# Driverless AV Experience in San Francisco

Jean Paul Velez Principal Transportation Planner, Technology Policy



### Principles for Emerging Mobility Services and Technologies











SUSTAINABILITY COLLA

COLLABORATION

EQUITABLE ACCESS







**IMPACT** 





ACCOUNTABILITY DISABLED ACCESS







**Economic Vitality** 



**Environmental Sustainability** 



Safety and Livability



Accountability and Engagement



### **AV Regulatory Framework**

#### **Federal California** Local San Francisco **County Transportation** STATE OF CALIFORNIA Authority RANGE NHTSA **SFMTA** Department of Motor Vehicles **Emphasis: Vehicle Emphasis: Driver Emphasis: Commercial** No authority over AVs equipment Permits drivers and specifically service passenger Establishes vehicle SFMTA regulates use of vehicles to operate in CA safety safety standards ROW in SF roadways Permits commercial Monitors and enforces SFCTA sets congestion passenger services vehicle safety issues and management policy defects In AV case, the vehicle Road safety performance of Transportation system **GAPS** commercial services equipment is the driver impacts on SF streets



### **Current context for AVPS**

- AVPS = Autonomous Vehicle Passenger Services
- AVPS companies testing in SF for last 5 years, most prominently Cruise and Waymo - first with safety driver, and then in fully driverless mode
- **August 10:** The CPUC granted full approval to Cruise and Waymo to offer driverless commercial passenger service throughout all SF, 24/7, with no fleet restrictions
- August 16: SF filed Motion to Stay of CPUC's approval of commercial operations in SF for Cruise and Waymo
- **August 18:** Following various malfunctions and safety incidents, the DMV requests Cruise to cut their fleet in half pending further investigation



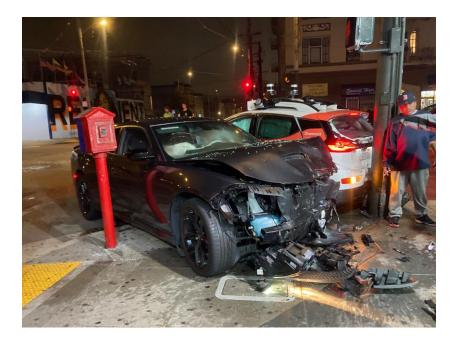


8/11 Ten vehicle platoon traffic obstruction

North Beach



8/17 Crash with Fire Truck responding to emergency
@ Turk x Polk

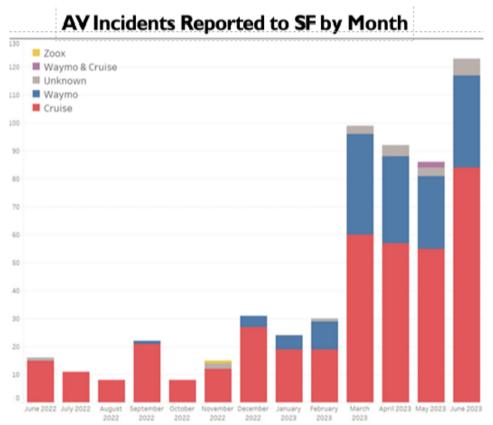


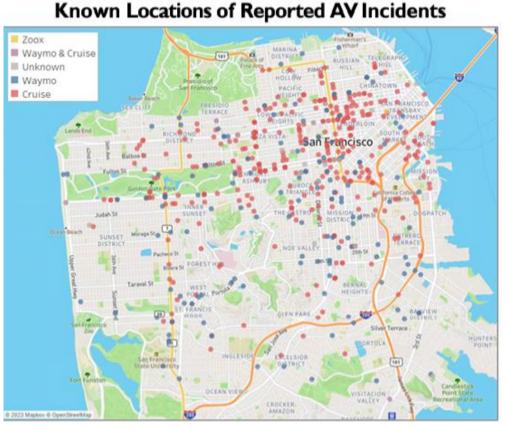
**8/17 Crash with private car** @ 26<sup>th</sup> x Mission



#### **Driverless AV VMT in SF:**

- Cruise/Waymo 3M/1M miles driven in SF (SF: 6M VMT per day)
- 600+ traffic/transit/emergency interference incidents







# Driverless AV Incidents with Fire Department



Blocking fire trucks responding to emergencies



**Intrusion into active fire scenes** 



Driving over charged hoses



Intrusion into areas marked with caution tape

### **Incidents with Bus & Rail Transit**



**Rear-end crash with Muni bus** 



Near-miss collision & repeated track encroachments on Muni light rail





**Encroachment into transit lanes interrupting service** 

#### **Other incidents**

Violating CVC & creating traffic hazards



Intrusions into work zones endangering workers



Challenges operating in fog



Unsafe pick-up/dropoff in travel lanes



Unsafe stops in pedestrian crosswalks



AV failures at peak travel hours leading to traffic jams



Waymo Robotaxi Kills Dog on San

Waymo dog fatality

### **Chronology of Events**

- Sept '22: SF files letter to NHTSA documenting Cruise's driverless performance and impacts (Cruise Origin Exemption process)
- Dec '22: SF Board of Supervisors AV Policy resolution, signed by Mayor Breed
- Dec '22: Cruise and Waymo submit applications to the CPUC for full driverless commercial operations in SF
- Jan '23: SF input to DMV AV regulations public workshop
- Feb-May '23: SF input to CPUC's assessment of Cruise and Waymo applications for full driverless commercial operations in SF
- June '23: SF input to CPUC AV data reporting rulemaking
- July '23: SF input to DMV AV regulations public workshop
- Aug 7 '23: SF input to CPUC hearing on AV emergency response obstructions
- Aug 10 '23: CPUC approval of Cruise and Waymo full driverless commercial operations in SF
- Aug 16 '23: SF files Motion to Stay of CPUC approval of Cruise and Waymo full driverless commercial operations in SF
- Aug 17 '23: SF files update letter to NHTSA documenting Cruise's driverless performance and impacts (Cruise Origin Exemption process)
- Aug 18 '23: DMV requests to Cruise to reduce SF operating fleet in half
- Aug 28 '23: Letter from Assembly Committee on Communications & Conveyance Chair to DMV and CPUC requesting clarification on inter agency coordination and processes

### SF's Proposed Approach for Deployment & Regulation of AVs

- AV operations demonstrate CA's great success in setting up conditions for industry growth and technology development
- Time to leverage that success and incorporate realworld experience into more mature regulatory framework:
  - Expanded and transparent data reporting
  - Performance benchmarks: competency and impact KPIs
  - Incremental stage-gates for expansion of permitted activities
- Need for updates to state traffic and vehicle codes

## Treasure Island AV Shuttle Pilot: the "Loop"

- Operates entirely on public roads 7 days / week, 9 am - 6 pm
- Fully electric, free autonomous shuttle with attendant on board
- Fixed route, wheelchair accessible





### Thank you.

#### **Jean Paul Velez**

jean.paul.velez@sfcta.org 415-593-1668 office













f o in sfcta.org/stay-connected