PILOT PROGRAM
Closeout Report

Arlington Texas: the first city in the United States to offer autonomous vehicle transportation to the public

BY THE NUMBERS

2 Electric Autonomous Shuttles
3 Off-Street Routes
8 Miles Per Hour Average Speed
12 Passengers per Shuttle
110+ Events Served
99% Surveyed Riders Enjoyed Milo and Felt Safe Riding
>50 Media Stories and Requests for Information
A GROUND-BREAKING PILOT

In 2017, the City of Arlington contracted with the autonomous shuttle company EasyMile to begin the first self-driving shuttle program open to the public in the United States. From August 2017 to August 2018, the Milo vehicles operated on off-street trails that connect major entertainment venues with remote parking areas. The program’s name represents mile zero - the point at which guests arrive at their destination. Milo operated at over 110 events during the program with a perfect safety record.

At the start of the Milo pilot, Arlington was part of the US Department of Transportation designated Texas Autonomated Vehicle Proving Ground for the testing of connected and automated vehicle technologies. As one of five select test sites in Texas, Arlington helped collect important data and develop guidelines for automated vehicle technologies, which were shared with public and private entities across the country.

BIGGER PICTURE: The City of Arlington recognizes that autonomous vehicle technology will continue to expand. From major automotive manufacturers to transportation agencies, AVs are being explored for their potential to reduce fuel consumption, decrease insurance costs, and improve safety. As an early adopter of these technologies, Arlington is educating our residents and preparing the City for a future with useful AV transportation options.

About the Milo Program:

► Milo shuttles were wheelchair accessible and could hold up to 12 passengers (or 10 passengers and one wheelchair)

► The shuttles were equipped with electronic ramps that could be deployed with a push of a button

► Milo rides were free of charge and available along select Entertainment District off-street trails during Stadium and Ballpark events, as well as public demonstration events

► Although Milo ran fully autonomously, a certified operator was always on board to answer questions and ensure safety

► Milo had a maximum speed of about 15 miles per hour and could accelerate, brake and steer by itself

► Milo’s driverless technology came with collision avoidance systems that detected other vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians, and obstacles

► Milo operated by following a pre-programmed route on off-street trails and did not come into contact with regular vehicular traffic.
Milo served different types of events in order to achieve the City’s goal of raising public awareness of autonomous vehicle technology. Rides were always free of charge!

► 78 Events at AT&T Stadium and Globe Life Park were served, including football games, baseball games, and concerts.

► 17 Public Demos were held, where interested citizens could sign up on the City’s website for a time to ride Milo.

► 18 Special Interest Groups were given rides and tours of Milo, including school groups, local engineering groups, and companies interested in using AV technology on their campuses.

► 3 Community events where Milo was static for people to view and ask questions.

PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE: Milo ridership surveys illustrate the excitement and acceptance of driverless technology in Arlington. 99% of riders surveyed enjoyed riding Milo and felt safe riding Milo. 97% of riders surveyed support AV technology more broadly. Riders provided comments about Milo, including:

► “Great! Innovative! Fun!”

► “Very smooth ride. Changed mind about operator-less vehicles. Thank you!”

► “Hope Arlington continues it and expands.”

PROGRAM COSTS: The lease with EasyMile for two vehicles for one year cost a total of $265,213, including vehicle set up, route programming, and operator training. The program was funded through the City’s Convention and Event Services account using tourism based revenues.

LESSONS LEARNED: Key lessons from this early deployment include some challenges, particularly the constraints posed by the deployment environment, some opportunities, such as the robust nature of the safety systems onboard, and the great potential of the technology. AV technology is improving rapidly, and the City of Arlington is excited to be part of the testing, process improvement, and path toward wider adoption.
The City of Arlington worked closely with key partners to make the Milo project possible, including:

**MILO PROGRAM GOALS:**

1. Test autonomous vehicle technology in a real world setting
2. Educate the public and raise awareness of autonomous vehicle technology
3. Position the City of Arlington as an innovative transportation leader

Milo routes were designed to connect remote parking areas to key destinations within Arlington’s Entertainment District, including AT&T Stadium and Globe Life Park. The air conditioned and wheelchair accessible vehicles provided comfortable and convenient access for citizens and visitors to Arlington.

**AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE NEXT STEPS:**

Building on lessons learned with the Milo program, the City of Arlington is continuing its efforts testing autonomous vehicle technology with an on-street pilot program, in partnership with drive.ai. The one year program is testing autonomous vehicles on the streets of the Entertainment District, operating in mixed traffic at speeds up to 35 miles per hour. This program launched in October 2018, and, like Milo, is free to ride and open to the general public.