



Pictured (from left are) LAVTA Executive Director Michael Tree, Dublin Mayor and LAVTA Board member David Haubert, Alameda County Supervisor and LAVTA Vice Chair Scott Haggerty, Pleasanton Councilmember and LAVTA Chair Karla Brown and Assemblymember Catharine Baker.

LAVTA Autonomous Bus Takes Ceremonial Trip at BART in Dublin

Valley officials became the first riders of the autonomous bus that Livermore-Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) will be putting into service, perhaps in two or three years.

The elected dignitaries gathered on June 22 with others at the Dublin BART station. On hand were TV reporters, Dublin city staff, and officials connected with government funders of the project, said LAVTA Executive Director Michael Tree.

Assemblymember Catharine Baker, Supervisor Scott Haggerty, Dublin Mayor David Haubert and Pleasanton Councilmember and LAVTA board president Karla Brown were among the local officials who took the first ride.

Most of the 60 people present at the special ceremony at the East Dublin/Pleasanton BART station rode the short

distance down a street for about a block, said Tree. There was a driver as back-up, in case anything went wrong, but it didn't.

The all-electric vehicle is 12 feet long, 7 feet wide, weighs 3500 pounds, had special temporary DMV license plates for the rides. It seats six passengers, with standing room for six.

Product testing will occur at the same site over the next two or three years, through a series of 130 scenarios. When the autonomous bus is ready to be put in service, it will be used in Dublin, through a special smart phone app, similar to the way ride-hailing services are contacted. It will carry passengers to BART, where a transfer to regular Wheels