

February 18th, 2026

Trade, Travel & Tourism Committee
Transportation Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Honorable Committee Members:

LAX

Van Nuys

City of Los Angeles

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Mayor

**Board of Airport
Commissioners**

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John Ackerman
Chief Executive Officer

On February 1, 2024, Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) submitted its response to the Motion attached to Council File 23-1177. Subsequently, on June 4, 2024, the Trade, Travel and Tourism Committee received and filed the response and added an instruction which requested that LAWA report back periodically with updates on any developments regarding the use of Autonomous Vehicles (AV's) on LAWA property. In accordance with that instruction, LAWA is pleased to offer this communication as an update to Council File 23-1177.

Background

In LAWA's February 1, 2024, communication, LAWA detailed the State regulatory framework governing LAWA's approval of AV access at the airport. At that time, it was noted that California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) rules explicitly bar AVs offering passenger services from operating at California airports without direct authorization from the respective airports.

AV Operation

To date, LAWA has not granted access to any AV companies to conduct pickups, drop-offs, or to operate on LAX property, and there is currently no timeline for permitting such activities. While LAWA has engaged in discussions with Waymo LLC regarding airport access, interactions with other AV operators have been minimal. Prior to granting AV access, LAWA must develop and secure Board of Airport Commissioners (BOAC) approval for a Non-Exclusive Licensing Agreement (NELA) for autonomous vehicle services. This agreement would define reporting obligations, fee structures, and operational regulations. Permits would be granted only to companies authorized by both the California Department of Motor Vehicles and CPUC, contingent on their acceptance of the permit's conditions. To be clear, LAWA has not yet decided to present a NELA to the BOAC.



Outreach Regarding AV Operation

In order to be ready in case LAWA does move towards proposing a NELA, outreach has been conducted among stakeholders and peer airports. Consultation has included counterparts at San Francisco International Airport (SFO), San Jose Mineta International Airport (SJC), and Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX), where Waymo AVs are in active service. SFO, notably, has enacted comprehensive data requirements. Similarly, LAWA would require real-time vehicle location and event data at LAX via Application Programming Interface (API), alongside written reports from AV operators.

LAWA Coordination

LAWA Mobility and Landside Operations staff have also coordinated with the LAX Police Department and the Los Angeles Fire Department to provide input on potential permit requirements and to ensure first responders receive appropriate training for incidents involving AVs. Additionally, LAWA has solicited feedback from current ground transportation operators and met with local Teamsters to discuss perspectives on AV deployment.

LAWA appreciates the opportunity to share this information with both Committees and looks forward to sharing more information as this technology develops.

Sincerely,



John Ackerman
Chief Executive Officer
Los Angeles World Airports

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