

Area X.O – Drive the Future

AutoGuardian: Protecting pedestrians and cyclists

The Story

AutoGuardian by SmartCone deploys the latest sensors to collect data on road behaviour for municipalities. Its technology also detects vulnerable road users and alerts to their presence. They do this in bike lanes, crosswalks and on autonomous shuttle routes.

AutoGuardian's parent company – SmartCone – supplies some sensors, but it also uses off-the-shelf products, such as rectangular rapid flashing beacons, that it makes intelligent. One of the key things the company was able to do at the Tunney's Pasture driverless shuttle test was to alert riders to the approaching shuttle and safety protocols, including advising riders to put their masks on before boarding.

The Obstacle

But any vehicle – connected or autonomous – can only see as far as it can see.

“If there's a truck in front of it or a blindspot, your sensors won't pick it up until the last minute,” says Tenille Houston, CEO of AutoGuardian. “With this type of solution, you're getting that advanced line of sight. You get a warning before the cyclist approaches the road.”

Area X.O allowed AutoGuardian to test its systems in four seasons.



The Solution

Houston said that having an organization that pulls your company into larger public tests, such as the Tunney's Pasture Shuttle test, has allowed AutoGuardian to integrate its first smart sensors on a shuttle. As more of those opportunities evolve, the company can further integrate its technology, validate latency and reach broader audiences.

For its own testing purposes, AutoGuardian has frequently used Area X.O's four-way intersection for some pilot projects. Clearly, the company can't set up such tests on a residential street and as such Area X.O's facilities give it the ability to validate its sensors.

The Update and the Future

Houston says AutoGuardian will continue to take technology and add the software — the dashboard and analytics — to further its intelligent transportation work. The company is also hiring onboard operators who will operate their fleet of AV shuttles and make sure the company’s infrastructure is working when clients request that service.

AutoGuardian plans to continue to enjoy its niche within the CAV sector, but can also see other subsidiaries spinning out of the parent company because the sensor stack is so robust.



Testimonial

“Having a place like Area X.O in our backyard is priceless. To be a part of such a ground-breaking and industry-leading project helps to show the versatility of our platform in a real-world environment. We have received press, mentorship and introductions with industry leaders who came to us, as opposed to having to seek them out. Our reach has expanded exponentially and we are thankful for the support.”

- **Tenille Houston, CEO**
AutoGuardian by SmartCone

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Tenille Houston, CEO
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