

# MOTION

Ask any Los Angeles resident about L.A.'s greatest challenges and the answer will most likely include: "traffic". Traffic congestion is a crisis in Los Angeles that sucks hours from our lives and billions of dollars from our economy. It should be a top priority for the City of Los Angeles to harness every tool available to help Angelenos and commerce move faster.

Autonomous vehicles, commonly known as self-driving cars, have the potential to dramatically reduce traffic congestion, create greater transportation equity, and achieve the Vision Zero goal of zero road deaths.

Rapid innovations in the field mean that an autonomous vehicle future is closer than many assume, potentially within the next 20 years. 10 years ago few were talking about autonomous vehicles outside science fiction; 5 years ago the first road tests were beginning; now we are on the cusp of the first fully autonomous vehicles reaching production.

This future is quickly becoming a reality: Uber's self-driving cars have begun accepting passengers in Pittsburgh, a critical test for the ride-hailing service as it seeks to develop a fleet of autonomous vehicles, and the federal government recently released long-awaited guidelines, which outlined safety expectations and encouraged uniform rules for the nascent technology. At the current rate of progress, autonomous vehicles could be commonplace in Los Angeles by 2035.

An autonomous transit city would eliminate the biggest drivers of traffic: vehicles circling looking for parking, vehicles blocking the intersection during rush hour, vehicles making last minute lane changes causing rapid braking, vehicle accidents, and inefficient distances between cars on our roads. Further, autonomous vehicles are likely to be shared, requiring less land devoted to parking and gas stations.

The value of these benefits could be vast: the costs of car transit in the U.S. could drop 78%, and individual families choosing shared autonomous vehicles would realize significant savings on car payments, insurance, fuel and maintenance. It would also save lives as self-driving cars have the potential, with adequate testing and standards, to reduce preventable vehicle deaths to zero.


In the 20th century, Los Angeles' streetcars and freeways each set national standards and propelled our quality of life and economy forward. Today, we are mired in gridlock, and it is time once again for our city to lead the way, this time into the 21st century as the trailblazer on autonomous vehicle technology.

This requires policy analysis looking into the future and a recognition of autonomous vehicles now as the city upgrades roads, replaces traffic lights and builds transit.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the Department of Transportation be directed to report within 45 days on the benefits of implementing an 'autonomous transit' city through the use of self-driving cars, buses, and shuttles, and the steps that should be taken over the next 5, 10, 15, and 20 years to prepare for an autonomous vehicle City by 2035.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the Department of Transportation present to the Transportation Committee on the 'Transportation Technology Strategy for Los Angeles: Urban Mobility in the Digital Age', including identifying funding opportunities and requirements for the infrastructure needed to support autonomous transit and including the identification of other city entities that need to be engaged in the strategy for its successful execution.

PRESENTED BY:

  
DAVID E. RYU  
Councilmember, 4<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:

