

MOTION

BUDGET & FINANCE

On January 23, 2026, a Waymo-operated autonomous vehicle struck a child pedestrian walking to his elementary school in Santa Monica. That same day, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) opened an investigation following reports of a separate incident wherein Waymo robotaxis illegally passed stopped school buses in Austin, Texas.

As the City of Los Angeles enforces similarly-strict school bus stop laws to protect children, the NTSB's findings and recommendations in Austin will inform national safety standards and best practice applications for such incidents in municipalities including Los Angeles. Both the NTSB and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), which is the federal agency authorized to open defect investigations, mandate recalls, and enforce federal motor vehicle safety rules, have open investigations into these autonomous vehicle incidents.

Per its company website, Waymo's autonomous vehicle services currently operate throughout Los Angeles, "from Santa Monica... to Echo Park." Given the expanding presence of autonomous vehicles on City streets, particularly in school zones and residential neighborhoods, the findings of these investigations will be essential to informing how the City exercises its authority, establishes policy guardrails, and implements local oversight to protect all Angelenos.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council INSTRUCT the Chief Legislative Analyst, in coordination with the City Attorney, report to Council on the status, scope, and key issues under review in the ongoing National Transportation Safety Board and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration investigations involving Waymo. This report should include, but is not limited to, preliminary findings, safety and enforcement recommendations, and identify any potential implications for the City's policy, regulatory authority, and oversight of autonomous vehicle operations within Los Angeles.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council INSTRUCT the City Clerk, in collaboration with the City Controller and City Attorney, to report on the City's financial liability related to autonomous vehicle-related litigation. The report should include, but is not limited to:

- The total amount of funds allocated or expended for claims, settlements, judgments, and litigation costs;
- The number and nature of pending or resolved claims involving autonomous vehicles;
- Any anticipated or contingent liabilities associated with autonomous vehicle operations with the City.

PRESENTED BY 
YSABEL JURADO
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY 


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