



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

## MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

<b>Manufacturer:</b>	Waymo LLC
<b>Products:</b>	5th Generation ADS
<b>Population:</b>	3,067 (Estimated)
<b>Problem</b>	Waymo AV striking a
<b>Description:</b>	

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	EWR D&I	Other	Total	EWR Field Reports
<b>All Incidents:</b>	0	0	0	1	1	0
<b>Crashes/Fires:</b>	0	0	0	1	1	0
<b>Injury Incidents:</b>	0	0	0	1	1	0
<b>Number of Injuries:</b>	0	0	0	1	1	0
<b>Fatality Incidents:</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Description of Other:**

SGO Report 30270-13850

## **ACTION/SUMMARY INFORMATION**

**Action:** Open this Preliminary Evaluation (PE)

## Summary:

On January 23, 2026, Waymo LCC (Waymo) reported to the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) that a Waymo Automated Vehicle (AV) had struck a child near an elementary school earlier that day. Waymo provided its required report under SGO 2021-01 on January 28, 2026.

NHTSA is aware that the incident occurred within two blocks of a Santa Monica, CA elementary school during normal school drop off hours; that there were other children, a crossing guard, and several double-parked vehicles in the vicinity; and that the child ran across the street from behind a double parked SUV towards the school and was struck by the Waymo AV. Waymo reported that the child sustained minor injuries.

At the time of the incident, the Waymo AV was operated by Waymo's 5th Generation Automated Driving System (ADS). No safety operator was present in the vehicle.

ODI has opened this Preliminary Evaluation to investigate whether the Waymo AV exercised appropriate caution given, among other things, its proximity to the elementary school during drop off hours, and the presence of young pedestrians and other potential vulnerable road users. ODI expects that its investigation will examine the ADS's intended behavior in school zones and neighboring areas, especially during normal school pick up/drop off times, including but not limited to its adherence to posted speed limits. ODI will also investigate Waymo's post-impact response.