



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**July 20, 2018**

## **Capital Metro to Test AV Technology July 23 – August 5**

*Testing to take place between the Convention Center and Republic Square Park*

Capital Metro will start testing autonomous vehicle (AV) technology on Monday, July 23 beginning at midnight. The testing phase is expected to end on Sunday, Aug. 5. Vehicle safety, street signalization and the efficiency and performance of battery technology will be examined during this evaluation period.

The public will not be able to board the autonomous vehicles during the testing phase, and Capital Metro is asking people to keep a safe distance from the vehicles and leave the testing crews undisturbed, to ensure safe operations.

In addition to analyzing the vehicles themselves, RATP Dev USA (a Capital Metro service provider) and the vehicle manufacturers will work with city officials to test signal components and on-street performance.

Capital Metro anticipates the selected pilot vehicles will be in operation later this fall. The vehicles are expected to be in service, picking up and dropping off customers, for a period of 12 months. During this pilot period, the overall customer experience, safety and the public's reception of autonomous vehicles will be evaluated.

The vehicles will serve the Central Library and City Hall providing easy connections to other transit services at Downtown Station and Republic Square. Currently, the transit agency is planning a five- to seven-minute frequency of service during the pilot.

Capital Metro will not incur any expenses during the demonstration and testing phase, which is being financed by RATP Dev USA.

Final costs of the pilot will be determined after bids are submitted during the procurement process. Catching a ride on the autonomous vehicles will be free to customers during the pilot. To help offset operating expenses, Capital Metro will explore partnerships for the pilot program.

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## **ABOUT CAPITAL METRO**

Capital Metro connects people, jobs and communities by providing Central Texans with safe, high-quality and sustainable transportation alternatives. The agency provides more than 30 million rides annually on its buses, trains, paratransit and vanpool vehicles and serves a population of more than 1 million in its 535-square-mile service area. The region's transportation leader, Capital Metro has invested in high-capacity transit solutions like its [High-Frequency Route Network](#) and [MetroRapid](#), which move more people, more frequently. Capital Metro is committed to increasing regional mobility and consistently innovates to bring new service to its riders. The award-winning [CapMetro App](#) was among the first mobile ticketing apps to allow riders to purchase tickets and plan trips. Visit [capmetro.org](http://capmetro.org) for more information.

## **ABOUT RATP DEV**

Founded in 2002, RATP Dev operates and maintains urban transportation systems in 14 countries on four continents (United Kingdom, France, Italy, Switzerland, Algeria, Morocco, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, India, China, South Korea, the Philippines, and the United States of America). With more than 1.5 billion passengers travelling on its networks every year, RATP Dev demonstrates every day its extensive and renowned expertise in a wide range of mobility services, ranging from rail, regional express rail, tramway, to bus, cable car and sightseeing activities. RATP Dev leverages in France, outside of Paris, and across international markets the technical expertise and experience of RATP Group, the leader in driverless and tramway operations and operator of the Paris network, one of the largest public transportation networks in the world. In North America RATP Dev employs over 6,000 team members transporting more than 78 million passengers in 14 states and operates a wide range of services. Visit [www.ratpdevusa.com](http://www.ratpdevusa.com) for more information.

## **ABOUT AUSTIN TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT**

Austin Transportation is a department of the City of Austin responsible for a variety of transportation, mobility, and safety functions throughout the community. Austin Transportation works with all modes of transportation and many Austin-area partners and agencies to deploy an all-ages and abilities network.