



ADVOCATES
FOR HIGHWAY
& AUTO SAFETY

Senior Executives on Autonomous Vehicles

New York Times 5.12.20 [LINK](#)

- Referring to the aftermath of a 2018 fatal crash involving a self-driving test vehicle in Tempe, Arizona: It became clear that the technology was years from being ready. The cars still made mistakes in unexpected ways. And crossing the safety hurdles would take much longer than had been expected. Before the pandemic hit, “there was a broad recognition, within the industry, that this was a much harder problem,” said **Anand Gopalan, the chief executive of Velodyne**.

Medium 3.9.20 [LINK](#)

- **Starsky Robotics founder Stefan Seltz-Axmacher**: “There are too many problems with the AV industry to detail here: the professorial pace at which most teams work, the lack of tangible deployment milestones, the open secret that there isn’t a robotaxi business model, etc. The biggest, however, is that supervised machine learning doesn’t live up to the hype,” and “[t]he consensus has become that we’re at least 10 years away from self-driving cars.”

Wired Magazine 4.9.19 [LINK](#)

- **Ford CEO Jim Hackett** - The industry “overestimated the arrival of autonomous vehicles,” Hackett told the Detroit Economic Club. Though Ford is not wavering from its self-imposed due date of 2021 for its first purpose-built driverless car, Hackett acknowledged that the vehicle’s “applications will be narrow, what we call geo-fenced, because the problem is so complex.”
- In November, **Waymo CEO John Krafcik** said “autonomy always will have some constraints,” and suggested that a self-driving car that could truly go anywhere might never materialize.

Drive.com 4.12.19 [LINK](#)

- **Maarten Sierhuis, Chief Technology Director at Nissan’s Silicon Valley research center**: “Show me an autonomous system without a human-in-the-loop and I’ll show you a useless system.”

Reuters 4.9.19 [LINK](#)

- **Raquel Urtasun, Uber Chief Scientist & Head of Advanced Technology Group**: “What is clear is that in a 10-year timeframe there will be a mix of both [self-driving and human-controlled cars].”

New York Times 6.20.19 [LINK](#)

- “None of us have any idea when full self-driving will happen,” counters **Gill Pratt, an expert in robotics and the director of the Toyota Research Institute**.

Motoring.com [LINK](#)

- **Bryan Salesky, Argo AI CEO**: “Level 5 as it’s defined by the SAE levels is a car that can operate anywhere – no geographic limitation. We’re of the belief, because we’re realistic, that

Level 5 is going to be a very long time before it's possible. I'm not saying that Level 5 isn't possible but it is something that is way in the future."