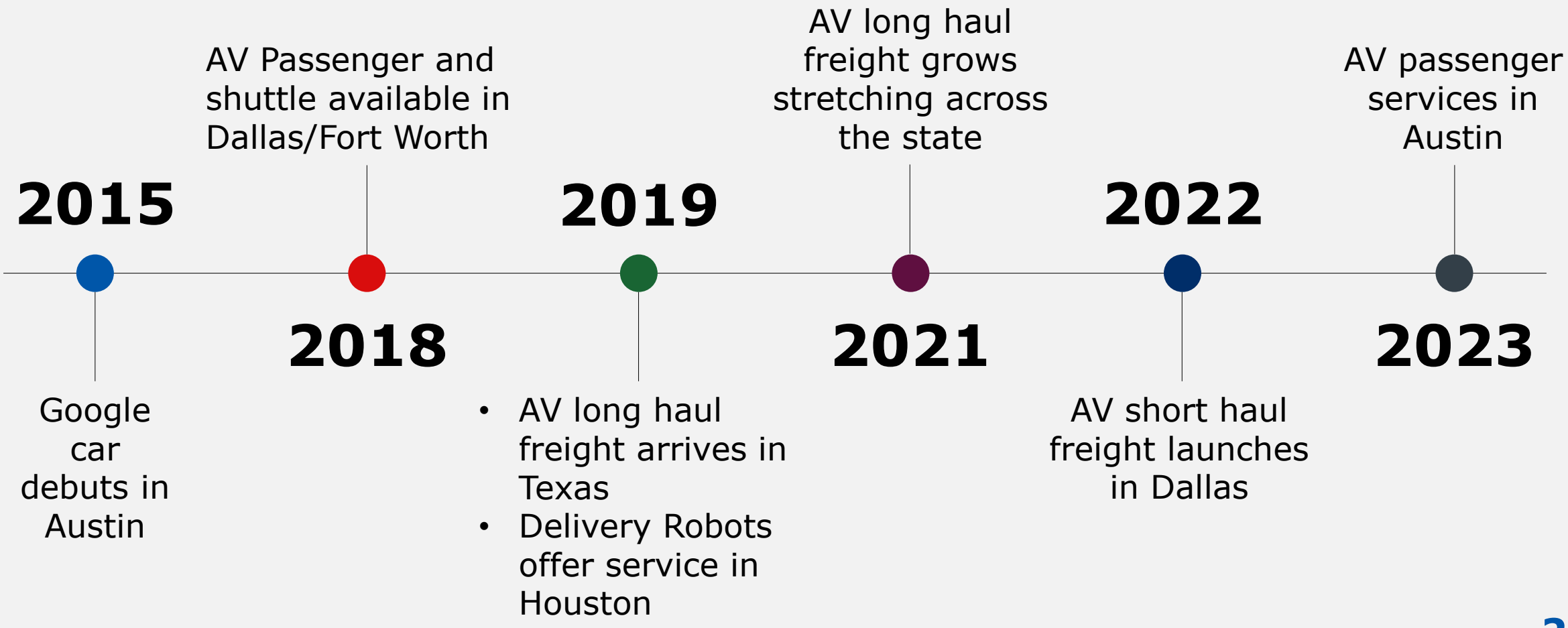
Autonomous Vehicles In Texas

Strategic Initiatives and Innovation Division

Texas Department of Transportation

July 6, 2026

Timeline


2015
Google car debuts in Austin
2018
AV Passenger and shuttle available in Dallas/Fort Worth
2019
AV long haul freight arrives in Texas
Delivery Robots offer service in Houston
2021
AV long haul freight grows stretching across the state
2022
AV short haul freight launches in Dallas
2023
AV passenger services in Austin

Autonomous Vehicle Ecosystem in Texas

Department of Transportation (TxDOT)
- Emerging Technology
- Collaboration
- Research

Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)
- TNC Registration

Public Safety (DPS)
- Enforcement
- Emergency Response

Insurance (TDI)
- Insurance

Motor Vehicles (DMV)
- Registration
- Licensing

State of Texas Legislation Regarding Automation

SB 2205, 85th Legislature (2017)

SB 2205 creates a legal framework for the operation of automated motor vehicles in Texas and explicitly allows an automated motor vehicle to operate on highways in the state, with or without a human operator, under certain circumstances.

HB 1791, 85th Legislature (2017)

HB 1791 authorizes an operator of a vehicle equipped with a connected braking system that is following another vehicle equipped with that system to be assisted by the connected braking system to maintain a clear distance or "sufficient space."

SB 969, 86th Legislature (2019)

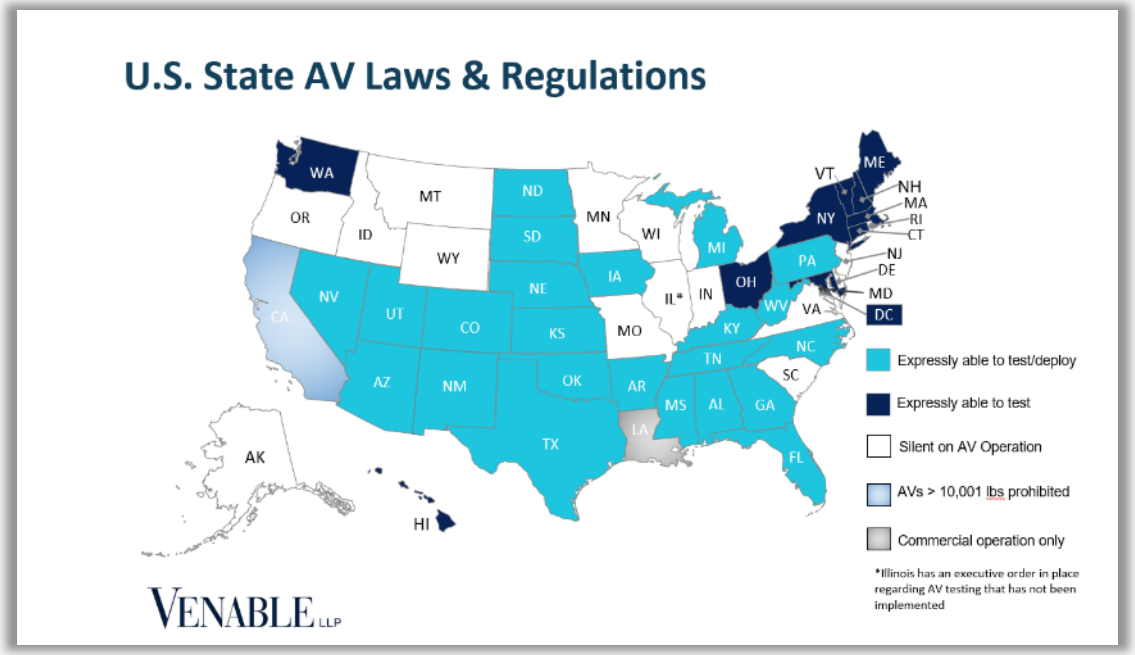
SB 969 governs the operation of a personal delivery or mobile carrying device in a pedestrian area or on the side or shoulder of a highway.

HB 3026, 87th Legislature (2021)

HB 3026 allows that when an ADS (AV) is designed to be completely operated without a human driver, then certain items are no longer required, such as mirrors, steering wheels.

SB 2807, 89th Legislature (2025)

SB 2807 creates a registration process and first responder plans.



State of Texas Legislation Regarding Automation

SB 2807, 89th Legislature (2025)

Originally SB 2425, the bill creates a streamlined regulatory framework across multiple state agencies.

- Texas Department of Motor Vehicles
  - AV Registration
  - Arbitration Process
- Texas Department of Public Safety
  - Law Enforcement Interaction Plans
- Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
  - Transportation Network Companies (TNC)

Texas CAV Task Force Overview

Mission: To provide a single, unified resource for information regarding the coordination and advancement of CAV technologies across the state.

- Data, Connectivity, Cyber Security, and Privacy Subcommittee
- Education, Communication, and User Needs Subcommittee
- Freight and Delivery Subcommittee
- Licensing and Registration Subcommittee
- Safety, Liability, and Responsibility Subcommittee
- Workforce and Economic Opportunities Subcommittee

- Government Transportation Agencies
- Research Institutions
- Transportation Organizations
- Industry

CAV Task Force Website

CAV task force subcommittees

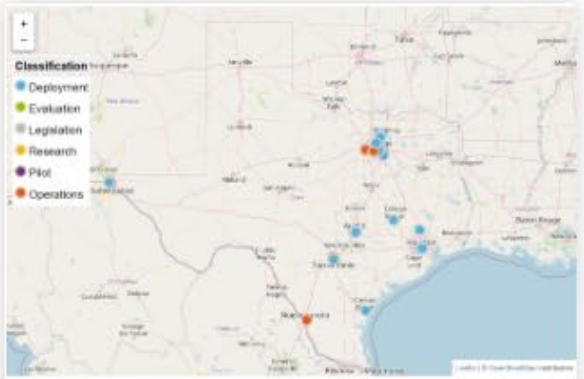
What are the CAV task force subcommittees?

About subcommittees

CAV task force meetings and materials

Find meeting notes and reports.

Meeting information



Autonomous vehicles deployment map in Texas

View a map of autonomous vehicle deployments in Texas.

View map

Welcome to Texas!

What makes Texas a welcoming environment for CAV deployment?

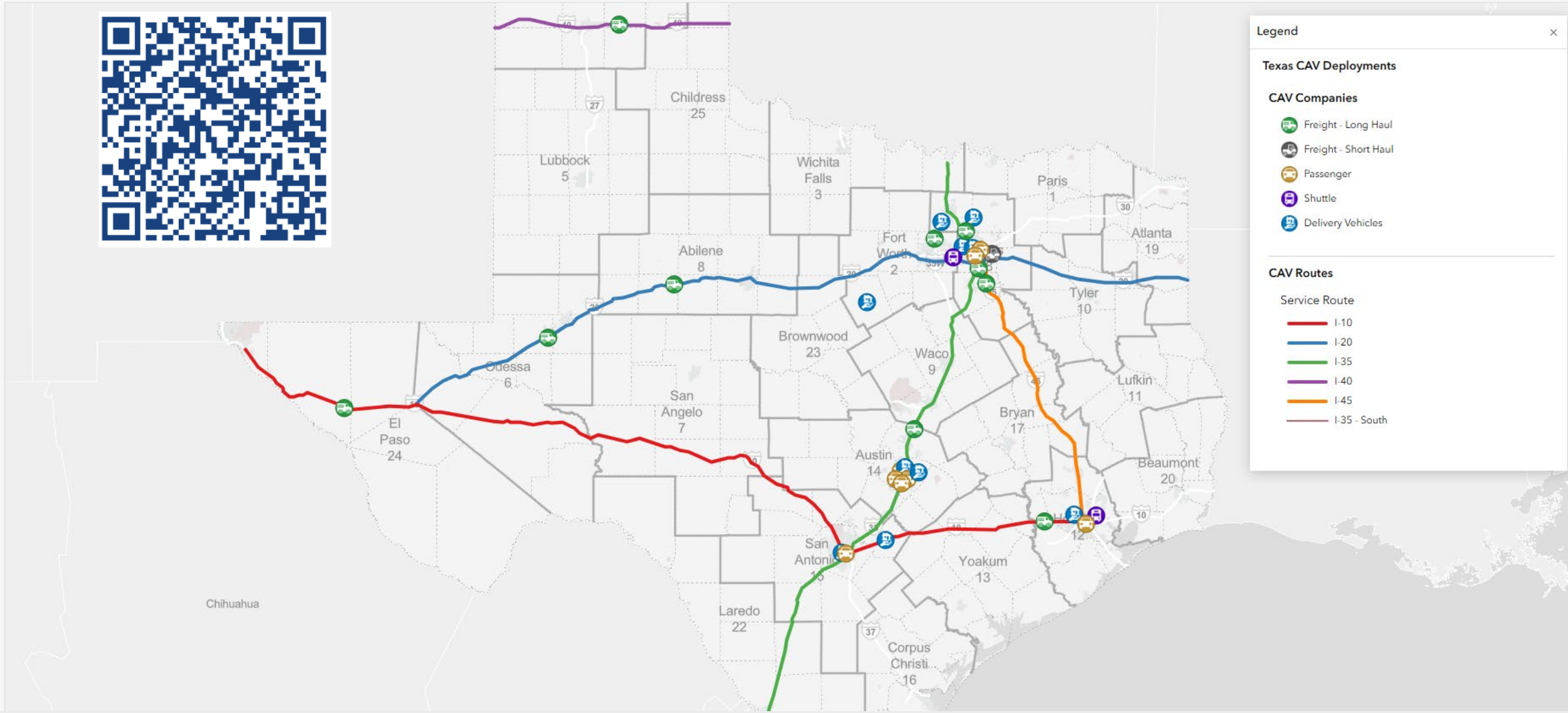
CAV in Texas

Texas Department of Transportation

Connecting you with Texas.

Autonomous Vehicle Deployments

Company	Location	Type of Service
None	None	None



First Responder and AV Company Collaboration

- Leverage advanced technology to create safer roads, save lives, and improve efficiency
- Revolutionize emergency response and traffic management.
- First responders are benefiting from these educational opportunities and highlighting their specific needs. The stakeholders are discussing potential regulatory standardization. (E.g. – first responder interaction plan)
- Communication – By providing real time data sharing, improvements can be made to emergency response strategies and road safety.

AV Events

Both public stakeholders and AV companies have made considerable efforts to provide educational events to the public. These include:

- Two AV Days at the Texas Capitol
- AV interactions in the Austin area
- Texas State Fair AV showcase in Dallas

Local Coordination

Through the CAV Task Force and regulator communication, TxDOT has built a strong relationship with local municipalities and MPOs.

- Interactions with cities that have AV operations.
  - Participate in City of Austin AV Task Force meetings
  - Connect local AV teams across the state.
- Provide a resource for public and private sector stakeholders to collaborate.

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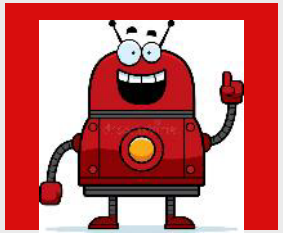
AV Companies Operating in Texas

Automated Vehicle Types in Texas

Long-Haul Freight

Short-Haul Freight

Passenger Vehicles



Delivery Devices

Shuttles

AV Freight (Short and Long Haul)

- Automated trucking is taking place across Texas on major interstates and in urban areas.
- AV Freight enhances efficiency and lowers costs.
  - ❑ increase safety
  - ❑ improve delivery times
  - ❑ streamline supply chains

Long Haul	Short Haul
•Aurora •Kodiak Robotics •Torc •Navistar/Plus.ai •Waabi •Stack •BOT •Volvo	•Gatik

Autonomous Freight Efficiency and Effectiveness

AURORA REDEFINES CROSSING THE BORDER

- Collaboration with U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- 3-5 AV freight trucks cross the border daily
- Seamless navigation includes sign and human detection

KODIAK ADVANCES SAFETY INSPECTIONS

- Working with TxDPS and FMCSA
- Developed and refined a pre-inspection pilot
- Certified inspector approves truck before leaving the depot
- Truck can bypass weight stations to improve efficiency

Autonomous Passenger Vehicles

Autonomous passenger vehicles have been introduced in Texas cities, such as Austin, Dallas, and Houston. These vehicles use an app-based platform to provide rides to the public for a fee within a limited area of the city.

Currently, there are multiple deployers either testing or operating, with individual companies beginning public operations in 2022 in Austin.

Deployers: AV Ride, Volkswagen, Waymo, Zoox, Tesla, Cruise (*Past*)

Autonomous Delivery Robots

Delivery robots are autonomous or remotely controlled machines designed to transport goods. They navigate sidewalks or streets, using sensors and GPS to deliver packages, food, or other items directly to customers.

Texas currently has two types of delivery robots.

- Personal Delivery Devices (PDD)

Deployers: AV Ride, Kiwibot, Serve Robotics, Refraction.AI, Starship (*Past*), Coco (*Past*)

- Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEV)
  - On road capabilities
  - Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)
  - Speed >20mph (not limited to 10-20mph)

Deployers: NEV: Nuro, Clevon (*Past*)

Autonomous Shuttles

- Autonomous shuttles transport passengers along predefined routes in urban or campus environments. They offer a convenient, efficient, and eco-friendly solution for short-distance travel, reducing the need for personal cars and easing traffic congestion.

Deployers: May Mobility (Arlington), Houston Metro (*Past*), Beep (*Future*)

TxDOT CAV Coordination Team