

Tesla penis-shaped Robotaxi expansion illustrates how unserious the business is



Fred Lambert



Tesla Robotaxi 🟡🔴 @robotaxi · 1h
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Tesla has expanded the service area of its Robotaxi service in Austin, and it did so to draw a penis-shaped service map, seemingly for no other reason than to satisfy the juvenile humor of its CEO, but what it really achieved is to illustrate how unserious Tesla's Robotaxi business is compared to other efforts.

Last month, Tesla launched its Robotaxi service in Austin, Texas, and as expected, **the service was mostly for show and to give CEO Elon Musk a win after years of failed predictions regarding Tesla's self-driving efforts.**

The service was launched only for a small group of Tesla stock promoters on X, and it required a Tesla employee sitting in the front seat with a finger on a kill switch at all times.

In other words, it's basically Tesla's Supervised Full Self-Driving (FSD) in consumer vehicles, but with the supervisor moved from the driver's seat to the front passenger seat.

Tesla also launched into a small area of South Austin, but last week, Musk said that the company would expand the service area by the weekend.

Late on Sunday, Tesla did update the service area, and it now looks like this:



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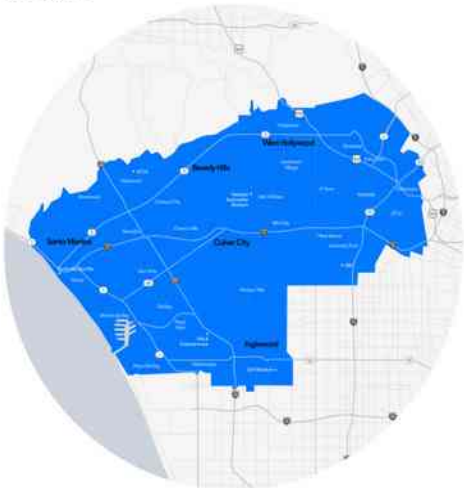
There's no practical reason to cover this specific section of Austin. The update appears to be solely to satisfy Musk's famously juvenile sense of humor, which includes fascinations with the numbers "69" and "420".

Tesla has also been offering rides in Robotaxi (invite-only) for \$4.20 a ride.

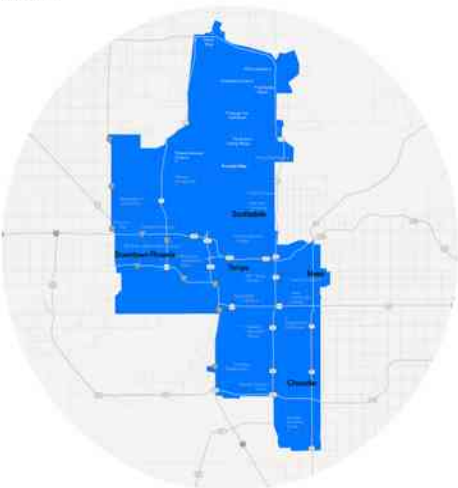
In practice, what this joke does is illustrate just how unserious Tesla's Robotaxi effort is in comparison to other autonomous ride-hailing programs.

Waymo already operates a larger area of Austin, and it does so without any supervisor inside the vehicle. It also operates in San Francisco, the Bay Area, Los Angeles, and Phoenix:

Los Angeles



Phoenix



Silicon Valley

Now gradually adding riders in Silicon Valley! Just open the Waymo One app inside the territory and we'll notify you when you can ride.



San Francisco



Tesla shareholders are holding on to the hope that Tesla will be able to scale faster, but Waymo has even launched in Atlanta since Tesla launched its limited service in Austin, and they are preparing to launch in Philadelphia and New York.

Meanwhile, Tesla still operates with supervisors inside its vehicles – a step that Waymo completed years ago.

Electrek's Take

Look, I love a joke as much as the next guy, but when the whole service is a joke, maybe don't draw a penis with the service map.