

There's a New Self-Driving Electric Minibus In the Works

May Mobility is expanding its fleet of autonomous vehicles.

[Alisa Priddle](#) - Writer | Jan 07, 2025



An autonomous minibus that seats up to 30 passengers is in the works, expanding the self-driving fleet of Michigan's May Mobility.

May Mobility, an autonomous vehicle technology company based in Ann Arbor, has partnered with Italy's Tecnobus, which builds electric minibuses for local public transportation. Together they will introduce a new autonomous minibus platform for sale to fleet operators and transit agencies around the world.

The new electric bus will have wheelchair accessibility so it can be part of May Mobility's mobility-as-a-service fleet.

The new bus platform is scalable and designed for urban transit, airports, corporate campuses and planned communities, areas where its top speed of 45 mph will not be an issue. It will be homologated for use in the U.S. as well as Canada and Europe. The minibus will use swappable batteries to minimize downtime given its mandate as a fleet vehicle, and the first of these buses are expected to be ready in the first half of 2026 for customer use later in the year.

“Our partnership with Tecnobus shows that we’re serious about expanding transit access and reducing urban congestion,” said Edwin Olson, CEO and founder of May Mobility, in a statement. “It’s a strong example of how doing the right thing for communities can also be great for growing our business.”

For May Mobility, the minibus will join a fleet that includes autonomous Toyota Sienna minivans for ride-hailing. May Mobility has fleets of on-demand ride-share vehicles in the U.S. and Japan. It is testing its autonomous vehicles without a driver on public roads in Sun City, Arizona, as well as Ann Arbor, Michigan, and plans to add a community in Atlanta, Georgia, in 2025. Until late 2023, all testing was done with a backup driver on board.

The startup mobility company has some big name partners: Toyota, NTT, and recently added Lyft.



Alisa Priddle



Alisa Priddle joined MotorTrend in 2016 as the Detroit Editor. A Canadian, she received her Bachelor of Journalism degree from Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario, and has been a reporter for 40 years, most of it covering th...

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