



County of San Mateo

Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Department: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DISTRICT 5
File #: 24-091

Board Meeting Date: 2/13/2024

Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: Supervisor David J. Canepa, District 5
Supervisor Ray Mueller, District 3
Subject: Resolution in support of Senate Bill 915

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution in support of Senate Bill 915 (Cortese) for The Autonomous Vehicle Service Deployment and Data Transparency Act.

BACKGROUND:

Recent incidents involving driverless vehicles in California have raised significant concerns regarding public safety, emergency response, and community disruption. These incidents have highlighted the need for comprehensive legislation to address the deployment and regulation of autonomous vehicle services.

Senate Bill 915, introduced by Senator Dave Cortese on January 9, 2024, aims to prioritize local control in the deployment of autonomous vehicle services. The bill seeks to empower local governments to regulate and oversee the operation of self-driving vehicles within their jurisdictions, ensuring the safety of pedestrians, passengers, and other road users.

SB 915 proposes a community-centered approach, allowing local governments to enact ordinances authorizing the deployment of autonomous vehicle services in specific geographic locations. Additionally, the bill provides flexibility for local authorities to establish rules and regulations tailored to their community's unique needs, including fare rates, vehicle caps, data transparency, emergency responder interoperability, ADA accessibility, and health and safety inspections.

The bill has garnered support from various organizations, including the California Teamsters Public Affairs Council, the California Conference Board of the Amalgamated Transit Union, the California League of Cities, and the California Labor Federation.

DISCUSSION:

By supporting Senate Bill 915, the Board of Supervisors acknowledges the importance of prioritizing

local control and community input in the deployment of autonomous vehicle services. The bill aligns with the county's commitment to ensuring public safety and addressing the concerns raised by residents regarding the operation of driverless vehicles.

SB 915 provides a framework for effective regulation and oversight, enabling local governments to implement policies that safeguard the well-being of their communities while promoting innovation in transportation. By endorsing this legislation, the Board demonstrates its dedication to enhancing road safety, managing traffic congestion, and fostering sustainable mobility solutions.

The resolution directs the President of the Board to issue a letter expressing support for Senate Bill 915 and encourages other jurisdictions to join in advocating for its passage. Through collective action, we can advance policies that promote responsible deployment of autonomous vehicle services and create safer, more resilient communities for all residents.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.