

## AGENDA ITEM 5



**San Francisco  
County Transportation  
Authority**

BD031224

RESOLUTION NO. 24-34

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RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE BILL NO. 915, INTRODUCED BY SENATOR DAVE CORTESE, WHICH PRIORITIZES LOCAL CONTROL IN THE DECISION TO DEPLOY AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE SERVICES, CONTINGENT UPON AN AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE SERVICE COMPANY RECEIVING APPROVAL BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT MOTOR VEHICLES AND THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, AND WILL PREVENT DEPLOYMENT IN A GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION UNTIL A LOCAL GOVERNMENT PASSES AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING OPERATIONS

WHEREAS, On January 9, 2024, Senator Dave Cortese, introduced California State Senate Bill No. 915 (SB 915) that empowers local communities, maintains safety for pedestrians, passengers, and other vehicles, and establishes a community-centered approach; and

WHEREAS, SB 915 would empower local governments to determine how self-driving vehicles operate in a given area, as well as enforce traffic laws on autonomous vehicle companies by enacting new local ordinances, as needed, in real-time; and

WHEREAS, SB 915 allows each local government to set up its own rules for self-driving vehicles based on the community's unique needs, and local governments will be able to govern fares on robotaxis and the number of autonomous vehicles on the road, manage traffic and reduce the potential for injuries; and

WHEREAS, SB 915 has the support of the California Teamsters Public Affairs Council, California Conference Board of the Amalgamated Transit Union, League of California Cities, and the California Labor Federation; and

WHEREAS, Peter Finn, Teamsters Western Region International Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 856 was reported as saying, "Our streets should not be private laboratories for untested technology. SB 915 is the common-sense measure to ensure autonomous vehicles don't operate in a regulatory vacuum, putting lives at risk. Local communities deserve a say in how these vehicles operate



on their streets.;" and

WHEREAS, According to Senator Dave Cortese, "City councils and county boards of supervisors adopt ordinances on any given week, nimbly and with local accountability. SB 915 returns control to the local communities who know their streets best. The emergence of autonomous vehicles is an exciting technological development with massive potential upsides for safety and convenience. We must ensure this innovative technology rolls out safely. SB 915 strikes the right balance between responsible technology deployment and public safety. Under SB 915, the rules of the road will continue to be established and enforced by the people who live there;" and

WHEREAS, Over the last year, driverless vehicles have delayed transport and medical care, blocked emergency vehicles, and interfered during active firefighting and crime scenes, forcing first responders to relocate their emergency vehicles because of wayward autonomous vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Many communities have expressed concerns over the number of driverless vehicles allowed to operate on their local streets, hours allowed for service and operation, locations of vulnerable populations (e.g., schoolyards), and damage to local streets and roads with heavier than average displacement; and

WHEREAS, These events have sparked a backlash in communities in recent months following a series of traffic snarls and accidents, including one incident where a pedestrian was run over and dragged by a Cruise vehicle after she was struck by another car; yet the Department of Motor Vehicles only took disciplinary action, suspending Cruise's deployment permit, after it became clear that Cruise misled California regulators about the severity of the event; and

WHEREAS, SB 915 will go a long way towards repairing the flawed approach that governs the deployment of robotaxis and similar services in California by allowing each city, county, or city and county that adopts a policy to allow businesses to provide autonomous vehicle services to include and



consider: maximum rates for passenger fares for robotaxis, establishment of vehicle caps, establishment of data transparency, establishment of interoperability for emergency responders, a process of ensuring ADA accessibility, and annual inspections for health and safety; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That San Francisco County Transportation Authority hereby adopts a new support position on Senate Bill 915, "The Autonomous Vehicle Service Deployment and Data Transparency Act"; authored by Senator Dave Cortese (D-San Jose) and principally authored by Assembly Member Freddie Rodriguez (D-Pomona), which prioritizes local control in the decision to deploy autonomous vehicle services, contingent upon an autonomous vehicle service company receiving approval by the California Department of Motor Vehicles and the California Public Utilities Commission, and will prevent deployment in a geographic location until a local government passes an ordinance authorizing operations; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Executive Director is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Senators Dave Cortese and Scott Wiener, and Assembly Members Freddie Rodriguez, Phil Ting, and Matt Haney.