Chan D. Lieu
Google Cars Drive Themselves, in Traffic

By JOHN MARKOFF  LAST UPDATED: OCTOBER 10, 2010

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. — Anyone driving the twists of Highway 1 between San Francisco and Los Angeles recently may have glimpsed a Toyota Prius with a curious funnel-like cylinder on the roof. Harder to notice was that the person at the wheel was not actually driving.

The car is a project of Google, which has been working in secret but in plain view on vehicles that can drive themselves, using artificial-intelligence software that can sense anything near the car and mimic the decisions made by a human driver.

With someone behind the wheel to take control if something goes awry and a technician in the passenger seat to monitor the navigation system, seven test cars have driven 1,000 miles without human intervention and more than
vehicle to vehicle communications
vehicles are parked 95% of the time
looking for parking = 25-30% of congestion
car-sharing
geofenced deployment
on demand ride-sharing

- Minimizes Battery Range Concerns
- Enables Fleets of Smaller Cars
- Lowers Cost to Build and Operate

autonomous vehicles

- Accelerates Adoption
- Increases Utilization and Coordination
- Lowers Cost to Serve

electric vehicles

- Facilitates Rapid Development
- Reduces Components