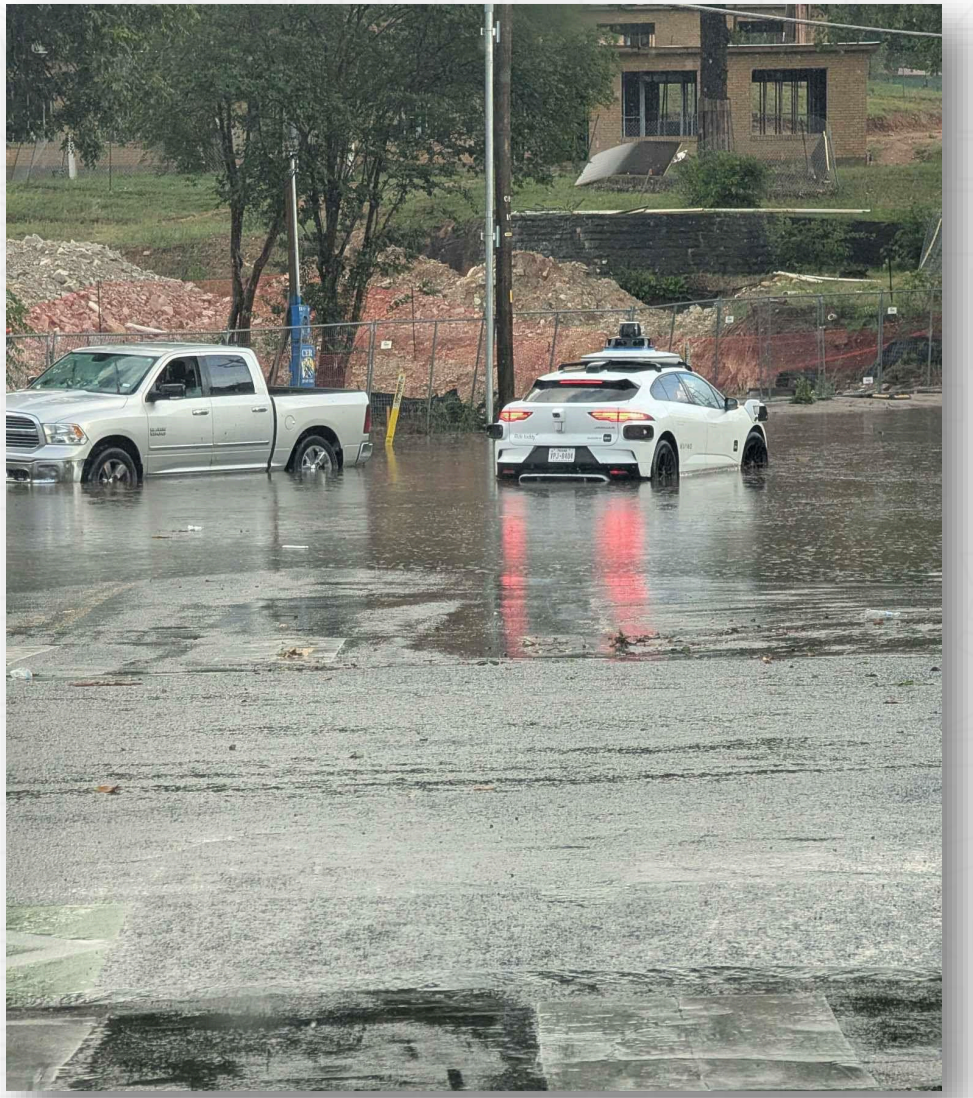
Incidents by Type



Accurate as of July 8, 2025

How We Use This Data

- Provide ongoing feedback to AV companies.
- Figure out where issues are occurring, and if there's a pattern.
- Determine appropriate infrastructure improvements.
- Collaborate with AV companies to resolve concerns.
- Share with Federal and State agencies.



Collaboration

- Annual AV Stakeholder meeting with AV petting zoo.
- Working with CapMetro, AISD, and UT on sharing procedures and information.
- Communicating with State and Federal partners.
- Participating in SAE and peer exchanges with other cities.

Thank you!

https://www.austintexas.gov/page/autonomous-vehicles

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