

How autonomous vehicles could upend urban life (and what to do about it)

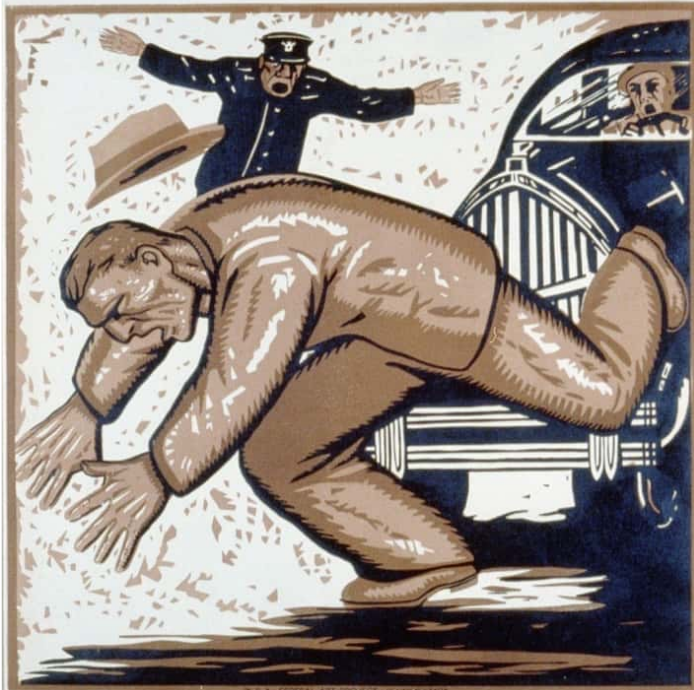
June 2, 2026

David Zipper
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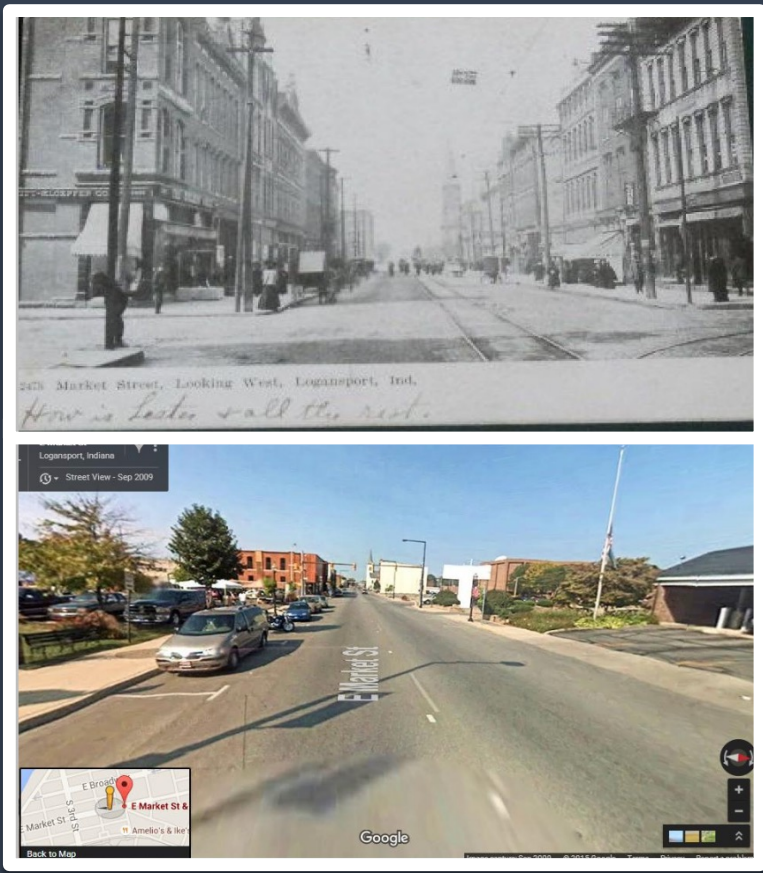
DON'T JAY WALK

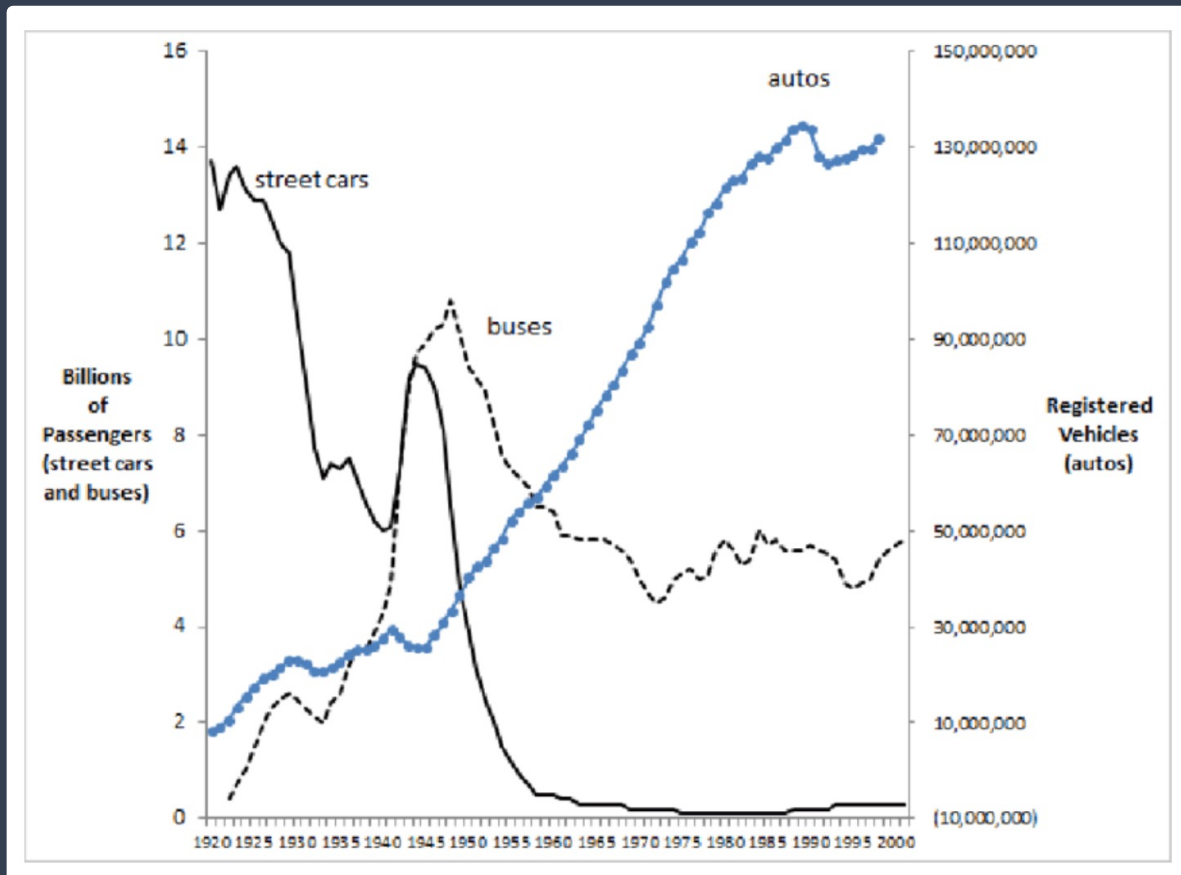


WATCH YOUR STEP

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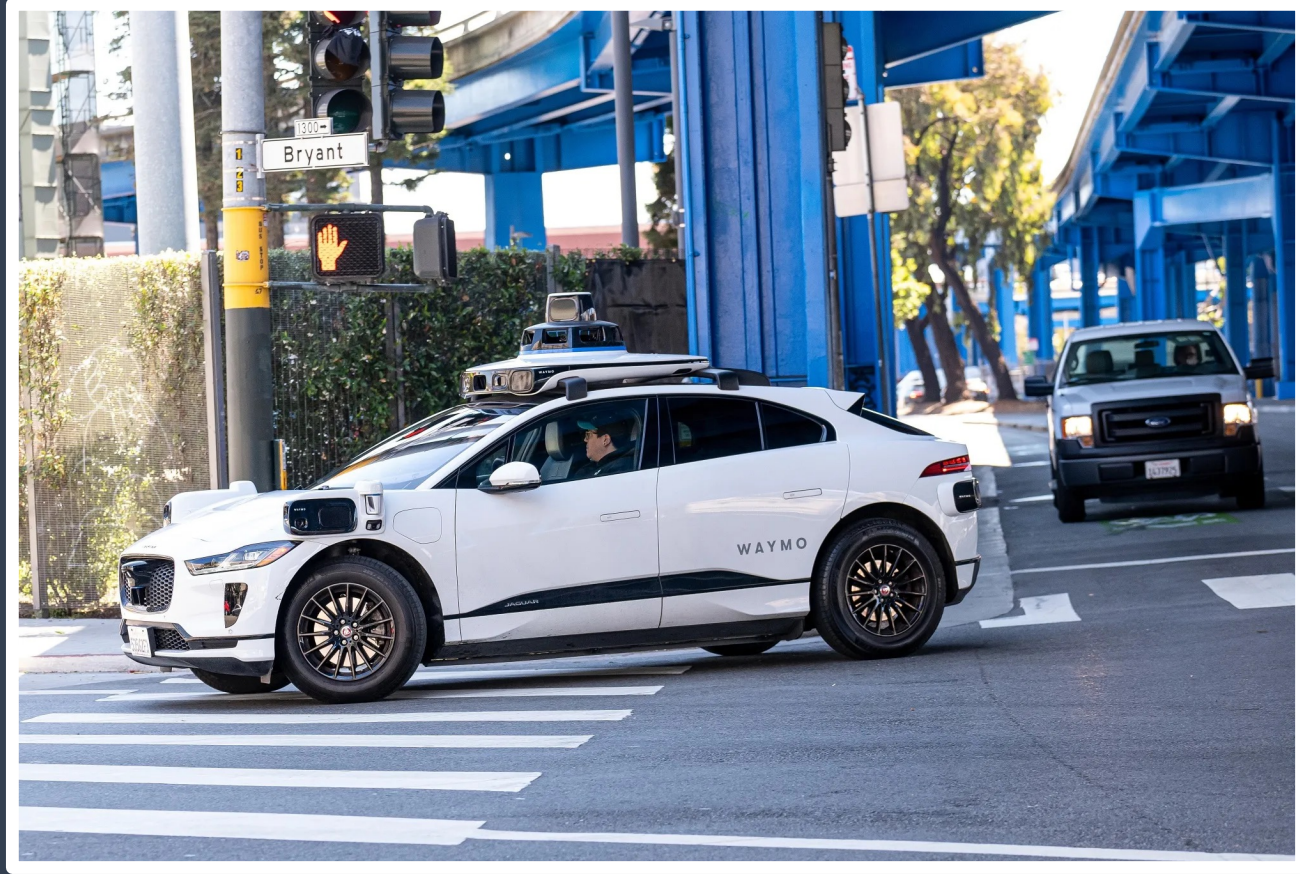






Source: Graffy, Elisabeth and Steve Kihm, "Does Disruptive Competition Mean a Death Spiral for Electric Utilities" *Energy Law Journal*, Vol. 35, issue 1: 2015.





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FAST COMPANY

CO. DESIGN TECH WORK LIFE NEWS IMPACT PODCASTS VIDEO INNOVATION FESTIVAL 360

02-08-23 | 3:00 AM

Self-driving cars would be a climate disaster

Autonomous vehicles are bad for the planet, no become.



[Source Image: Chesky_W/Stock/Getty Images Plus]

FINANCIAL TIMES

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Opinion Driverless vehicles

Europe doesn't need driverless cars


Bloomberg

Self-Driving Cars: RoboTaxi Safety | Trump Policy | Biden's AI Chip | UK RoboTaxi Trials | GM's Renewed Push | Driverless Trucks

CityLab Transportation


What Robotaxis Brought San Francisco

Outgoing transit agency head Jeffrey Tumlin reflects on how self-driving cars from Waymo, Cruise and Zoox affected the city's other transportation modes.



Bloomberg

Self-Driving Cars: RoboTaxi Safety | Trump Policy | Biden's AI Chip | UK RoboTaxi Trials | GM's Renewed Push | Driverless Trucks



A Waymo autonomous taxi on Bush Street in San Francisco in December 2020. Photographer: David Paul Morris/Bloomberg

SLATE

News & Politics Culture Technology Bus

ADACATEDLY NOT BITTIOUS

uro tence

The Safety Dance

Autonomous vehicle companies claim that "humans are not their tech is needed to save lives. Don't buy it.

DAVID ZIPPER JULY 17, 2023 • 2:04 PM


FAST COMPANY

12-19-2025 | DESIGN

Tesla's 'Mad Max mode' points to a big problem for self-driving cars

Human drivers break traffic rules all the time. To stay competitive, computer-powered cars are doing the same.

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[Source Images: Tesla, Adobe Stock]


The Atlantic

IDEAS

The Fight Against Robotaxis in San Francisco

A century ago, cities surrendered to the gasoline-powered car. Will they do the same for autonomous vehicles?

By David Zipper



We Still Don't Know if Robotaxis Are Safer Than Human Drivers

CityLab | Perspective

An Insurance Expert Appraises the Safety Record of Self-Driving Cars

Are autonomous vehicles operated by companies like Waymo and Tesla making the streets safer? The insurance industry's research arm is watching closely.



A Waymo autonomous taxi outside the Google headquarters in Mountain View, California, US, on Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2020. A Photographer: David Paul Morris/Bloomberg

The Verge

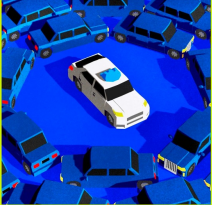
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TRANSPORTATION / AUTONOMOUS CARS

Surge pricing, the scourge of ridehailing, is evolving for the robotaxi era

Waymo and other robotaxi operators argue they need to charge higher fares to control demand. Are they risking public backlash?

By David Zipper




NEWS

Here's Where Waymo Is Launching Next In Texas

Rental car companies could be taking on a new task soon, as robotaxi companies

WIRED

FEATURED BEST ANDROID TABLETS BEST ELECTRIC SCOOTERS ULTIMATE HOME OFFICE

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

9:00 AM EDT

Waymo to Begin Testing Its Robotaxis in New York City

The self-driving car company received a permit to begin testing in parts of Manhattan and Downtown Brooklyn

Here Come the Robotaxis

Two new self-driving car services—one in Atlanta from Lyft and May Mobility, another in Las Vegas from Amazon subsidiary Zoox—prove that the robotaxi race is still on. Now comes the hard part.

By Connor Hart

AXIOS Miami

Waymo launches limited driverless ride service in Miami




Photo: Brandon Bell/Getty Images

CNET YOUR GUIDE TO A BETTER FUTURE

News AI Tech Home Entertainment Wellness

Cars

Waymo Is Expanding to Denver and Seattle. Everything to Know About the Robotaxi

The company has also been authorized to drive autonomously at San José Mineta International Airport. Here's everywhere Waymo operates now, and where it's set to arrive soon.



New bill would allow robotaxis on D.C. streets



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Photo: Alex Kent/Bloomberg via Getty Images





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Future 30 Minute

Self-Driving Taxis Are Causing All Kinds of Trouble in San Francisco

They've blocked traffic, driven on the sidewalk, sped away from cops—and the city is powerless to stop them.

BY DAVID ZIPPER

DEC 08, 2022 • 11:45 AM



This Waymo is closer than it appears. Justin Sullivan/Getty Images

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RANGING FROM HILARIOUS TO OUTRIGHT BIZARRE

Future 30 Second

Self-Driving Taxis Are Causing All Kinds of Trouble in San Francisco


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BY DAVID ZIPPER DEC 09, 2022 · 11:49 AM



TC

TRANSPORTATION



6 Waymo robotaxis block traffic to San Francisco freeway on-ramp

Rebecca Bellan 3:18 PM PDT · April 17, 2024



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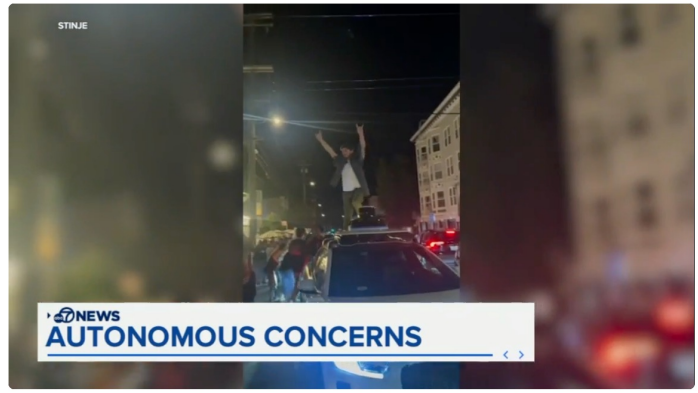
BY DAVID ZIPPER



VIDEO: Waymos stalled, confused in San Francisco as people climb, flip off from robotaxis

"We're teaching artificial intelligence that people are harmful, and that's not what we want."

By Frances Wang Monday, September 1, 2025



Cellphone video shows Waymos stalled in San Francisco's Marina District as people climb and flip off from the robotaxis.

TC



TRANSPORTATION

6 Waymo traffic to San Francisco freeway on-ramp

Rebecca Bellan 3:18 PM PDT · April 17, 2024



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Monday, September 1, 2025



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The Washington Post

Tech Help Desk Artificial Intelligence Internet Culture Space Tech Policy

These driverless taxis got 589 parking tickets in San Francisco last year

Waymo's autonomous vehicles sometimes pull over where they shouldn't.

March 13, 2025




(Illustration by Elena Lacey/The Washington Post; iStock)

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6 Waymo traffic to San Francisco freeway on-ramp

Rebecca Bellan 3:18 PM PDT · April 17, 2024



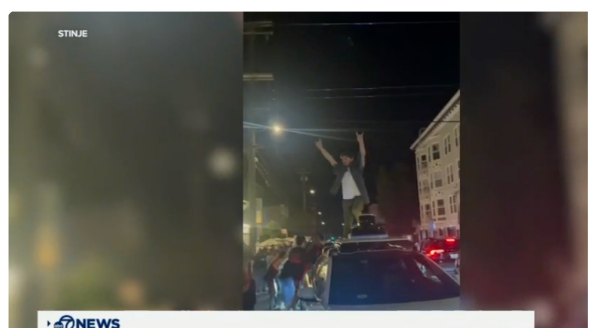

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BANKING FROM HILARIOUS TO OUTHRIGHT BIZARRE
Future 3D Remade
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March 13, 2025
5 min Summary



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SF NEWS

SFiST

7 MAY 2024 SF NEWS / JOE KUKURA

Waymo Spotted Driving in Red Bus Lane, About to Make Illegal Left-Hand Turn



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Future 3D Render

Self-Driving Taxis Are Causing Kinds of Trouble in San Francisco

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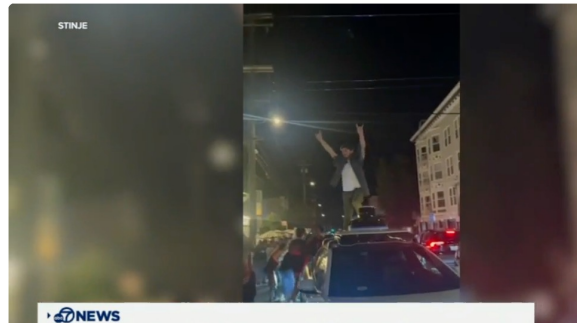
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The Washington Post

Tech Help Desk Artificial Intelligence Internet Culture Space Tech Policy

These driverless taxis got 589 parking tickets in San Francisco last year

Video shows Waymo robotaxi breaking bus lane laws in San Francisco

By J.R. Stone Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Facebook X YouTube Email Link



SAFETY CONCERNS RISE FOR SELF-DRIVING CARS IN SF

Another incident involving a Waymo robotaxi breaking the rules while driving in San Francisco was recorded.

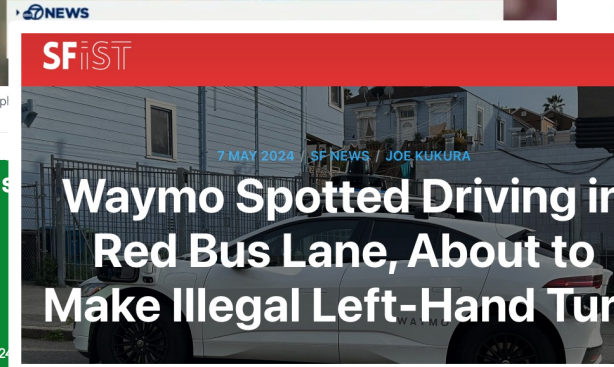
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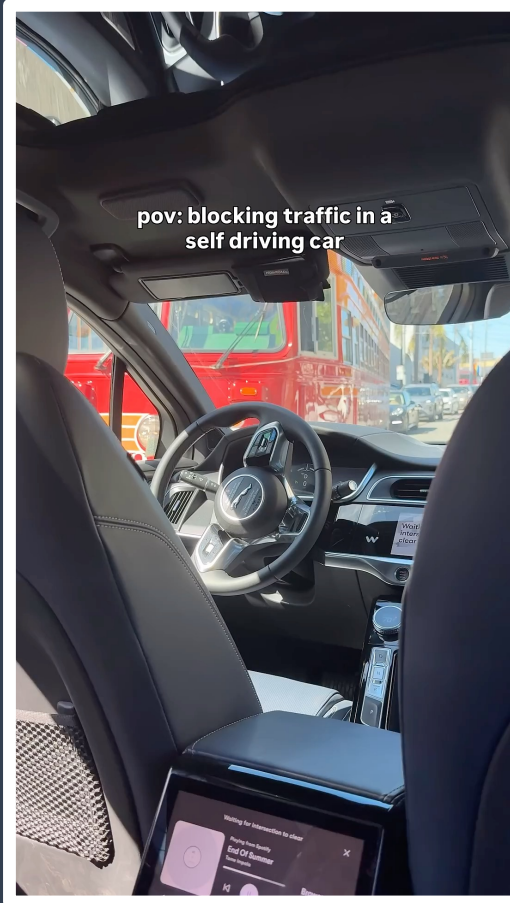
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pov: blocking traffic in a
self driving car

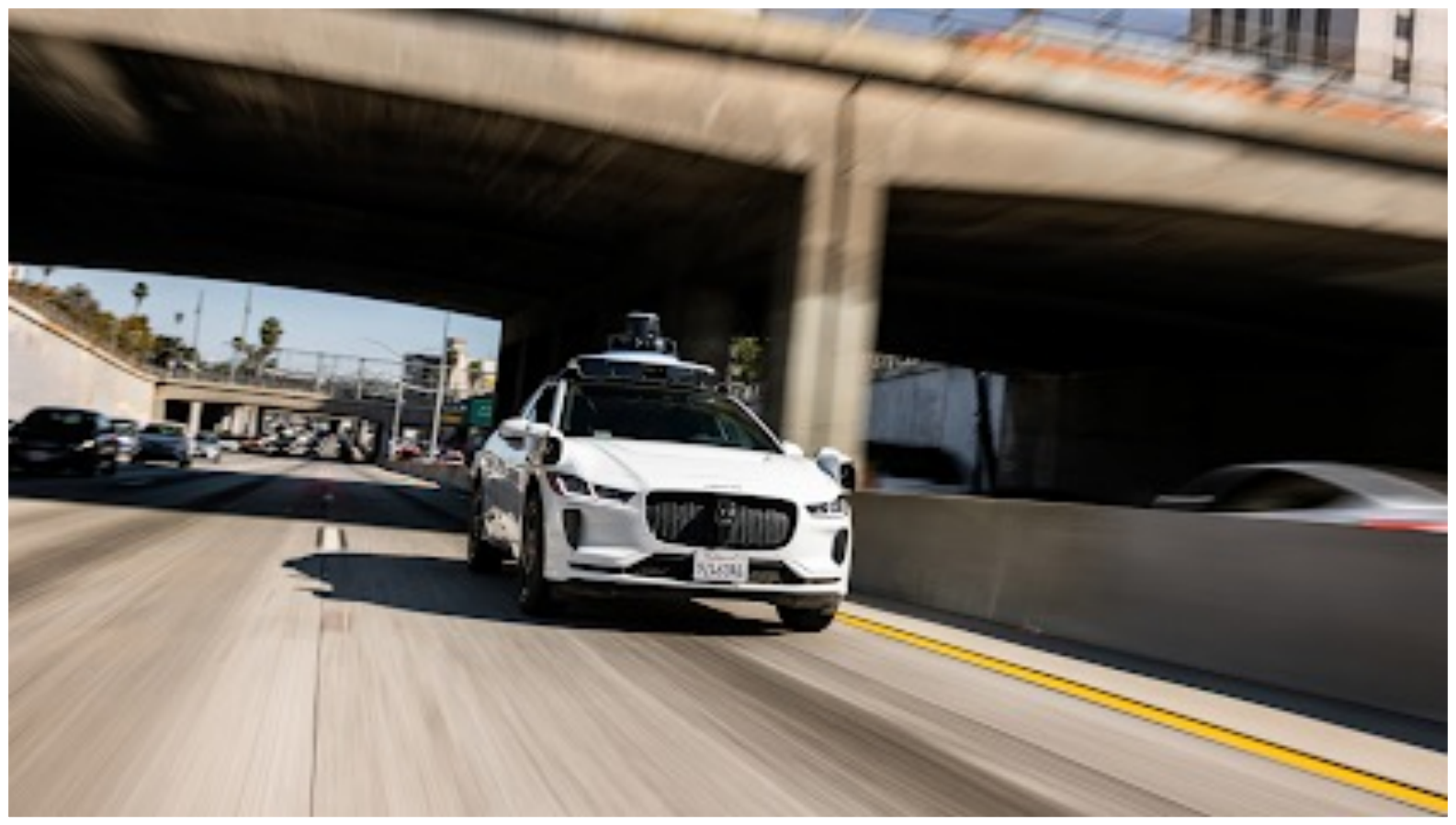






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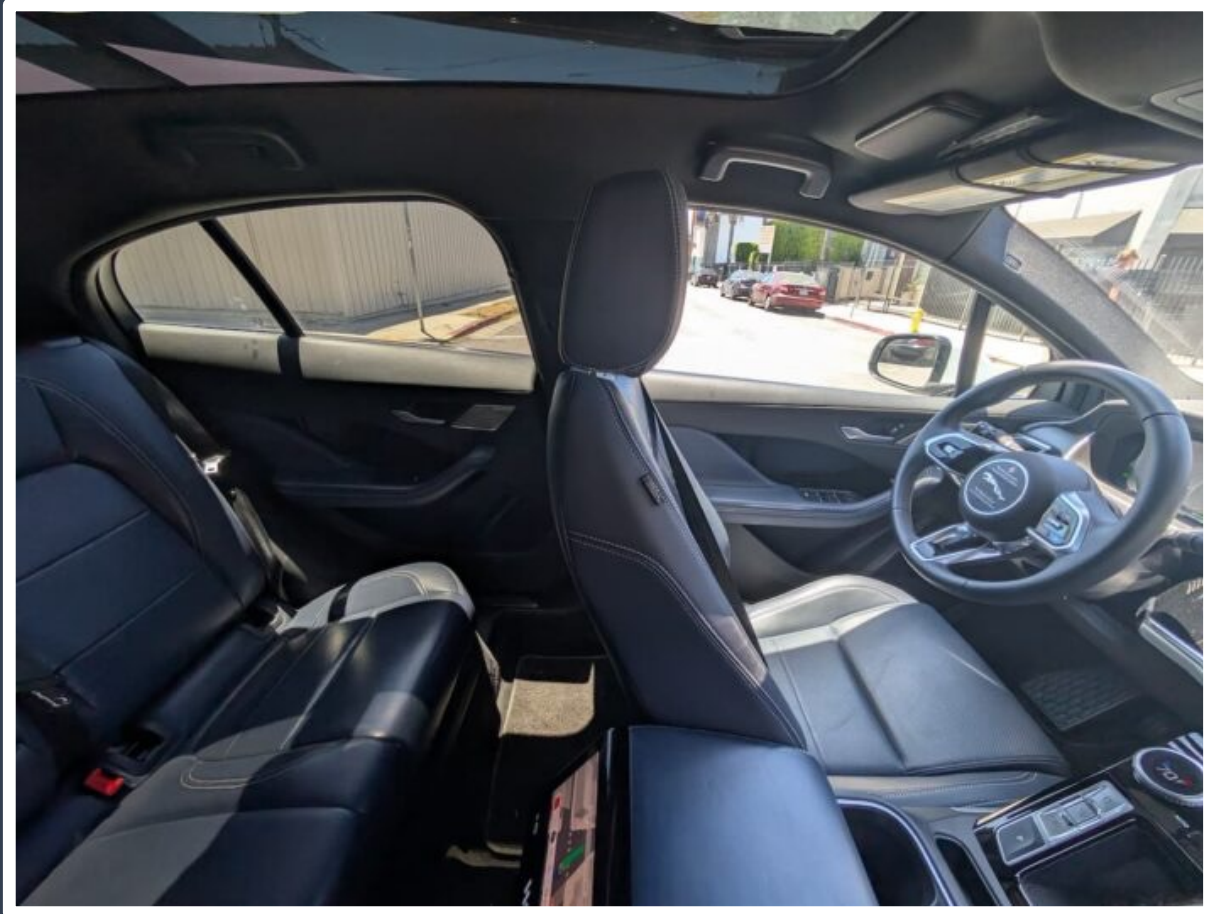
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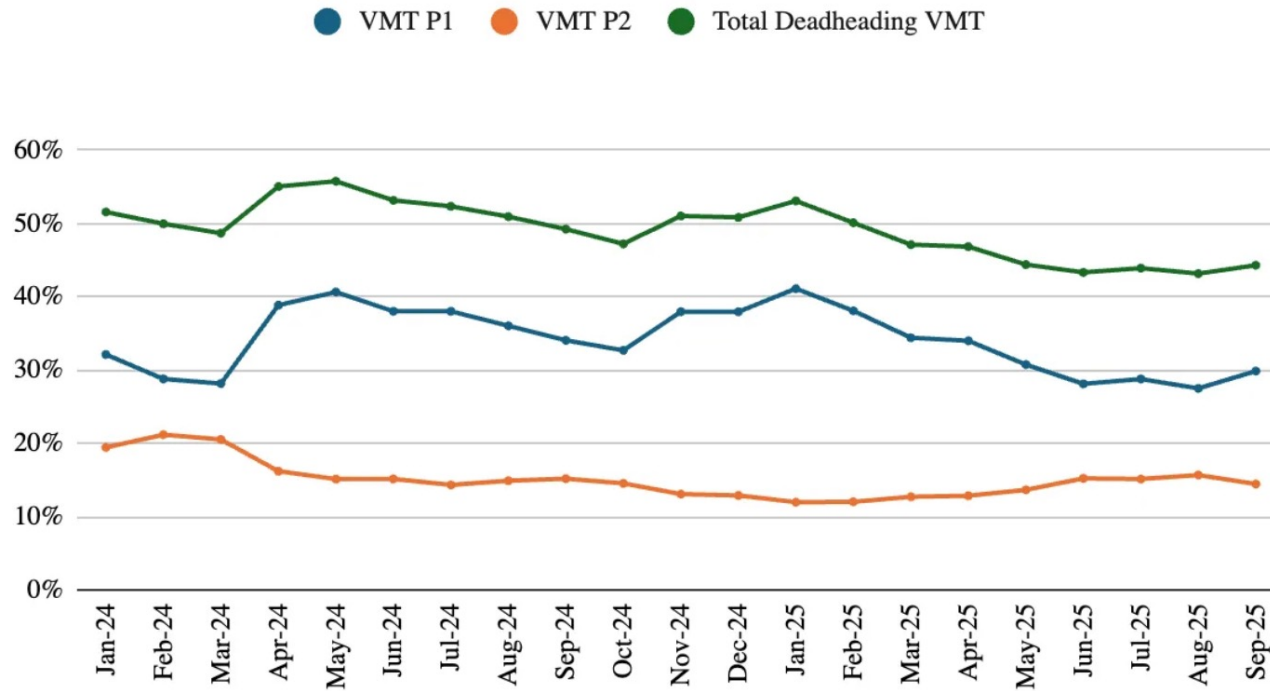




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Deadheading VMT Share for Waymo in California



Source: Driverless Digest





Source: <https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop25195/fhwahop25195.pdf>

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Urban Congestion Trends

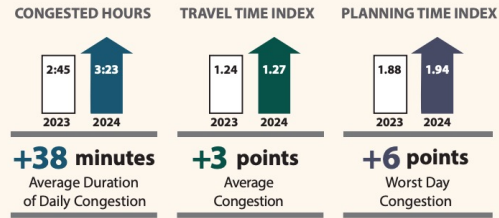
Year-to-Year Congestion Trends in the United States (2023–2024)



All Worsened **All Improved**

- 0%** of MSAs had all three congestion measures improve
- 8%** of MSAs had no change or mixed results
- 92%** of MSAs had all three congestion measures worsen

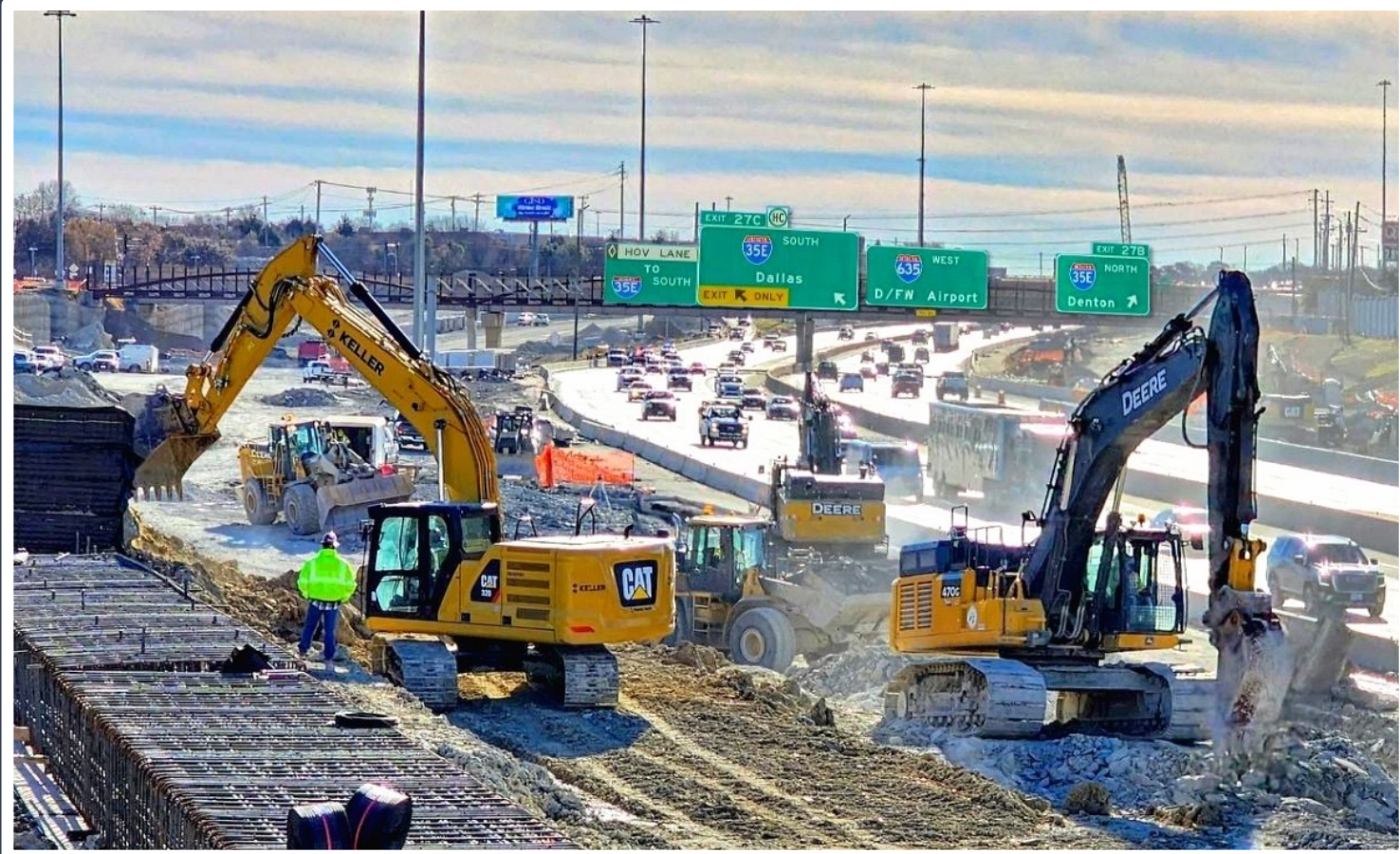
Source: FHWA and NPMRDS.



Source: <https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop25195/fhwahop25195.pdf>

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CityLab | Perspective

Here Comes the Self-Driving Traffic Surge

Autonomous vehicles from companies like Waymo and Zoox are set to trigger an increase in car usage that clogs urban streets. Cities should prepare now.



Zoox autonomous robotaxis in San Francisco in 2024. Photographer: David Paul Morris/Bloomberg



3 Tactics to Prepare Cities for an AV Future



1 Use Automatic Enforcement



2 Price Congestion



3 Build Bus Lanes



When will the robotaxis scale?



When will the robotaxis scale?

Nobody knows



When will the robotaxis scale?

Nobody knows

But don't worry about it!



3 Tactics to Prepare Cities for the Future (AV or not)

5



3 Tactics to Prepare Cities for the Future (AV or not)

1 Use Automatic Enforcement

5



3 Tactics to Prepare Cities for the Future (AV or not)

- 1 Use Automatic Enforcement
- 2 Price Congestion



3 Tactics to Prepare Cities for the Future (AV or not)

- 1 Use Automatic Enforcement
- 2 Price Congestion
- 3 Build Bus Lanes





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The New York Times

Waymo Suspended Service in San Francisco After Its Cars Stalled During Power Outage

The self-driving cars came to a halt at intersections when the power outage knocked out traffic signals, causing tie-ups but no accidents or injuries.

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