Waymo early rider program
Fast facts about Waymo’s first public self-driving trial in Phoenix, AZ

What is Waymo?
Waymo is a self-driving technology company with a mission to make it safe and easy for people and things to move around. Waymo is building on software and sensor technology developed in Google’s labs since 2009, along with millions of miles of real-world experience and billions of miles of simulated driving. We’re determined to bring fully self-driving technology into the world because we believe that this technology can save thousands of lives, improve mobility, and give everyone the freedom to do what they want during their commutes.

What’s the early rider program?
The Waymo early rider program is the first public trial of Waymo’s self-driving cars. Residents in the Phoenix metropolitan area can apply to use Waymo’s fleet of self-driving vehicles to do everything they would with a primary or secondary vehicle. Riders’ feedback will help shape the future of how our vehicles will work.

Why are you starting the program now?
Over the last eight years, we’ve been focused on refining our self-driving technology: racking up millions of miles of experience, teaching our cars advanced driving skills, and improving the performance of our software. With our early rider program we’re turning our focus to the people who will use our vehicles every day. Feedback from the public will help us refine product features and uses that are unique to a fully self-driving car.

What will Waymo learn from this early rider program?
The goal of this program is to let riders use our fleet of self-driving cars every day as their primary or secondary vehicle. We want to gather feedback on how we can develop self-driving products that are both safe and easy to use. Think about it: for the last 100 years, vehicles have been designed around a driver at the wheel. With feedback from the early rider program, we’ll learn things like: how people want to communicate with our vehicles, what’s it like for them to ride as a passenger rather than as a driver, and how people want to use a self-driving car (whether that be through personal car use, public transportation, ride-hailing, carsharing and more).

Will you have test drivers in the car?
In the initial stage of the early rider program, we’ll have a test driver at the wheel, allowing us to gather more feedback, develop self-driving features and refine our technology.
How many cars will be used in the early rider program?
We want to bring self-driving technology to more people in more places. That’s why we’re adding another 500 self-driving Chrysler Pacifica minivans to our fleet. This represents a six-fold increase in our fleet, since we began putting 100 self-driving Pacifica minivans on public roads earlier this year.

Who is Waymo accepting into the program?
Our goal is to bring self-driving technology to everyone. That’s why we’re looking to learn from people with diverse backgrounds and various transportation needs. The early rider program is open to residents in parts of the Phoenix metropolitan area including Chandler, Tempe, Mesa and Gilbert. Only one person per household needs to apply, and if they’re accepted, all eligible members of his or her family can take rides. The person submitting the application must be 18 years or older. To apply go to: waymo.com/apply.

Current state of transportation:
- Today, more than 1.25 million people die on our global roadways every year. That’s the equivalent of a 737 falling out of the sky every hour of every day. In the US — 35,000 people lost their lives in 2015 — and it’s a number that is going up
- Meanwhile, over 16 million people with disabilities (including those with hidden and developmental disabilities) are unable to drive
- The average urban commuter in the U.S. wastes 42 hours annually stuck in traffic jams. This costs us a combined $160 billion a year in gas burned and time lost

Waymo by the numbers:
- 600 self-driving Chrysler Pacifica minivans on the road this year - a six-fold increase in our fleet.
- Almost 3 million miles of autonomous driving to date. Measured in time, that's 400 years of on-the-road driving experience.
- Over 1 billion miles of simulated driving in 2016 alone
- Tested in cities like Phoenix, AZ; Mountain View, CA; Austin, TX; and Kirkland, WA
- Developed four generations of self-driving vehicles—including our prototype with no steering wheel or pedals, and our new self-driving Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid minivans
THIRD-PARTY QUOTES

Governor of Arizona, Doug Ducey
“Arizona is proud to be leading the nation as a home for innovation and technology. This latest phase of Waymo’s testing will provide new transportation options for Arizonans who participate, and help pave the way for the expansion of this technology.”

Contact: Daniel Scarpinato, dscarpinato@az.gov

Mayor of Chandler, Jay Tibshraeny
“We are thrilled that Waymo has chosen Chandler and the region to launch the next phase of its autonomous vehicle development. With close to 3 million miles of testing, this is an exciting new juncture for the company, and those who will access this technology. Chandler continues to embrace this technology from the many companies doing research and development here, and I look forward to very positive results from Waymo’s launch of this rider program.”

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ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Arizona State Executive Director
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