



# TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC WORKS

## **Autonomous Vehicles in the City of Austin**

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# Autonomous Vehicle Operation Phases

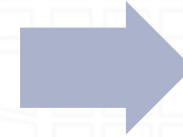
## Mapping

- The vehicle is driven by a person across the intended area of operations, collecting 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.



# AV Safety Working Group Communication



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Austin-Bergstrom  
International Airport



Transportation and Public Works Department

P.O. Box 1088 Austin, TX 78767  
512-974-1150

Howdy and Welcome to Austin!

## State of Texas AV Regulations

In Texas, cities **CANNOT** regulate or permit autonomous vehicles (see [Texas Transportation Code 545.452](#) for more information).

## Working with the City of Austin

- ☐ Provide a vehicle and expert to a public safety site and review vehicle specifications, law enforcement engagement plan, answer questions from first responders.
- ☐ Please provide enough vehicle specifications for public safety to rely on if they must move, cut the vehicle, or perform fire suppression actions on vehicle. **All information is subject to the Public Information Act, but the City will do its best to protect information marked "confidential."**
- ☐ 24/7 Contact information for emergencies and a point of contact for the AV Working Group to resolve specific issues.
- ☐ Point of contact and method to establish exclusion zones that prevent AVs from entering the area for planned events and emergencies.
- ☐ AVs **cannot** block the ingress and egress from fire stations, police stations, EMS stations or medical centers. We will provide you with a list and map, please ensure vehicles do not stop in those areas.
- ☐ Provide a Law Enforcement Engagement Plan.
- ☐ An AV can be cited if it is violating traffic laws.
- ☐ The City requests that AV companies share any collision or incident reports so that we can better reduce risk.

**The City is NOT LIABLE for any damage to autonomous vehicles that occurs as part of clearing the right of way.**

## Good Neighbor & Community Expectations

- **Operate safely, obey traffic laws, and ensure the safety of pedestrians and property.**
- Do not impede traffic, block entrances or exits, ignore traffic instructions, or go into non-vehicle zones, including bicycle lanes.
- Provide any specific towing instructions.
- Be responsive to incidents, City communications, and resident issues.

Have Questions? Want to connect?

Email: [COAAVWorkingGroup@austintexas.gov](mailto:COAAVWorkingGroup@austintexas.gov)



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# Preparedness & Training

Companies offer trainings for Fire, EMS, and Police first responders, including:

- Engaging with the vehicle such as switching it to 'manual mode'.
- Electric and battery system safety concerns.
- Towing, moving, and use of life-saving equipment (e.g., jaws of life).
- Contacting remote assistance.



# Geofences

## Critical Infrastructure & Events

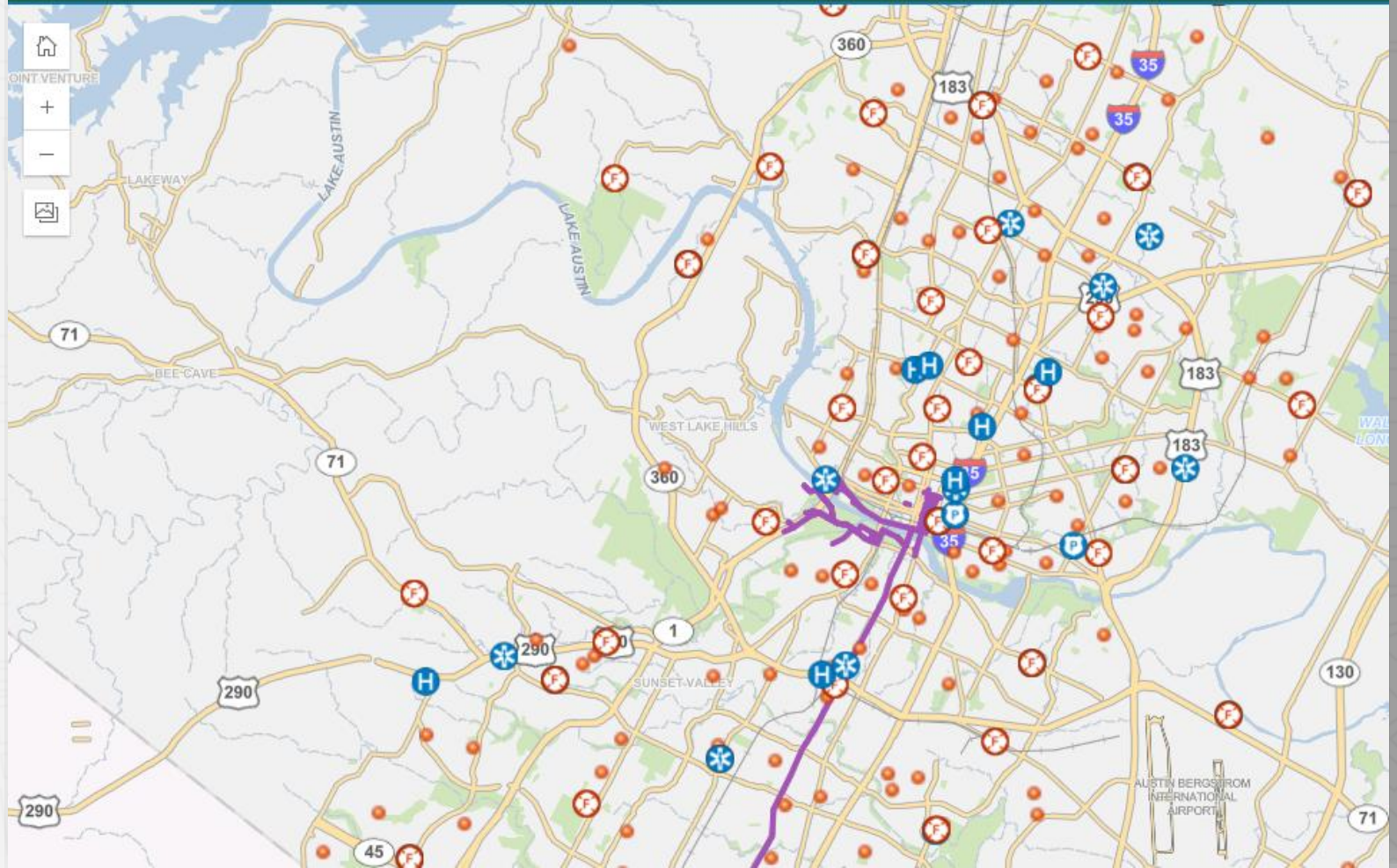
- Hospitals
- Fire Stations
- EMS Stations
- Police Stations
- Special Events
- Schools & School Zones

## 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.**

### Autonomous vehicles geofencing app



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

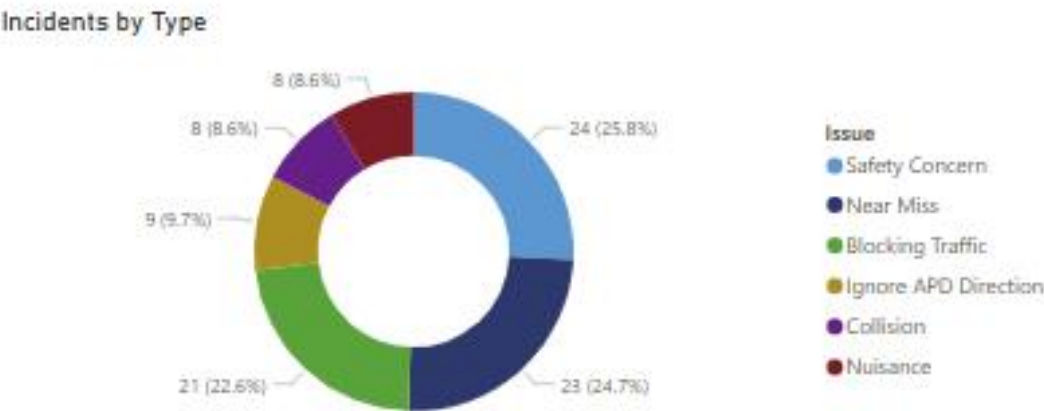
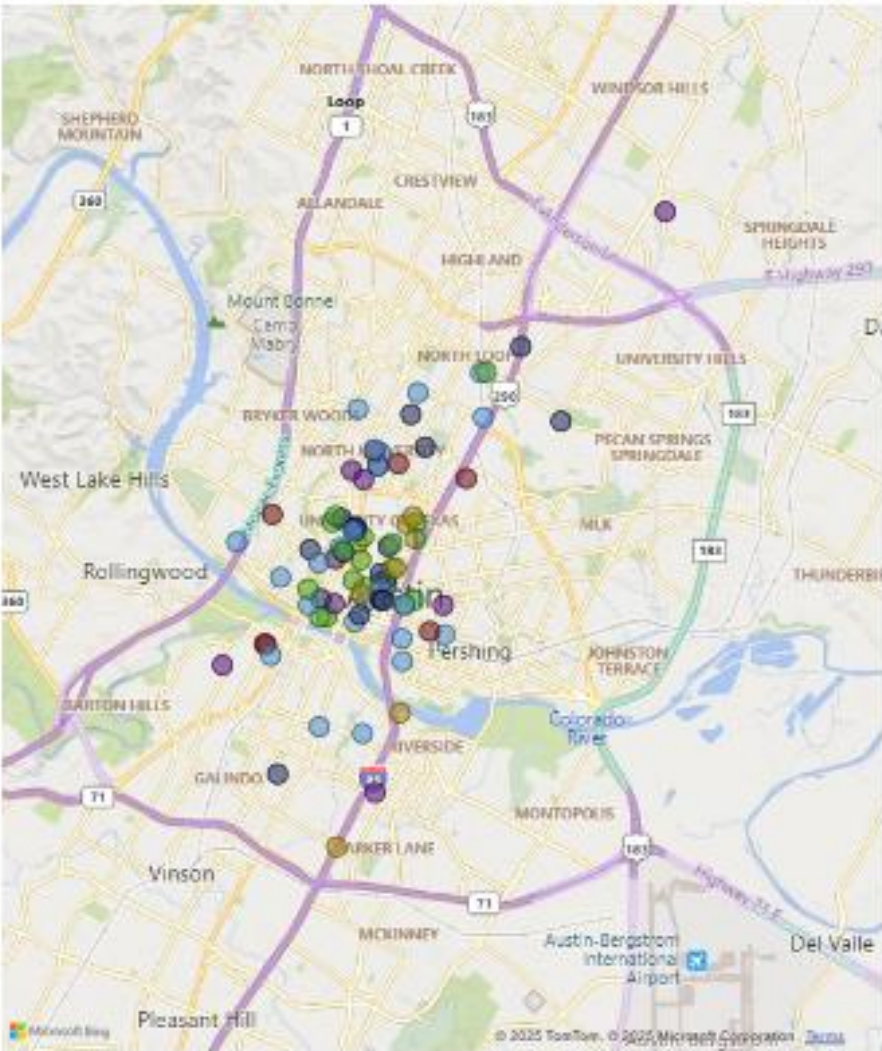


# Our Communication to the Public

## Documented Incidents

Incident Date and AV Company by Location and Issue

Issue ● Blocking Traffic ● Collision ● Ignore APD ... ● Near Miss ● Nuisance ● Safety Con...





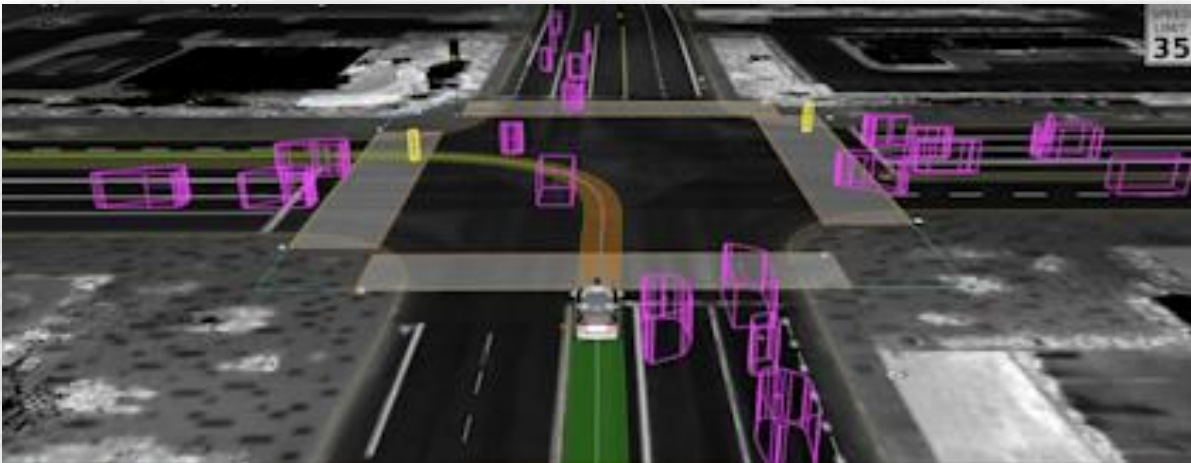
# Infrastructure Improvements





# Communication from AV Companies

- Updates on operational status (fleet size, ODD, speed)
- Clarification for laws and processes
- Issues with infrastructure that the City can mitigate
- Public Safety Training
- Published Statistics



*Courtesy of Waymo*



*Courtesy of Waymo*





# Thank you!



Check out our website  
and dashboard!

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