

Comment from Tony DeSylva

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I've lived in many cities on the West Coast, Seattle, several Bay Area cities in CA, Las Vegas, and now Phoenix. In each city finding reliable safe door to door transportation has always been difficult.

In 2020 I moved to Phoenix, I knew there was a sizable population of all kinds of disabled people, so I assumed finding an accessible cab would be easy. Not so. You can find medical transportation where sometimes you have to wait hours to be picked up. Who wants to show up to a date in a medical transportation vehicle? I've had to pass up many opportunities to be with friends. Other cities that I've lived in had more wheelchair accessible cab however they were always at the airport and didn't like coming out to pick people who were not going to or leaving there. Most cabs that are wheelchair accessible also have to load people from behind the cab verse a side entry that is perpendicular to the cab. That means the wheelchair user has to go to the nears curb cut, normally at a corner, get in the street with the cars just to get to the cab. Every dangerous.

These newer autonomous vehicles passengers can load up from the side walk making for a much safe experience. Often times cab drivers don't even know how their own equipment like tie downs even work.

Autonomous vehicles is an exciting step for everyone, particularly those who have a difficult time driving. Lets not waste another day to give people the independence they need.