



Ripped from the Headlines: Real Time Issues with AV Operations

The Washington Post

**“Cruise recalls all its driverless cars
after pedestrian hit and dragged”**

11/8/23

The New York Times

**“Autonomous Vehicles Are Driving
Blind”**

10/11/23

San Francisco Examiner

**“Cruise robotaxi collides with fire
truck near City Hall”**

8/18/23



**“CA DMV suspends Cruise driverless
car permits amid public safety
concerns”**

10/24/23

THE DRIVE

**“Cruise Robotaxis Cause Austin
Street Gridlock Due to ‘Heavy’
Pedestrian Traffic”**

9/19/23

Los Angeles Times

**“San Francisco’s fire chief is fed up
with robotaxis that mess with her
firetrucks. And L.A. is next”**

6/22/23

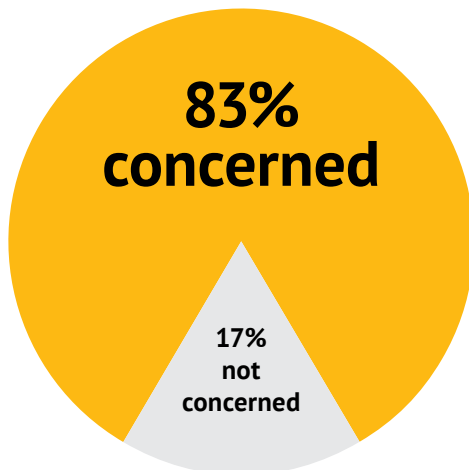


AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES (AV)

In the absence of safeguards, all road users are unknowing and unwitting participants in the testing and deployment of experimental autonomous driving technology on public roadways and are imperiled. In addition to the featured crashes and issues, several fatal crashes involving cars equipped with automated driving systems (ADS) or varying levels of driving automation are being investigated by the NTSB and NHTSA. These investigations have and will continue to identify safety deficiencies, determine contributing causes, and recommend government and industry actions to prevent future deadly incidents. Additionally, data obtained through a Standing General Order issued by NHTSA has revealed that approximately 344 crashes involving ADS and 1,049 with Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS) have occurred, including 27 crashes resulting in a fatality. This new data underscore the safety issues regarding unregulated ADS on public roads.

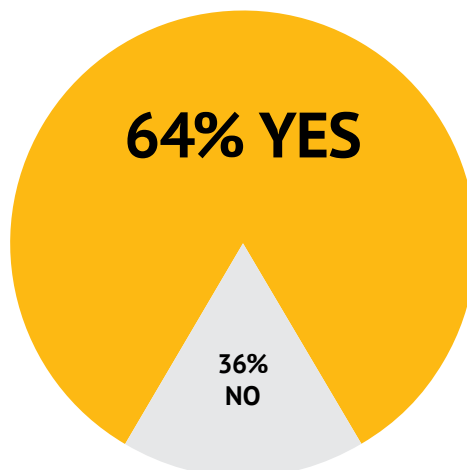
Moreover, the public consistently has expressed safety concerns about sharing the road with driverless vehicles. But, they have indicated that their apprehension would be alleviated by the issuance of minimum government safety requirements. According to a 2023 survey commissioned by Advocates and conducted by Caravan:

THE PUBLIC IS OVERWHELMINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT SHARING THE ROAD WITH DRIVERLESS CARS AS MOTORISTS, BICYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS:



4 out of 5 adults are concerned about sharing the road with driverless cars.

WHILE THERE IS WIDESPREAD CONCERN ABOUT THE USE AND DEPLOYMENT OF DRIVERLESS VEHICLES, 64% OF AMERICANS FEEL THAT THEIR CONCERNS COULD BE ADEQUATELY ADDRESSED BY MINIMUM GOVERNMENT SAFETY REQUIREMENTS:





AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES (AV)

The AV industry continues to pressure Congress to advance legislation authorizing U.S. DOT to exempt potentially millions of AVs from federal safety standards. Companies have invested billions of dollars into AV development without realizing a significant return. Legislation that rolls back current safety standards and limits the oversight of state and local governments is unacceptable. Moreover, federal legislation is unnecessary as the U.S. DOT has the authority to set policy and regulate AVs. Any federal legislation that is advanced likely will set AV policy for decades to come. Unfortunately, to date, all federal AV bills have been rife with objectionable issues including:

- Exempting tens of thousands of AVs from current federal safety standards prior to issuance of new safety standards for the ADS and related issues including cybersecurity.
- Allowing essential safety systems to be “turned off.”
- Failing to require adequate information be provided to regulators and the public.
- Preempting state laws and regulations in the absence of federal regulations.
- Lacking safeguards to ensure promised societal benefits such as improved safety, mobility, equity, and environmental outcomes, while also protecting workers.
- Omitting proper oversight for testing.
- Leaving people with disabilities and older adults without an assurance of access and safety.
- Relegating action to advisory committees.

Since November 2020, Advocates has led a coalition of approximately 65 supporters of the [“AV Tenets,”](#) a safety-and -people-first approach to the technology that should be the basis for any AV policy. Advocates will continue to use the AV Tenets in our advocacy efforts and [Congressional testimony](#).

AV TENETS

