

Seattle Department of Transportation
Autonomous Vehicles Update

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Seattle
Department of
Transportation



Timeline of AVs in Seattle

- October 2021 Zoox began testing ~4 vehicles, focusing on South Lake Union, Belltown, and Downtown
- Summer 2022 Zoox notifies Seattle that testing is moving into a 'continuous phase'
- August 2022: SDOT provides advanced notice to Zooxon SDOT's Street Use permit for AV testing
- November 2022: SDOT publicly launches Street Use permit for AV testing

The Seattle Department of Transportation strives to balance innovation with appropriate guidelines to keep the traveling public safe as testing occurs on Seattle's streets.



Considerations and Concerns

- No federal or state requirements for AV driving performance
- Lack of public awareness or involvement
- Unknown performance during inclement weather
- No transparency of data
- Unidentified key performance indicators or shared outcomes
- Troubling reports from other cities with driverless AV deployments



Purpose and Intention

Risk Management:

- Safety driver requirement
- Additional insurance
- Indemnification

Public Involvement and Safety:

- Required public outreach
- First responder plan



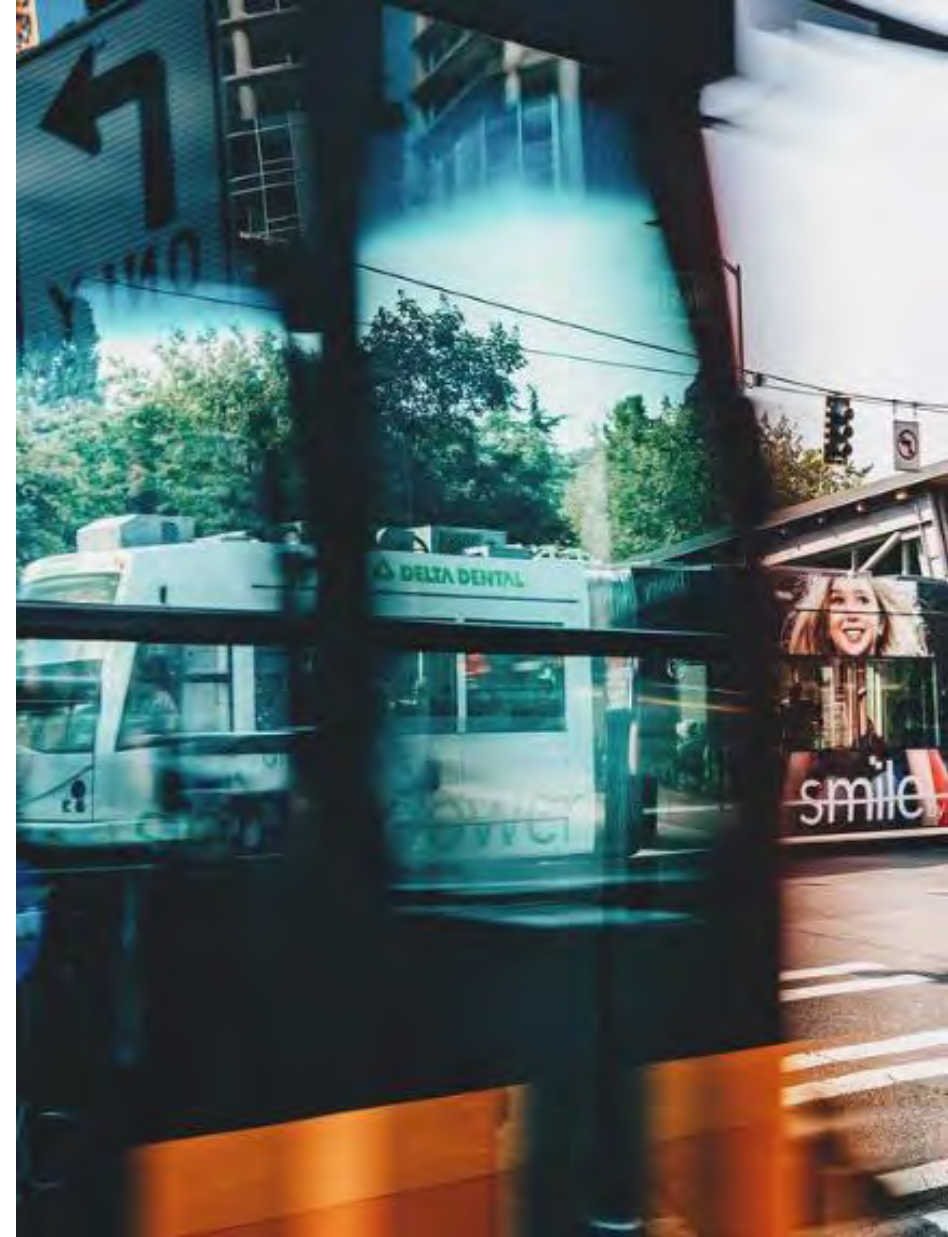
Permit Process

Streamlined:

- 3-page initial application form
- Administratively issued permit

Cooperative:

- Engagement with industry and transportation advocacy groups
- SDOT collaboration on public outreach
- SDOT commits to annual review of permit terms as industry advances



Case: Scooter & Bike Share

- Competitive permit program
- Strong data sharing, establishment of data standards
- Collaborative pilots: Bike & Scoot to Trans
- Required vendor involvement:
 - Device management and reporting through Seattle's Find It Fix It program
 - Helmet distribution
 - Public education and outreach
- Enthusiastic public utilization:
 - 2021: ~2.3 million trips
 - 2022: ~3.73 million trips (63% year over year growth)



Case: Data and Decision Making

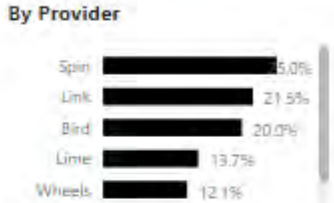
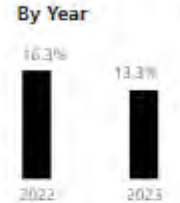
Equity Area Deployment

Equity Area Deployment is the percentage of vehicles deployed in the City's three designated equity areas.
Click any chart element to filter; click-again to release the filter.

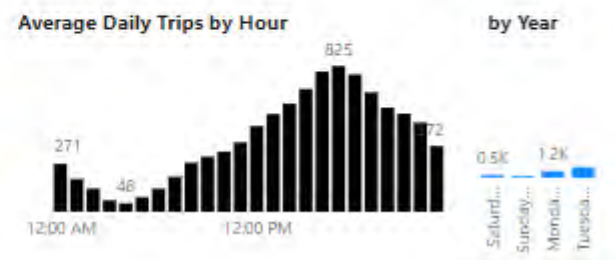
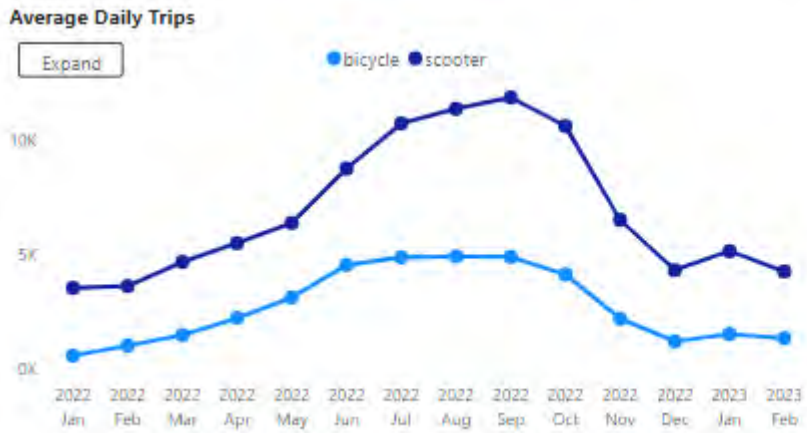
- Trips
- Deployment
- Equity**
- Heat Maps
- Membership
- Info

7,294 Daily Deployment	120 Daily Northern	511 Daily Central	540 Daily Southern	16.0% Equity Deployment
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- Vehicle Type**
- Select all
 - bicycle
 - car
 - other
- Provider**
- Select all
 - Bird
 - Lime
 - Link
 - Spin
 - VeoRide INC.
 - Wheels
- Year**
- Select all
 - 2023
 - 2022



Equity Areas
In 2019 and 2020, the City had a goal of 10% deployment in equity areas. These areas have been referred to as "equity focus areas" in the micro-mobility permit applications and represent neighborhoods with limited access to opportunity and low bike share usage during the 2018 bike-share pilot.

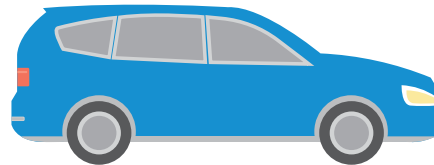


“Data and indicators are key for strategic planning and decision making, and are tools for promoting informed dialogues across levels of government and sectors of society”
-OECD

What's Next?



“Deliver a transportation system that provides safe and affordable access to places and opportunities.”



Questions?

Seattle Department of Transportation New Mobility Team



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www.seattle.gov/transportation/projects-and-programs/programs/new-mobility-program

