The Better Backseat Driver:

Increased Safety Through Autonomy

Lyell Read, Phillip Mestas, and Stan Lyakhov

Problems with Motor Vehicles

- Deaths and injuries from crashes
- Inefficient transportation
- Massive pollution

Drivers Cause Most Crashes

Table 1. Driver, Vehicle, and Environment Related Critical Reasons

Critical Reason Attributed to	Estimated	
	Number	Percentage* ± 95% conf. limits
Drivers	2,046,000	94% ±2.2%
Vehicles	44,000	2% ±0.7%
Environment	52,000	2% ±1.3%
Unknown Critical Reasons	47,000	2% ±1.4%
Total	2,189,000	100%

^{*}Percentages are based on unrounded estimated frequencies (Data Source: NMVCCS 2005–2007)

The Solution

- Everyone is a stakeholder
- Use AI to create autonomous vehicles
- Much progress has been made already

Benefits of Autonomous Vehicles

- Less crashes and injuries
- Reduce traffic and congestion
- Better for the environment
- Potential Issues