Via Unveils its First Autonomous Vehicle Service as Pilot to Transform Public Transportation

The partnership with Busways and EasyMile marks Via's first autonomous vehicle deployment in the world, serving a community in New South Wales, Australia.

June 12, 2019 (New South Wales, Australia) — Via, the world's leading developer of on-demand shared mobility solutions, announced today its first public autonomous vehicle (AV) service in the world. The AV program, dubbed BusBot, began serving a community in New South Wales, Australia starting April 8, 2019.

In partnership with local bus operator Busways, Transport for NSW, and vehicle manufacturer EasyMile, BusBot will serve the Marian Grove Retirement Village in Toormina, a suburb of Coffs Harbour. The deployment will serve an entire community of seniors in need of a public transit solution, offering some unique benefits beyond a driverless vehicle.

Using the BusBot app, users will be able to hail the autonomous BusBot directly from their smartphone. Via's advanced algorithms will enable multiple riders to seamlessly share the driverless vehicle. The powerful technology will direct passengers to a nearby virtual bus stop for pick up and drop off, and dynamically task the driverless vehicle to stops in real-time, allowing for quick and efficient shared trips without lengthy detours, or inconvenient fixed routes and schedules.

The service marks a milestone for Via's efforts in autonomous mobility. AV technology is maturing, and Via is building and deploying solutions that will enable AVs to function in real-world situations as part of optimized, shared transportation systems, such as the BusBot deployment.

"If autonomous vehicles are to reach their full potential for providing low-cost, efficient rides, they need to be shared by multiple passengers," said Daniel Ramot, co-founder and CEO of Via. "Via's sophisticated systems are able to power, in real-time, the movement of millions of connected autonomous shuttles and their passengers, and we're delighted to be working with BusBot to launch this groundbreaking service."

Via has provided more than 50 million dynamically-routed rides around the globe, and has applied this experience in shared mobility to AVs. Along with acting as a city-wide network of on-demand, shared vehicles, Via also solves common public transportation challenges, such as filling first-and last-mile transit gaps and acting as a bridge to major trunk services like high-frequency bus or rail lines.

The deployment in Marian Grove marks the second phase of BusBot's pilot program, with plans to operate in the community for 22 weeks, giving Via and its partners time to test increasingly advanced AV elements. Service for riders will be free during the pilot program.

Via has been tapped by cities and transit authorities in the United States and around the world to help re-engineer public transit from a regulated system of rigid routes and schedules to a fully dynamic, on-demand network. Via now has more than 70 launched and pending deployments in more than 15 countries. Via most recently demonstrated its [autonomous vehicle solutions at CES in 2019](#). To learn more about Via, visit www.platform.ridewithvia.com.

About Via
Via is re-engineering public transit, from a regulated system of rigid routes and schedules to a fully dynamic, on-demand network. Via's mobile app connects multiple passengers who are headed the same way, allowing riders to seamlessly share a premium vehicle. First launched in New York City in September 2013, the Via platform operates in the United States and in Europe through its joint venture with Mercedes-Benz Vans, ViaVan. Via's technology is also deployed worldwide through dozens of partner projects with public transportation agencies, private transit operators, taxi fleets, private companies, and universities, seamlessly integrating with public transit infrastructure to power cutting-edge on-demand mobility. For more information, visit www.platform.ridewithvia.com.

<center>###</center>

Press Contact:
Andy Ambrosius
Public Relations Principal
Andy@ridewithvia.com