

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE May 31, 2024

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Relaunch of Cruise Autonomous Vehicles**

In May 2023, the City of Dallas (COD) was contacted by Cruise, LLC (Cruise) to advise of their intent to launch an autonomous vehicle operation in limited areas of the COD. As a result of the notification, an internal working group was initiated consisting of representatives of several city departments, including the Dallas Police Department, Dallas Fire-Rescue, the Department of Transportation, Information and Technology Services, the City Attorney's Office, and the City Marshall's Office. Concurrently, Cruise reached out to City Councilmembers to provide background information on the company, their planned launch, and a map showing their initial launch area. However, in October 2023, Cruise experienced a challenging situation in San Francisco that raised issues about its safety practices. On October 26, 2023, Cruise paused all driverless operations in Texas to examine its processes, systems, and management and reflect on how it can better operate to earn the public's trust.

Since that time, Cruise adjusted their processes and hired a Chief Safety Officer. On April 4, 2024, Cruise informed City staff that it is re-engaging with stakeholders to receive insights and guidance on autonomous vehicles operating in the city, as well as its possible re-launch. On April 26, 2024, Cruise briefed staff from various City departments about its revised approach, which includes a greater emphasis on safety protocols. Based on these discussions, Cruise is anticipating expanding manual and supervised driving in Dallas as it continues to focus on improving its performance by exposing their autonomous vehicles to a diverse set of driving environments and conditions, in preparation for a future autonomous service. Today, Cruise began conducting the first of several extensive training sessions of first responders which includes classroom and hands-on training with the vehicle. **They are planning a soft launch on Monday, June 3, 2024. This will be limited to a specific geographic area, using manually driven vehicles without autonomous systems engaged, and measured against predetermined safety benchmarks.** Over time Cruise will expand its operation to cover the full area as shown in the attached map.

Chapter 545 of the Texas Transportation Code allows the operation of driverless vehicles with no differentiation to a vehicle operated by a driver, with full compliance with existing applicable rules. Cruise has taken a proactive and collaborative approach in working with the city to rebuild trust in its safety protocols. As such, City staff looks forward to working with Cruise and to continuing to collaborate on our shared mission to improve road safety.

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We will continue to update you on its progress and monitor any issues. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ghassan "Gus" Khankarli, PhD, PE, PMP, CLTD, Director of the Department of Transportation, at Ghassan.khankarli@dallas.gov.

Service First, Now!

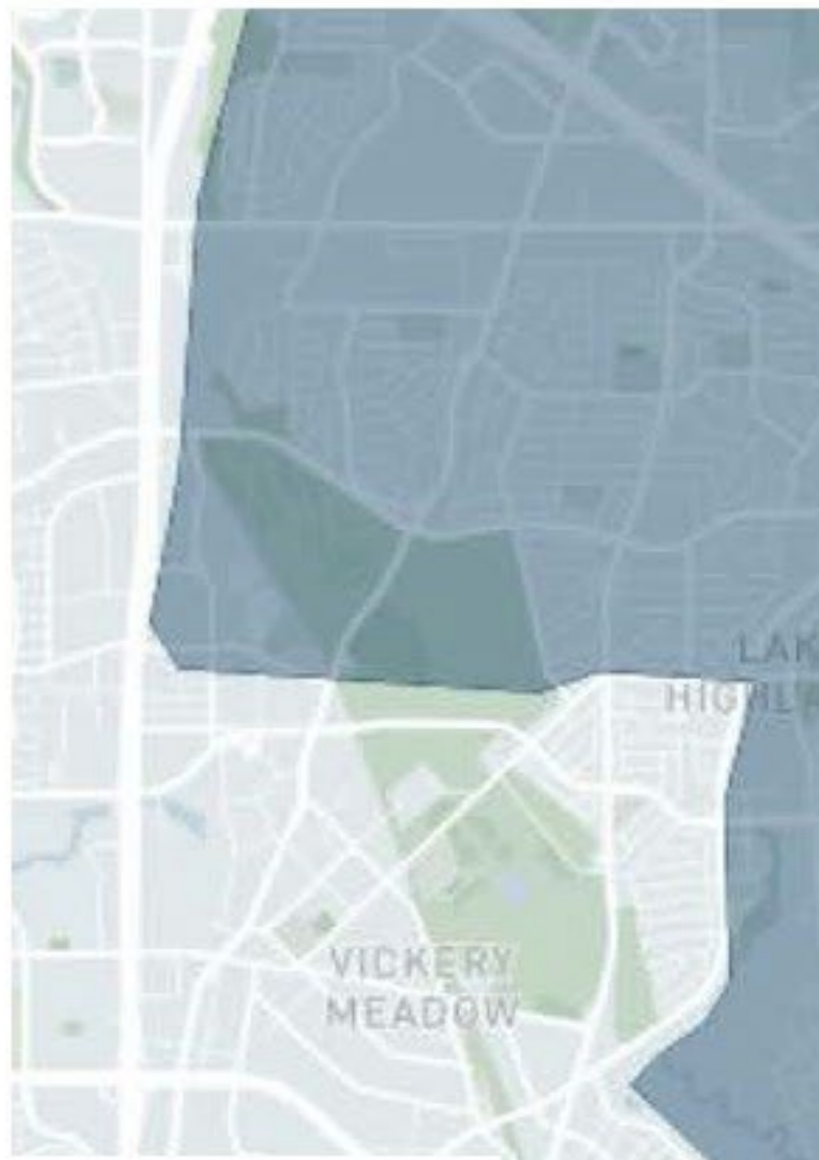


Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert
City Manager (I)

[Attachment]

c: Tammy Palomino, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Billerae Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Jon Fortune, Deputy City Manager
Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Assistant City Manager
Alina Ciocan, Assistant City Manager
Donzell Gipson, Assistant City Manager (I)
Robin Bentley, Assistant City Manager (I)
Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer
Elizabeth Saab, Chief of Strategy, Engagement and Alignment
Directors and Assistant Directors

Branch
**Farmers
Branch**



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Oldham

University Park

Dallas +
Dallas Love Field

Highland Park

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