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Pittsburgh, your Self-Driving Uber is arriving now



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A year and a half ago, Uber **set up** an Advanced Technologies Center (ATC) in Pittsburgh. Its mission: to make self-driving Ubers a reality. Today, we're excited to announce that the world's first Self-Driving Ubers are now on the road in the Steel City.

Pittsburgh, your self-driving Uber is arriving now

We're inviting our most loyal Pittsburgh customers to experience the future first. If a Self-Driving Uber is available, we'll send it along with a safety driver up front to make sure the ride goes smoothly. Otherwise it's uberX as usual.

This pilot is a big step forward. Real-world testing is critical to the success of this technology. And creating a viable alternative to individual car ownership is important to the future of cities.

Of course, we can't predict exactly what the future will hold. But we know that self-driving Ubers have enormous potential to further our mission and improve society: reducing the number of traffic accidents, which today kill 1.3 million people a year; freeing up the 20 percent of space in cities currently used to park the world's billion plus cars; and cutting congestion, which wastes trillions of hours every year.

We know that many drivers will have questions about this technology. It's still very early: Self-Driving Ubers have a safety driver in the front seat because they require human intervention in many conditions, including bad weather. Even when these technology issues get fixed, we believe ridesharing will be a mix—with services provided by both drivers and Self-Driving Ubers. This is because of the limits of self-driving software and the skyrocketing demand for better transportation which people-powered transport is uniquely able to solve.

Technology also creates new work opportunities while disrupting existing ones. Many predicted that the ATM would spell doom for bank tellers. In fact, ATMs cut the cost of running a local bank so more branches opened, [employing more people](#). Self-Driving Ubers will be on the road 24 hours a day, which means they will need a lot more human maintenance than cars today.

We couldn't be more excited about what's next. But to make it happen, we need to lead by fusing our great ridesharing network with great self-driving software and hardware. Our ATC efforts combined with our recent [Otto](#) acquisition mean we have one of the strongest self-driving engineering groups in the world, as well as the experience that comes from running a ridesharing and delivery network in hundreds of cities. And our existing partnerships with drivers, as well as new ones with manufacturers like [Volvo](#), will ensure a world-class customer experience for generations to come.

Anthony Levandowski

Founder, Otto and VP, Self-Driving Technology, Uber

Travis Kalanick

CEO and Co-Founder, Uber