

Phoenix airport 1st to offer self-driving ride service Waymo

December 16 2022



Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego arrives in a self-driving vehicle, Friday, Dec. 16, 2022, at the Sky Harbor International Airport Sky Train facility in Phoenix. Mayor Gallego announced Friday that Sky Harbor will be the first airport to have self-driving, ride-hailing service Waymo available. A test group has been using Waymo vehicles from the airport's sky train to downtown Phoenix since early November. Credit: AP Photo/Matt York

As Phoenix gets ready to host the Super Bowl, Mayor Kate Gallego announced Friday that Sky Harbor International Airport will be the first to offer the self-driving ride-hailing service Waymo.

"The future is here," Gallego said at a news conference in front of the airport's sky train station. "Phoenix is the first airport anywhere in the world to have autonomous service bringing people to our airport."

A test group has been using Waymo vehicles from the station, which connects to the airport terminals, to downtown Phoenix since early November. The cars are electric Jaguar models.

The announcement comes at a time when the city wants to expand its reputation as a place for innovation and just before visitors arrive for the holidays and events such as the Super Bowl, on Feb. 12.

NFL fans will be able to take self-driving cars from the airport to downtown Phoenix, where many pregame festivities will happen, Gallego added.

The airport later this month will launch an extension of the PHX Sky Train connecting two major terminals to a rental car center. Typically, travelers have had to wait in long lines outside the terminals for courtesy shuttles.

Waymo, the autonomous vehicle unit of Google's parent company, Alphabet Inc., will also double its service territory in downtown Phoenix, said Michelle Peacock, of Waymo.



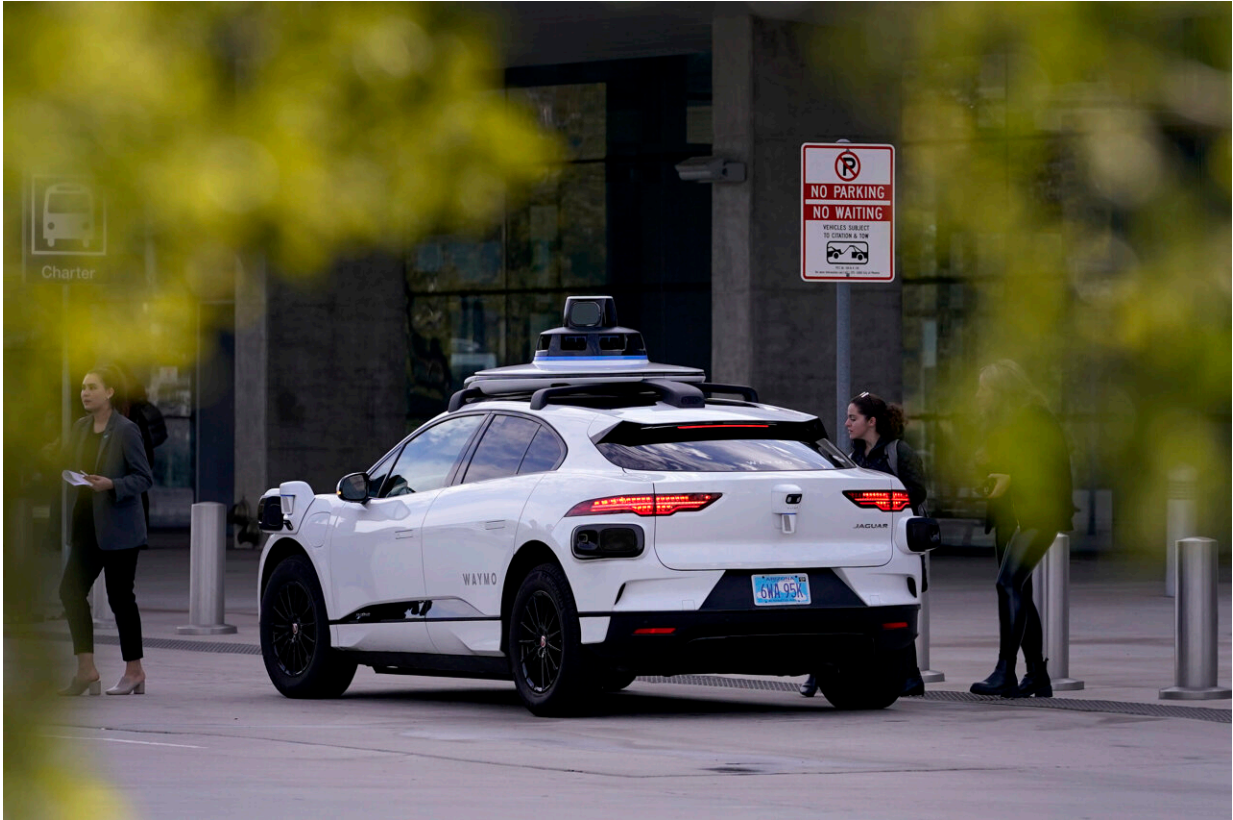
Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego announces a new self-driving vehicle service, Friday, Dec. 16, 2022, at the Sky Harbor International Airport Sky Train facility in Phoenix. Mayor Gallego announced Friday that Sky Harbor will be the first airport to have self-driving, ride-hailing service Waymo available. A test group has been using Waymo vehicles from the airport's sky train to downtown Phoenix since early November. Credit: AP Photo/Matt York



Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego stands beside a self-driving vehicle, Friday, Dec. 16, 2022, at the Sky Harbor International Airport Sky Train facility in Phoenix. Mayor Gallego announced Friday that Sky Harbor will be the first airport to have self-driving, ride-hailing service Waymo available. A test group has been using Waymo vehicles from the airport's sky train to downtown Phoenix since early November. Credit: AP Photo/Matt York



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A Waymo self-driving vehicle sits curbside, Friday, Dec. 16, 2022, at the Sky Harbor International Airport Sky Train facility in Phoenix. Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego announced Friday that Sky Harbor will be the first airport to have self-driving, ride-hailing service Waymo available. A test group has been using Waymo vehicles from the airport's sky train to downtown Phoenix since early November. Credit: AP Photo/Matt York



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A Waymo self-driving vehicle drives away with a passenger, Friday, Dec. 16, 2022, from the Sky Harbor International Airport Sky Train facility in Phoenix. Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego announced Friday that Sky Harbor will be the first airport to have self-driving, ride-hailing service Waymo available. A test group has been using Waymo vehicles from the airport's sky train to downtown Phoenix since early November. Credit: AP Photo/Matt York

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Citation: Phoenix airport 1st to offer self-driving ride service Waymo (2022, December 16) retrieved 9 April 2024 from <https://techxplore.com/news/2022-12-phoenix-airport-1st-self-driving-waymo.html>

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