

BANKING/ FINANCE

Google Spinoff Waymo to Test Truly Driverless Cars in California



JASON DOIY

Waymo is the first among dozens of companies testing self-driving cars in California to persuade state regulators its technology is safe enough to permit them on the roads without a safety driver in them.

by Michael Liedtke

The robotic car company created by Google is poised to attempt a major technological leap in California, where its vehicles will hit the roads without a human on hand to take control in emergencies.

The regulatory approval announced Tuesday allows Waymo's driverless cars to cruise through California at speeds up to 65 miles per hour.

The self-driving cars have traveled millions of miles on the state's roads since Waymo began as a secretive project within Google nearly a decade ago. But a backup driver had been required to be behind the wheel until new regulations in April set the stage for the transition to true autonomy.

Waymo is the first among dozens of companies testing self-driving cars in California to persuade state regulators its technology is safe enough to permit them on the roads without a safety driver in them. An engineer still must monitor the fully autonomous cars from a remote location and be able to steer and stop the vehicles if something goes wrong.

California, however, won't be the first state to have Waymo's fully autonomous cars on its streets. Waymo has been giving rides to a group of volunteer passengers in Arizona in driverless cars since last year. It has pledged to deploy its fleet of fully autonomous vans in Arizona in a ride-hailing service open to all commuters in the Phoenix area by the end of this year.

But California has a much larger population and far more congestion than Arizona, making it even more challenging place for robotic cars to get around.

Waymo is moving into its next phase in California cautiously. To start, the fully autonomous cars will only give rides to Waymo's employees and confine their routes to roads in its home town of Mountain View, California, and four neighboring Silicon Valley cities — Sunnyvale, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, and Palo Alto.

If all goes well, Waymo will then seek volunteers who want to be transported in fully autonomous vehicles, similar to its early rider program in Arizona. That then could lead to a ride-hailing service like the one Waymo envisions in Arizona.

But Waymo's critics are not convinced there is enough evidence that the fully autonomous cars can be trusted to be driving through neighborhoods without humans behind the wheel.

"This will allow Waymo to test its robotic cars using people as human guinea pigs," said John Simpson, privacy and technology project director for Consumer Watchdog, a group that has repeatedly raised doubts about the safety of self-driving cars.

Those concerns escalated in March after fatal collision involving a self-driving car being tested by the leading ride-hailing service, Uber. In that incident, an Uber self-driving car with a human safety driver struck and killed a pedestrian crossing a darkened street in a Phoenix suburb.

Waymo's cars with safety drivers have been involved in dozens of accidents in California, but those have mostly been minor fender benders at low speeds.

All told, Waymo says its self-driving cars have collectively logged more than 10 million miles in 25 cities in a handful of states while in autonomous mode, although most of those trips have occurred with safety drivers.

Waymo contends its robotic vehicles will save lives because so many crashes are caused by human motorists who are intoxicated, distracted or just bad drivers.

"If a Waymo vehicle comes across a situation it doesn't understand, it does what any good driver would do: comes to a safe stop until it does understand how to proceed," the company said Tuesday.

Michael Liedtke reports for the Associated Press.



CITY OF DORAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

All residents, property owners and other interested parties are hereby notified of a Council **Zoning Hearing** on **Thursday, November 15, 2018, beginning at 6:00 PM** to consider the following non-use variance. This meeting will be held at the **City of Doral, Government Center, Council Chambers** located at **8401 NW 53rd Terrace, Doral, FL 33166** to consider the following public hearing application:

Resolution No. 18-

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, APPROVING/DENYING A NON-USE VARIANCE APPLICATION TO PERMIT THE HEIGHT OF THE 6-STORY BUILDING AT 77 FEET AND 8 INCHES, WHERE THE PERMITTED MAXIMUM HEIGHT IS 60 FEET FOR A PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3635 NW 78TH AVENUE, DORAL, FLORIDA, AS LEGALLY DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A"; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

HEARING NO.: 18-11-DOR-04

APPLICANT: Saltz Michelson Architects ("The Applicant")

PROJECT NAME: Skilled Nursing Facility and Medical Office Building

PROJECT OWNERS: Florida International Medical System, LLC.

LOCATION: The property is located at 3635 NW 78th Avenue.

FOLIO NUMBER: 35-3027-007-0024

SIZE OF PROPERTY: 2.93± Acres

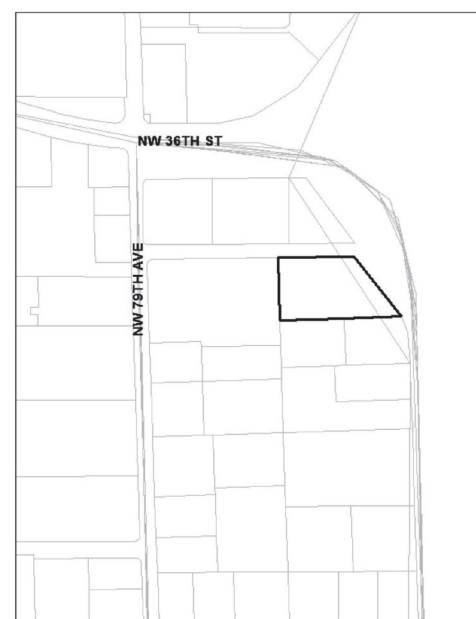
LAND USE CATEGORY: Doral Decor District

ZONING DISTRICT: Industrial

REQUEST: The applicant is requesting a variance to permit the height of the 6-story building to be 77'-8", where the permitted maximum height is 60'. The applicant is also seeking to redevelop the property into a 240-bed Skilled Nursing Facility and 20,000 gross square feet medical office building.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Tract "B" of "CRUELLE AIRPORT INDUSTRIAL PARK" according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 86 at Page 29 of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida. Less the South 490 feet thereof, as said 490 feet is measured along the West Line thereof. Containing 127,652 Square Feet or 2.93 Acres, more or less, by calculations.

Location Map



Information relating to this request is on file and may be examined in the City of Doral, Planning and Zoning Department located at **8401 NW 53rd Terrace, Doral, FL 33166**. All persons are invited to appear at this meeting or be represented by an agent, or to express their views in writing addressed to the City Clerk, **8401 NW 53rd Terrace, Doral, FL 33166**. Maps and other data pertaining to these applications are available for public inspection during normal business hours in City Hall. Any persons wishing to speak at a public hearing should register with the City Clerk prior to that item being heard. Inquiries regarding the item may be directed to the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes If a person decides to appeal any decisions made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. This notice does not constitute consent by the City for introduction or admission of otherwise inadmissible or irrelevant evidence, nor does it authorize challenges or appeals not otherwise allowed by law. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, all persons who are disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in this meeting because of that disability should contact the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL no later than three (3) business days prior to the proceeding.

NOTE: If you are not able to communicate, or are not comfortable expressing yourself, in the English language, it is your responsibility to bring with you an English-speaking interpreter when conducting business at the City of Doral during the zoning application process up to, and including, appearance at a hearing. This person may be a friend, relative or someone else. A minor cannot serve as a valid interpreter. The City of Doral DOES NOT provide translation services during the zoning application process or during any quasi-judicial proceeding.

NOTA: Si usted no está en capacidad de comunicarse, o no se siente cómodo al expresarse en inglés, es de su responsabilidad traer un intérprete del idioma inglés cuando trate asuntos públicos o de negocios con la Ciudad de Doral durante el proceso de solicitudes de zonificación, incluyendo su comparecencia a una audiencia. Esta persona puede ser un amigo, familiar o alguien que le haga la traducción durante su comparecencia a la audiencia. Un menor de edad no puede ser intérprete. La Ciudad de Doral NO suministra servicio de traducción durante ningún procedimiento o durante el proceso de solicitudes de zonificación.

Connie Diaz, CMC
City Clerk
City of Doral