



Protect Our People, Not Their Profits. KEEP ROBOT RIDESHARE SERVICES OFF OUR STREETS.

For years, rideshare drivers (Uber/Lyft) have been a crucial link in our communities, providing reliable transportation with a human touch. More than 100,000 New Yorkers make their living as professional rideshare drivers, including over 80,000 in New York City alone. But now, **our jobs and our streets are under threat from the rapid push to put industrial robots** (sometimes called “autonomous vehicles”) on our streets.

New York is “the country’s most challenging urban environment,” crowded and unpredictable with pedestrians, cyclists, e-bikes, children, and city workers often crossing or appearing unexpectedly. It is not the place to experiment with dangerous, 5,000 lb robots that have **clogged streets, obstructed emergency vehicles, trapped passengers, and caused accidents, injuries, and even deaths.**

THE DANGERS OF UNTESTED TECHNOLOGY

These robots are still in their infancy, and companies want their testing to happen on our streets, in real-time, with our lives at stake. Unlike a new product that is tested in a lab, **these industrial robots are being unleashed with a “see what happens” approach.** We deserve to be safe on our roads, not to be unwitting test subjects for Silicon Valley investors.

- **Robotaxis Recalled Due To Crashes:** In May 2025, both Waymo and Amazon’s robotaxis were recalled due to crashes involving objects or other vehicles, including motorcycles and an e-scooter. Despite this, Mayor Adams recently approved Waymo for testing in New York City.
- **Children, Pedestrians, Cyclists At Risk:** Driverless cars rely on technology to detect pedestrians and predict behavior, but it has a high rate of failure, failing to detect nearly half of child pedestrians and 1 in 4 adult pedestrians in studies. Human drivers are better at detecting pedestrians, cyclists, and small traffic objects.
- **No Road Safety Test, Untested in Winter Weather:** Unlike human drivers, there is no independent road safety or vision test for driverless vehicles to ensure these robots detect pedestrians, cyclists, and obstacles and follow the rules of the road. Robotaxis have also never been independently evaluated for safety in such a complex, pedestrian and cyclist-dense environment as New York City –nor have they been studied in winter weather.

MORE THAN 100,000 NEW YORK JOBS AT RISK

The Silicon Valley companies pushing driverless cars have one aim: eliminate the jobs of local for-hire vehicle drivers, robbing our communities and local economies to make their wealthy investors even richer. The robot vehicle industry claims that this technology will save passengers money, but this is a smokescreen. These companies are currently burning through billions of dollars to undercut human drivers and gain market share. Once they have a monopoly, prices will inevitably skyrocket, and the promised savings will vanish. **The real consequence of this technology is the mass elimination of jobs, which will devastate New York communities.**

ROBOTS CANNOT REPLACE US: RIDESHARE SERVICE WILL SUFFER

New Yorkers rely on rideshare drivers, taking more than a half a million rideshare trips per day and about 20 million per month in New York City alone. Drivers do more than just get people from point A to B. Human drivers do what no robot can:

- Help seniors, people with disabilities, and families
- Assist with luggage, groceries, and wheelchairs
- Respond to emergencies and keep passengers safe
- De-escalate threats and provide real-time support
- Pick-up on human cues from cyclists, pedestrians and other motorists

A robot cannot react to an unexpected medical emergency or protect a passenger in a dangerous situation. The human element of rideshare driving is what makes it a vital service, and it is something that no amount of technology can ever replace.

DRIVERLESS CARS: A DISTURBING RECORD IN OTHER STATES

- **Pedestrian fatality (2018):** Elaine Herzberg became the first recorded pedestrian killed by an industrial robot in Tempe, Arizona—an Uber test car operating in autonomous mode struck and killed her as she crossed the road.
- **Robotaxi hit, dragged pedestrian (October 2023):** In San Francisco, an autonomous Cruise vehicle failed to avoid a pedestrian who had already been hit by another car. The robotaxi then dragged the pedestrian about 20 feet, halting only when its wheel pinned her leg.
- **Trapping passengers in Austin (2025):** A Waymo driverless taxi stopped in a merging lane on Austin's MoPac Expressway—a notoriously dangerous corridor. The vehicle overshot the destination and locked passengers inside amid fast-moving traffic. Only after one passenger threatened to go live on TikTok did the car unlock, according to The New York Post.
- **Robotaxi erratic behavior (June 2025):** During its first week in Austin, Tesla's Robotaxi was captured on video entering a left-turn-only lane and, instead of turning, veering across double yellow lines into oncoming traffic. Additional footage also showed the vehicle speeding above posted limits.

For more information contact: StopRobots@DrivingGuild.org