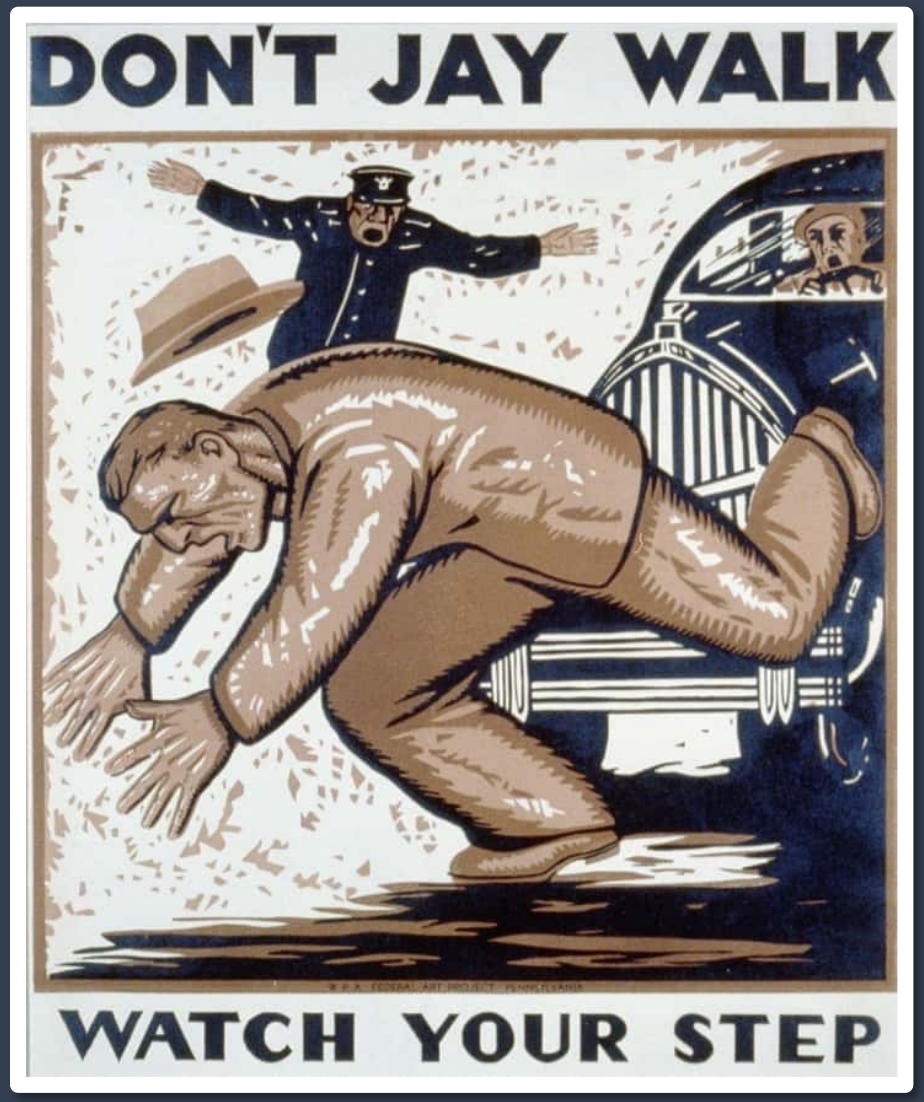
How cities can prepare for self-driving cars

October 28, 2026

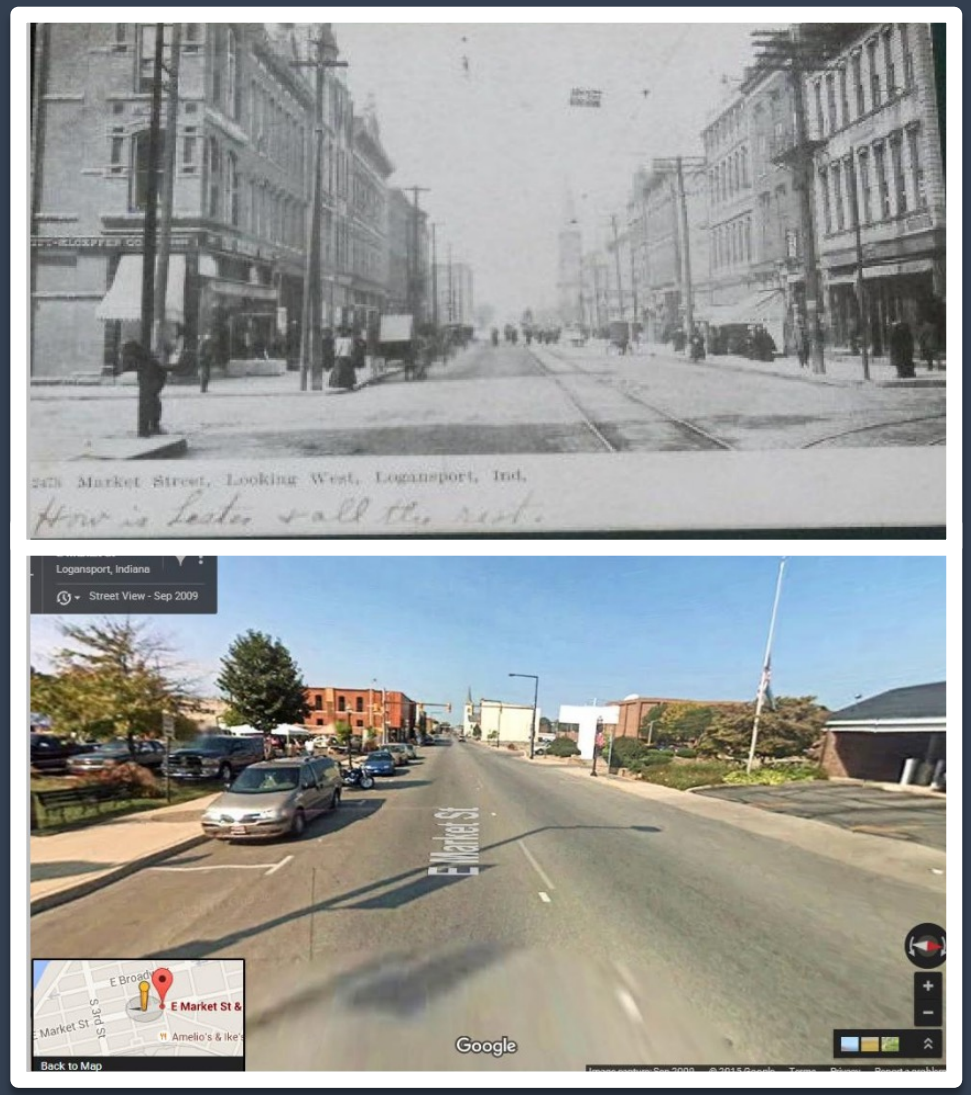
David Zipper
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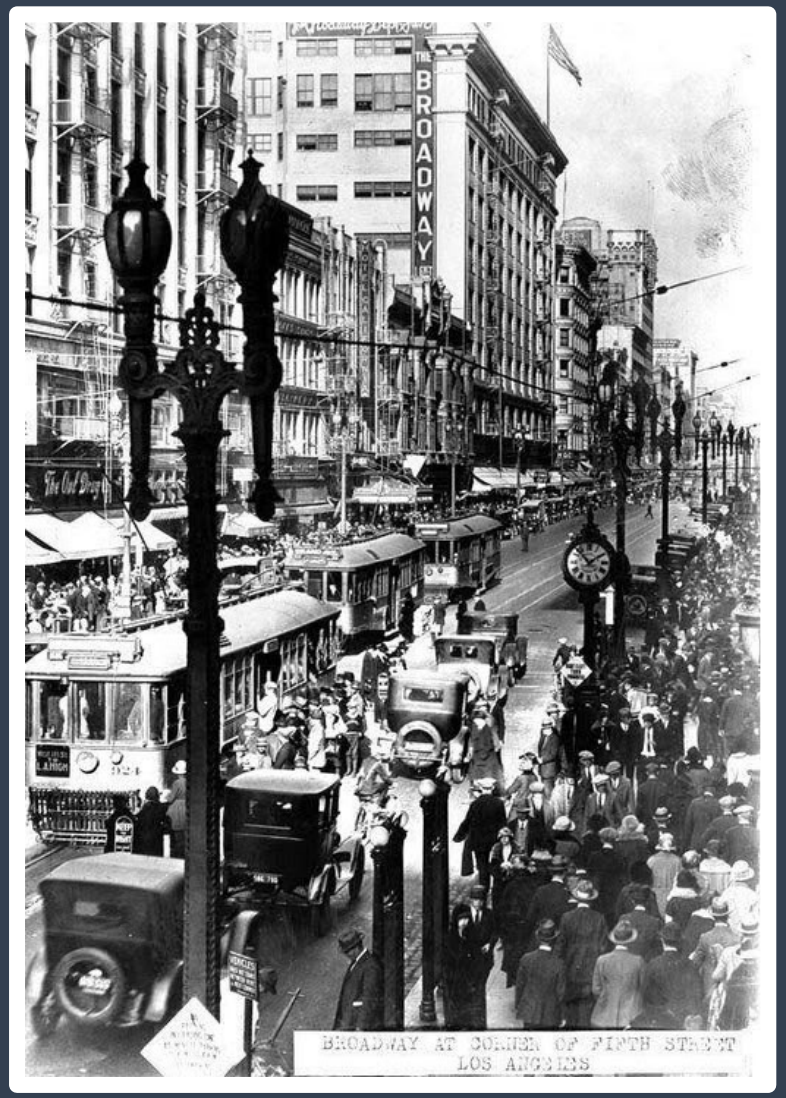



A
Trip Down
Market Street
San Francisco
April 14, 1906


DON'T JAY WALK
WATCH YOUR STEP


DON'T JAY WALK
WATCH YOUR STEP


Market Street, Looking West, Logansport, Ind.
Logansport, Indiana
Street View - Sep 2009
E Market St
E Broad St
Market St
E Market St &
Amelio's & Ike's
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BROADWAY
BROADWAY AT CORNER OF FIFTH STREET
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1300
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JAGUAR

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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/iStock/Getty Images Plus]

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A Waymo autonomous taxi on Bush Street in San Francisco in December 2025. *Photographer: David Paul Morris/Bloomberg*

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

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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.





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News & Politics Culture Technology Bus

ADEQUATELY NUTRITIOUS

ure tense

The Safety Dance

utonomous vehicle companies claim that "humans are ter eir tech is needed to save lives. Don't buy it.

DAVID ZIPPER JULY 17, 2023 • 2:04 PM



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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]

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TRANSPO / 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

Apr 19, 2025, 8:00 AM EDT

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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, 2026. A *Photographer: David Paul Morris/Bloomberg*

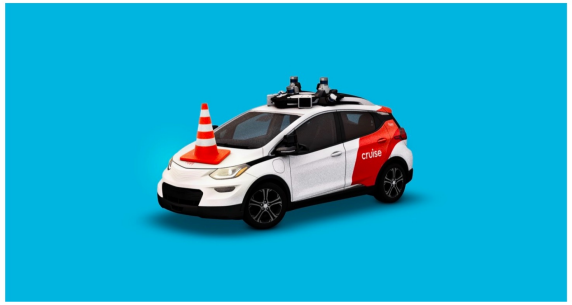
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IDEAS

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



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Here's Where Waymo Is Launching Next In Texas

Rental car giants could be takin

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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Waymo to Begin Testing Its Robotaxis in New York City

The self-driving car company received a permit to begin testing in par
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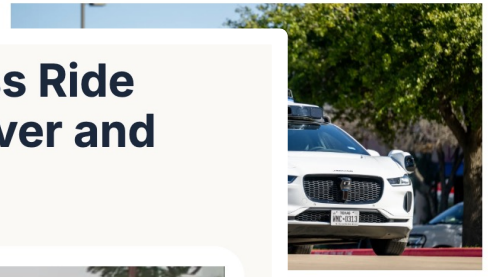
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Updated Aug

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Waymo launches limited driverless ride service in Miami



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ech Home

Waymo Expands Driverless Ride Service to San Diego, Denver and Tampa



Waymo Is Expandin and Seattle. Everyth About the Robotaxi

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

Chicago Tribune

Waymo begins fully autonomous testing in Detroit, other northern cities



Waymo's new autonomous vehicle, called the Ojai, drives in Venice Beach, California, on Wednesday, May 27, 2026. (Allen J. Schaben/Los Angeles Times)

By HENRY PAYNE




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Robotaxis granted licence to operate in London

5 August 2026

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Tom Edwards
London transport and environment correspondent



The technology uses cameras and radars

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TRANSPORTATION

Waymo to deploy driverless robotaxis in Tokyo next year

US company had been expected to begin Japanese service with drivers



Waymo has been working with Japan's transportation companies toward a future robotaxi launch since late 2024. (Photo by Yuji Murakami)



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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.

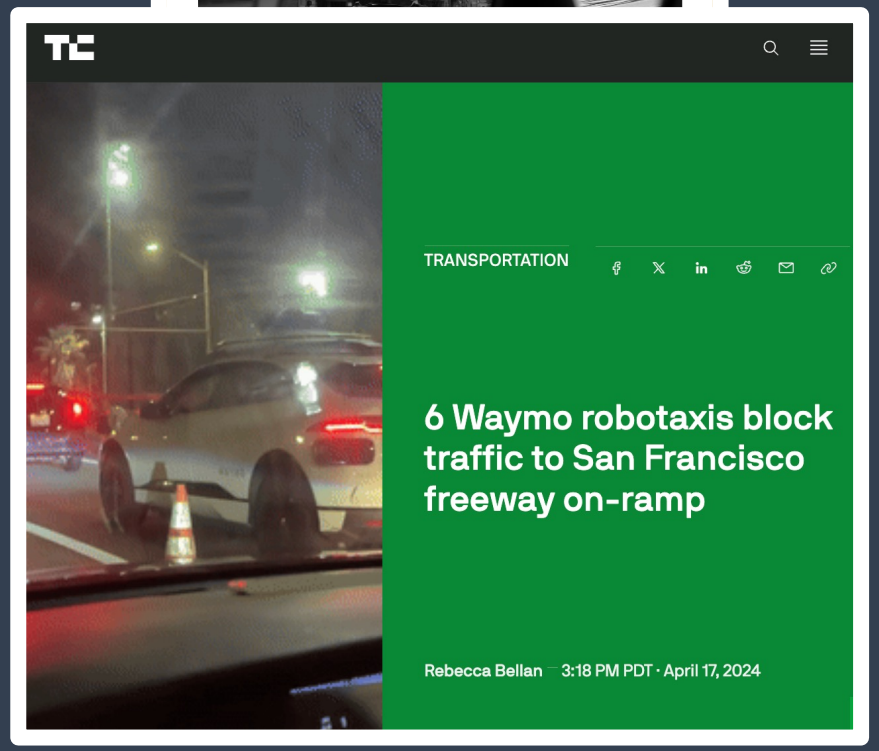
BY DAVID ZIPPER

DEC 08, 2022 • 11:45 AM



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


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BY DAVID ZIPPER
DEC 08, 2022 • 11:45 AM


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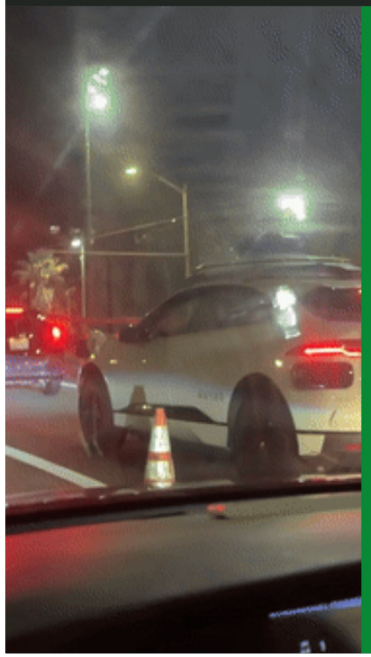
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They've blocked traffic, driven on the sidewalk, sped away from city is powerless to stop them.

BY DAVID ZIPPER



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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.

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Waymo racked up 8,300+ SF parking tickets and nearly $1M in fines

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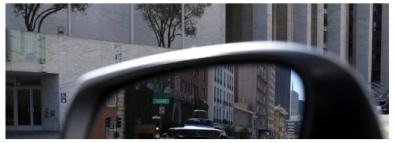
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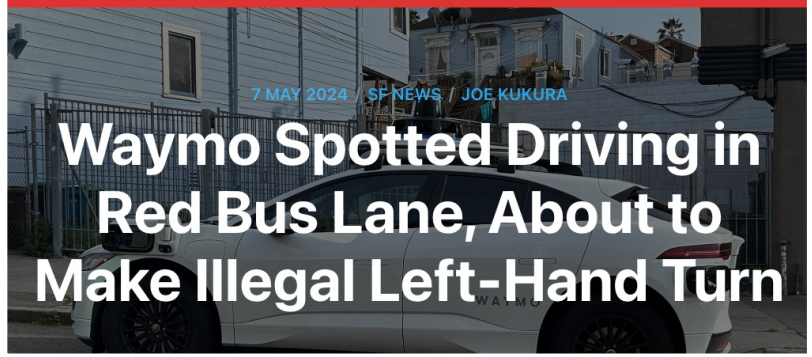


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7 MAY 2024 / SF NEWS / JOE KUKURA

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

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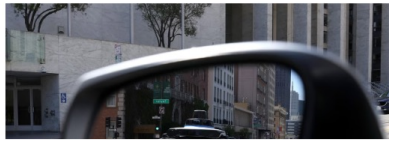
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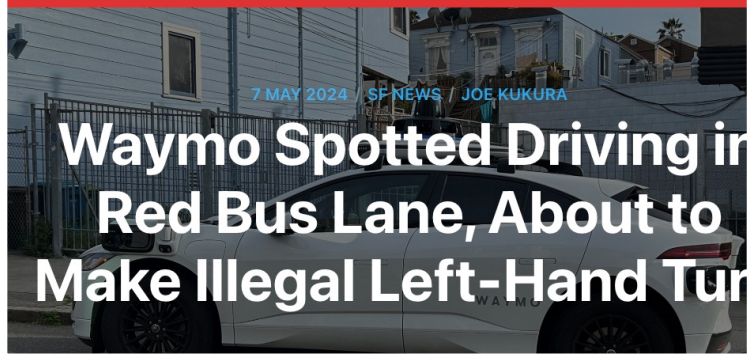


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Video shows Waymo robotaxi breaking bus lane laws in San Francisco

By J.R. Stone

Tuesday, May 7, 2024



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

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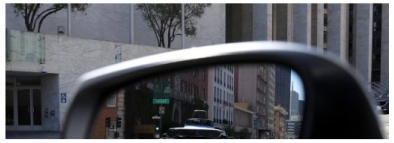
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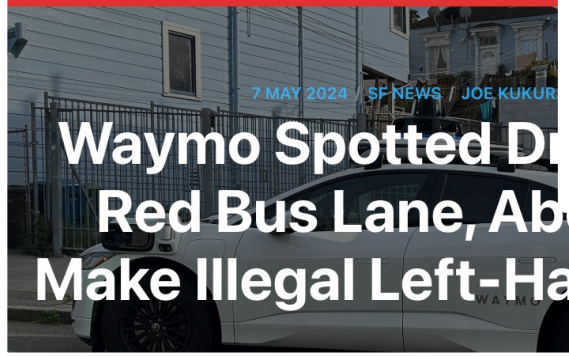
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Waymo Spotted Dr Red Bus Lane, About to Make Illegal Left-Hand Tur

The San Francisco Standard

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Person dies after Cruise robotaxi blocks San Francisco ambulance, fire department says

A report from the San Francisco Fire Department on an Aug. 14 incident says the Cruise robotaxi blocked an ambulance transporting a patient.



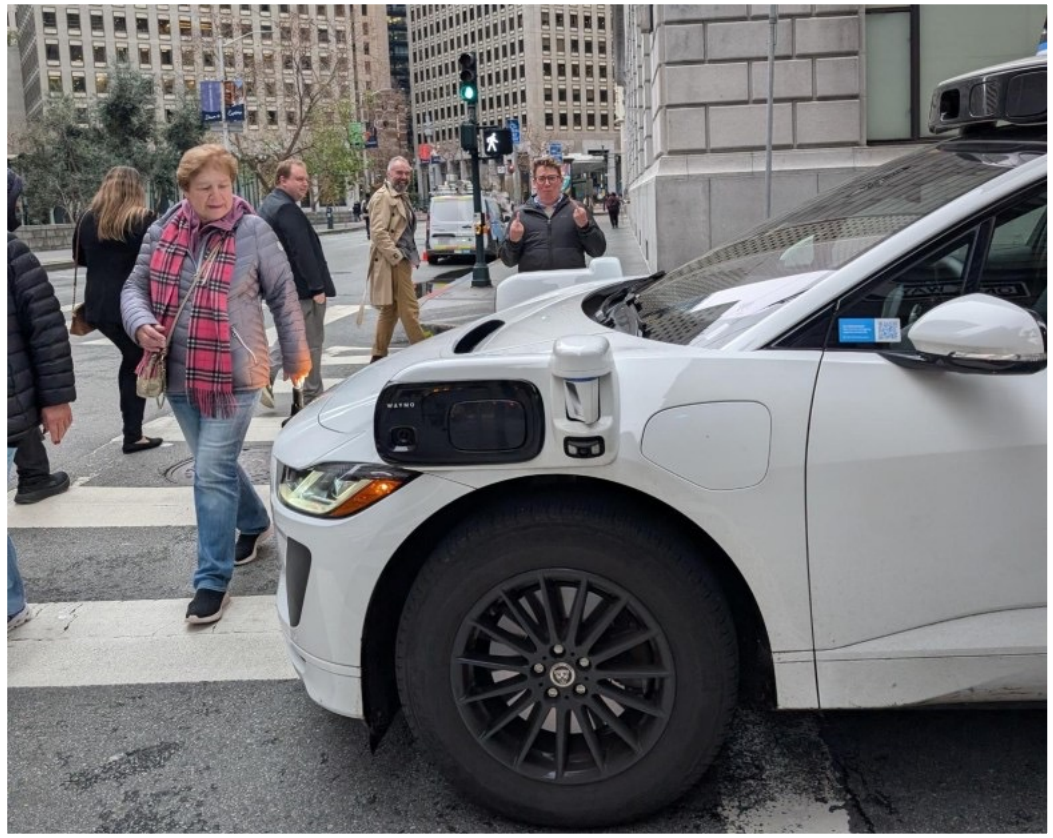
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Another incident involving a Waymo robotaxi breaking the rules while driving in San Francisco was recorded.

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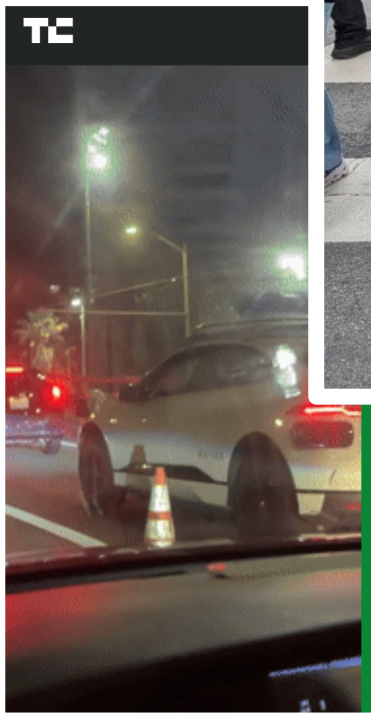
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They've blocked traffi
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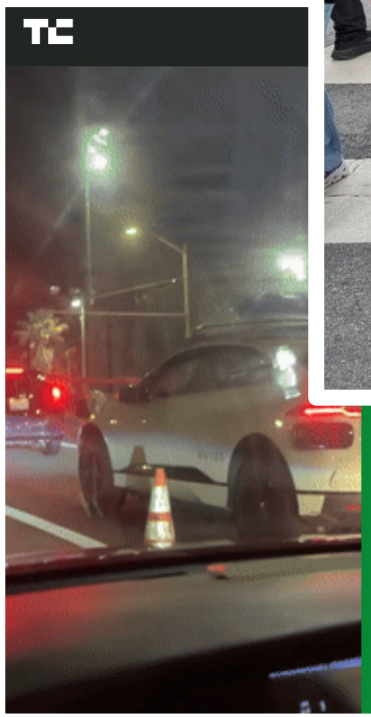
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The Overhead Wire
@theoverheadwire.com

Today in Empty Waymo Blocking a Bus full of people.

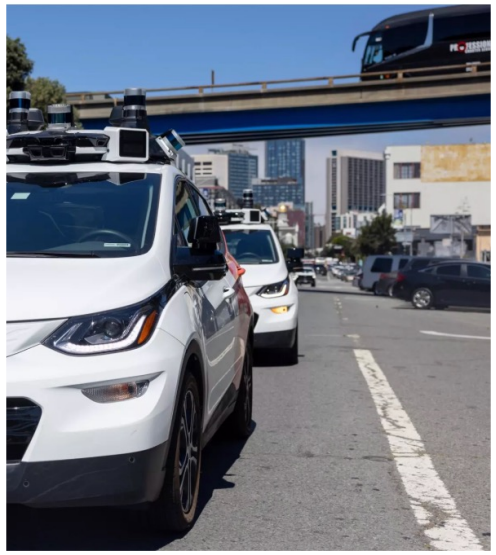


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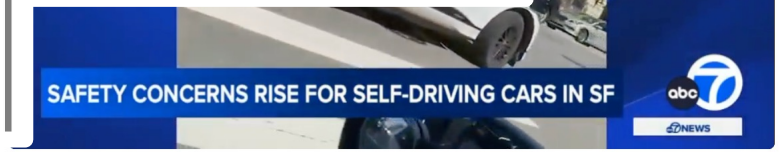
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The New York Times

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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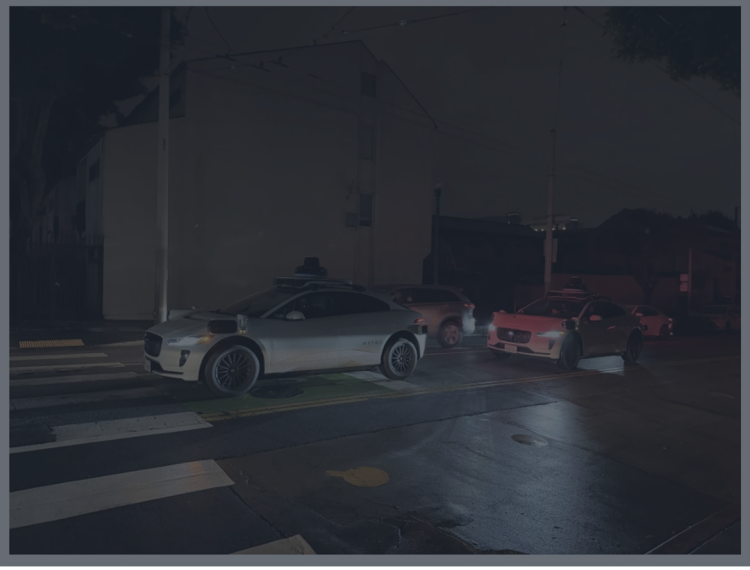
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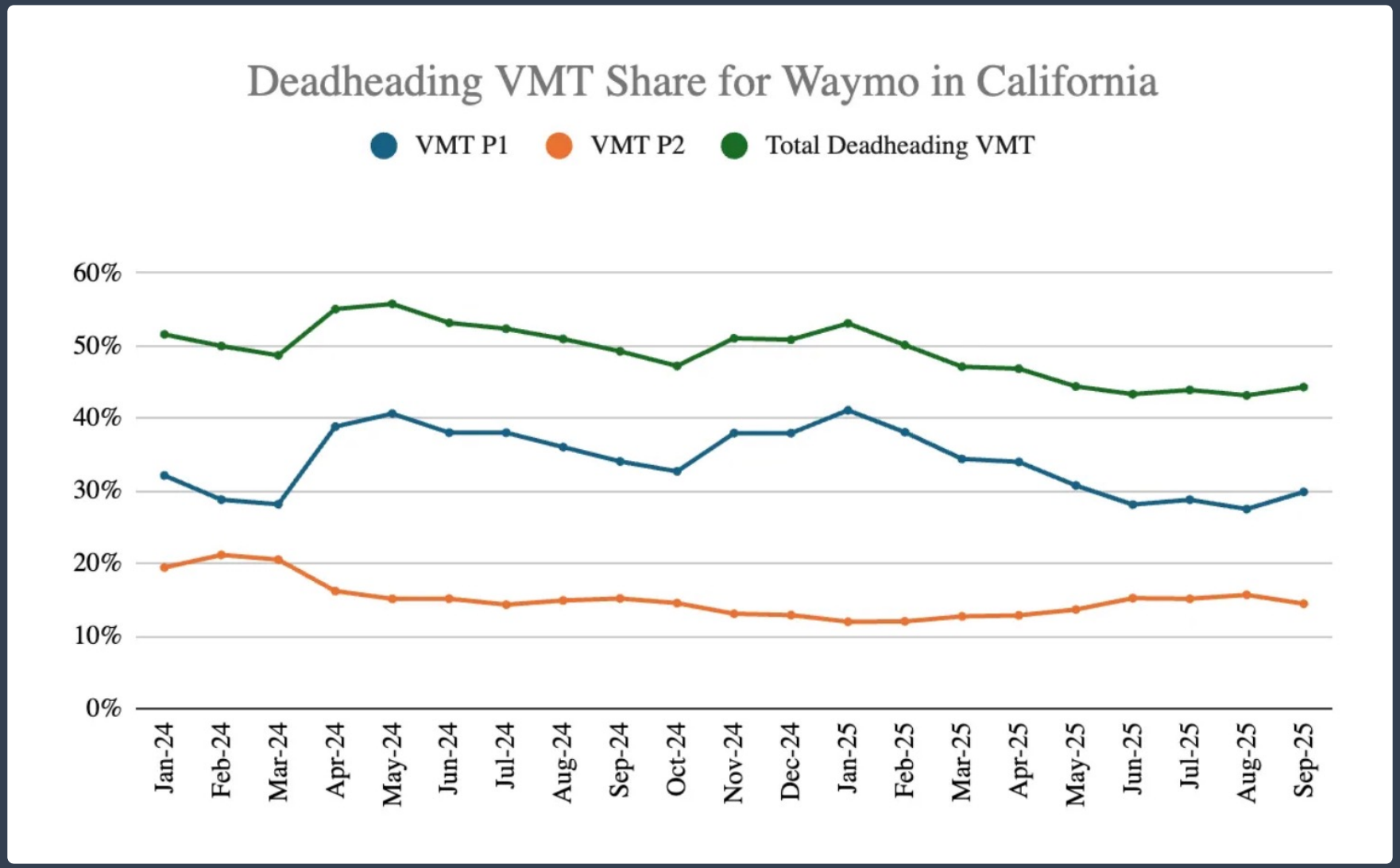
July 4 Waymo gridlock in SF after dozens choke streets, some lose power, 1 ran over lit fireworks




Rosecrans Ave ½
Inglewood Ave 1 ½
Hawthorne Blvd 107 2 ¼




ONE WAY
ON RED



Source: Driverless Digest

Article

What California Regulatory Filings Reveal about Robotaxi Operations at Scale

Haitam Laarabi[1] Email

C. Anna Spurlock[1]

[1] *Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory*

This is a preprint; it has not been peer reviewed by a journal.

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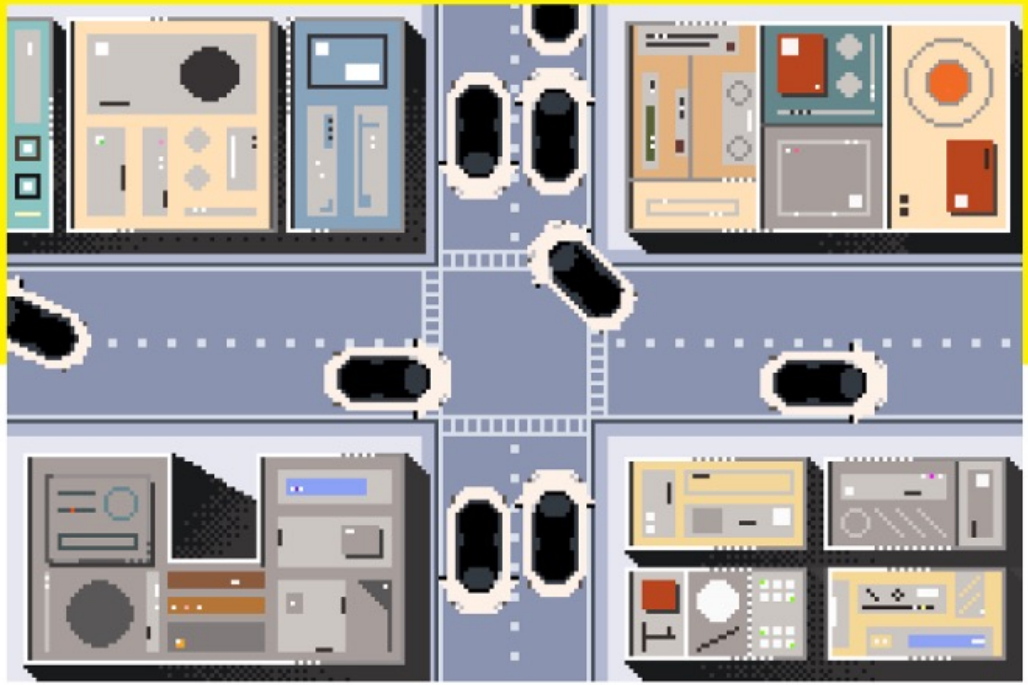
MENU

by **David Zipper**
Sep 15, 2025, 6:00 AM EDT

FUTURE PERFECT

A self-driving car traffic jam is coming for US cities

A century ago, cars remade America. Autonomous vehicles could do it again.



Jared Bartman for Vox

5 Tactics to Prepare Cities for an AV Future



1 Use Automatic Enforcement



CityLab
Transportation

Picture a Better Way to Protect Bus Lanes

On-board enforcement cameras allow buses to ticket drivers blocking dedicated lanes, speeding up transit service. Why aren't they used everywhere?



To keep bus lanes clear, a growing number of New York City buses are equipped with automated cameras that can ticket drivers. *Photographer: John Lamparski/Getty Images North America*

2 Get a Handle on the Curb



1


NO STANDING OR PARKING ANYTIME
2 HOUR PARKING
MONDAY-SATURDAY
15 MINUTE STANDING OR PARKING
JUK PERMIT ONLY
6:30 TO 9:30 AM
3:30 TO 6:30PM
MONDAY-FRIDAY
2 HOUR PARKING
NO TIME LIMIT PARKING
6:30 PM - 10 PM
MON - SAT
PAY TO PARK

3 Charge Market Rates for Street Parking




JAGUAR
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SFMTA

Alerts *Attention: Delay at Northridge and Harbor has cleared. Eastbound 15 and 54 resuming regular service.*
(More: 23 in last 48 hours)

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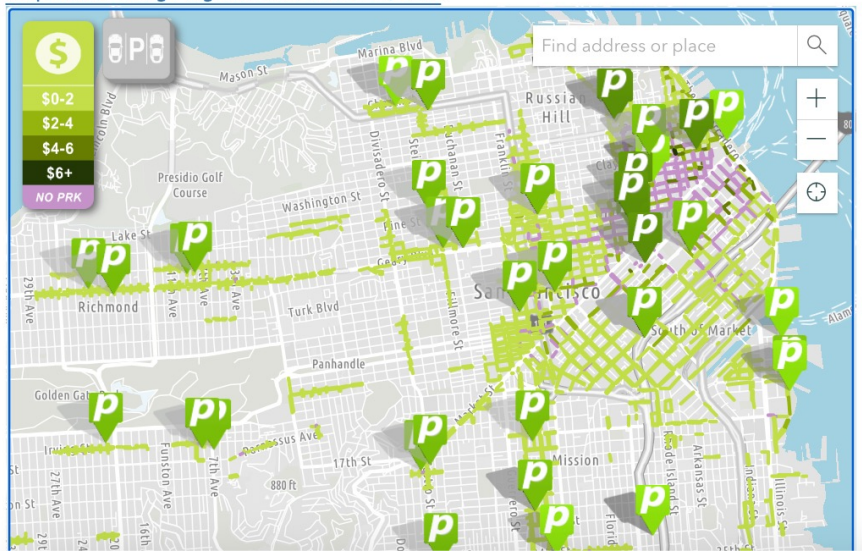
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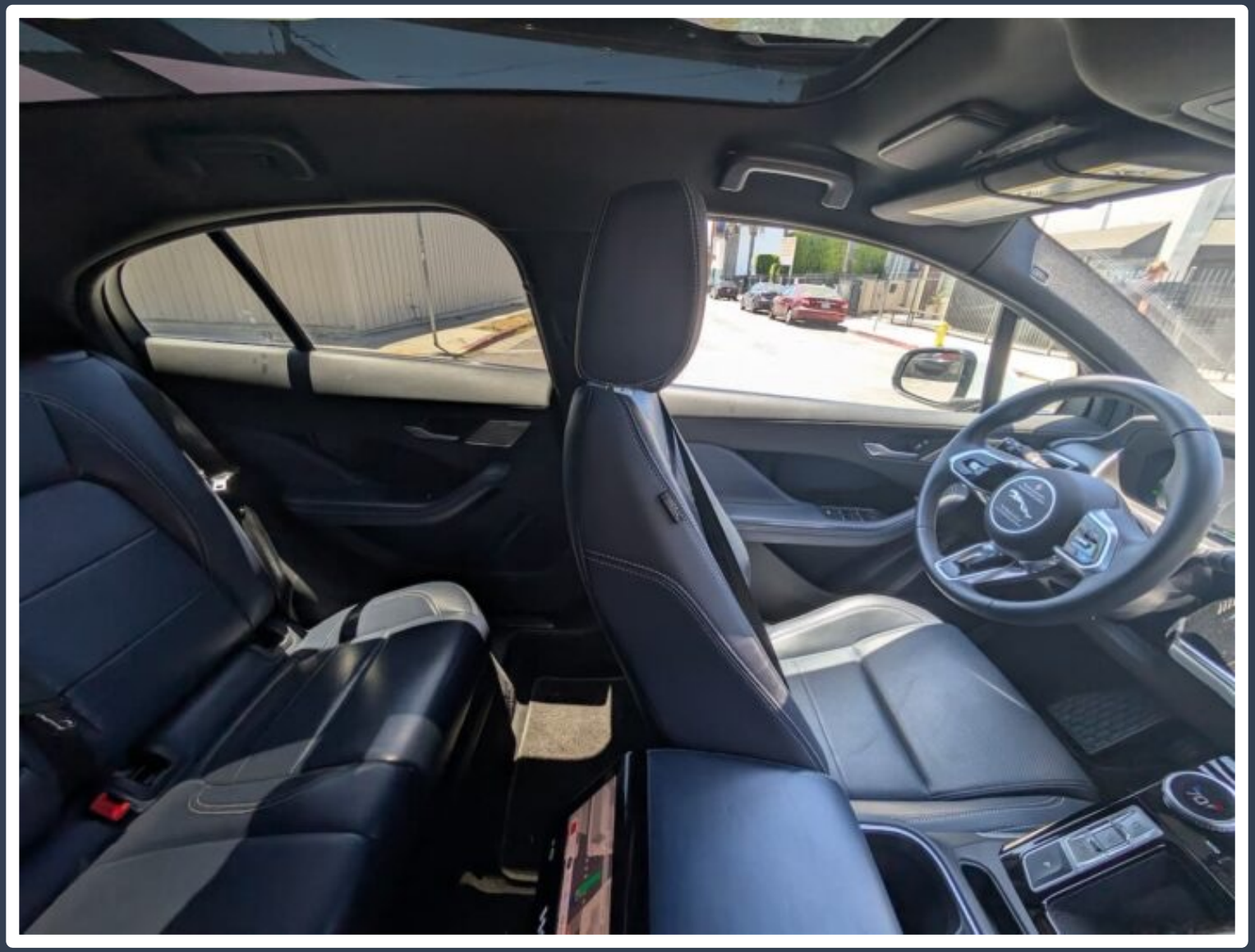
SFMTA.com/ParkingRates

Through smarter pricing for parking, we help to achieve the right level of parking availability by periodically adjusting meter and garage to match demand. Known as "demand-responsive pricing," this encourages people to park in underutilized blocks and garages, helping to open up spaces in busy areas and at busy times. The SFMTA Board of Directors adopted the Demand-Responsive Pricing Program on December 5, 2017.



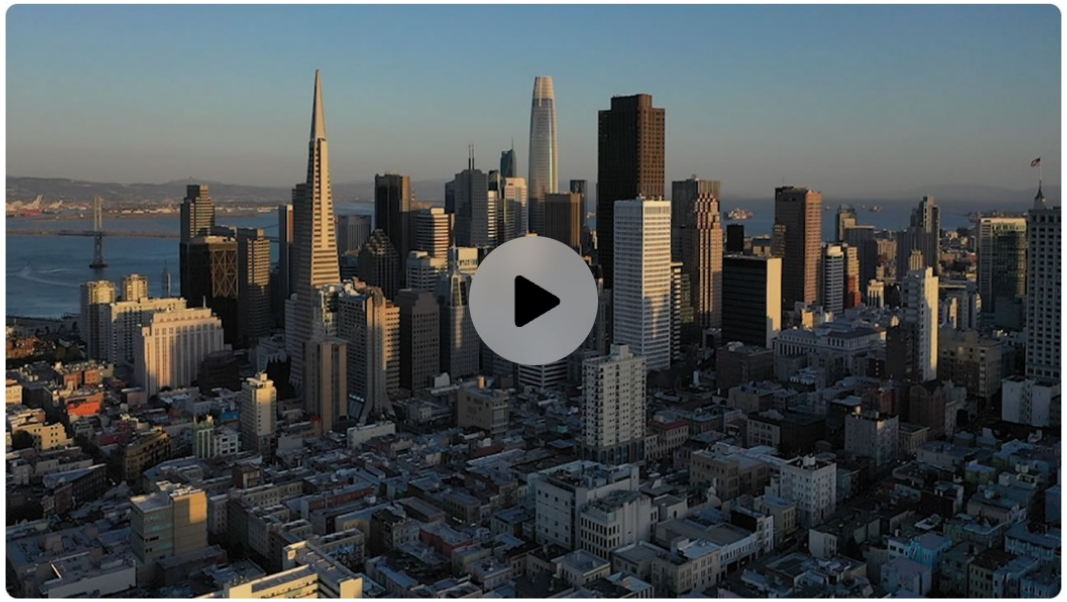
4 Price Congestion





24/7 Live 55°

SF leaders considering congestion pricing even though downtown recovery continues



Plans for congestion pricing in San Francisco were put on a shelf when the pandemic hit, but leaders are wondering if it's time to revive the idea.

KGO-TV

Traffic Reduction Study

Exploring how congestion pricing and improved transportation options could reduce traffic, improve access, and benefit communities across Los Angeles County.



5 Invest in Transit





5 Tactics to Prepare Cities for an AV Future

1. Use Automatic Enforcement
2. Get a Handle on the Curb
3. Charge Market Rates for Parking

Mitigate Chaos

5



5 Tactics to Prepare Cities for an AV Future

1. Use Automatic Enforcement
2. Get a Handle on the Curb
3. Charge Market Rates for Parking
4. Price Congestion
5. Invest in Transit

Keep People Moving

5



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!



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

5



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

1. Use Automatic Enforcement



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

1. Use Automatic Enforcement
2. Get a Handle on the Curb



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1. Use Automatic Enforcement
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3. Charge Market Rates for Parking
4. Price Congestion
5. Invest in Transit






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San Francisco Mayor Daniel Lurie Calls on State to Tighten Autonomous Vehicle Regulations

Lurie's letter to the state transportation secretary comes just weeks after a massive backup of stalled Waymo vehicles snarled the city's Fourth of July festivities.

Jul 16, 2026 Updated Jul 17, 2026

By Sydney Johnson

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Mayor Daniel Lurie speaks at a press conference with public safety leaders in San Francisco on June 9, 2025