

# DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



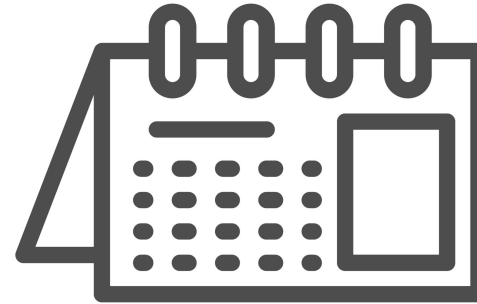
## *AV Observation (AVO) Zone Challenge*

*Info Session*

*June 11, 2026*

# Agenda

1. **Introductions**
  - a. Challenge Partners
2. **About the AVO Zone Challenge**
  - a. Challenge Statement
  - b. Objectives
  - c. Pilot and Technical Details
  - d. Why Participate
3. **Challenge Rules and Timeline**
4. **Submission and Evaluation**
5. **Q&A**





## Introductions



Lizzette Arias

US Ignite



Eric Werner

US Ignite

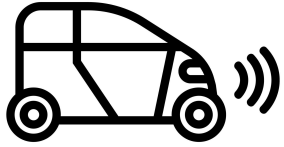


Stephanie Dock

DDOT

# The Challenge Partners





## About AVO Zone Challenge

# About AVO Zone Challenge



- Washington, DC currently allows autonomous vehicle(AV) testing on public streets.
- DDOT seeks **better tools to monitor AV operations** and understand their impacts on the transportation system.
- Existing approaches for tracking AV activity, collecting operational data, and assessing performance need further evaluation.
- Reliable data is needed to support:
  - Public safety oversight
  - Evidence-based policymaking
  - Transportation planning and operations
  - Transparency around AV testing and deployment
- The Challenge will help evaluate emerging technologies for AV monitoring and oversight.

# AVO Zone Challenge Statement

AVO Zone Challenge seeks innovative solutions that will enable DDOT to **monitor AV operations, capture meaningful operational data, and enhance transparency** to inform oversight, regulatory decisions, and the District's future policies on AV testing and operations.

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## WE'RE EXPLORING SOLUTIONS THAT CAN:

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### DETECT & MONITOR

Independently detect and monitor AV activity in mixed traffic environments.



### ANALYZE INTERACTIONS

Analyze interactions with pedestrians, cyclists, vehicles, and infrastructure.



### IDENTIFY SAFETY EVENTS

Identify safety-critical events and operational impacts.



### PROVIDE DATA & INSIGHTS

Turning observations into actionable insights for a better DC

# AVO Zone Challenge Objectives

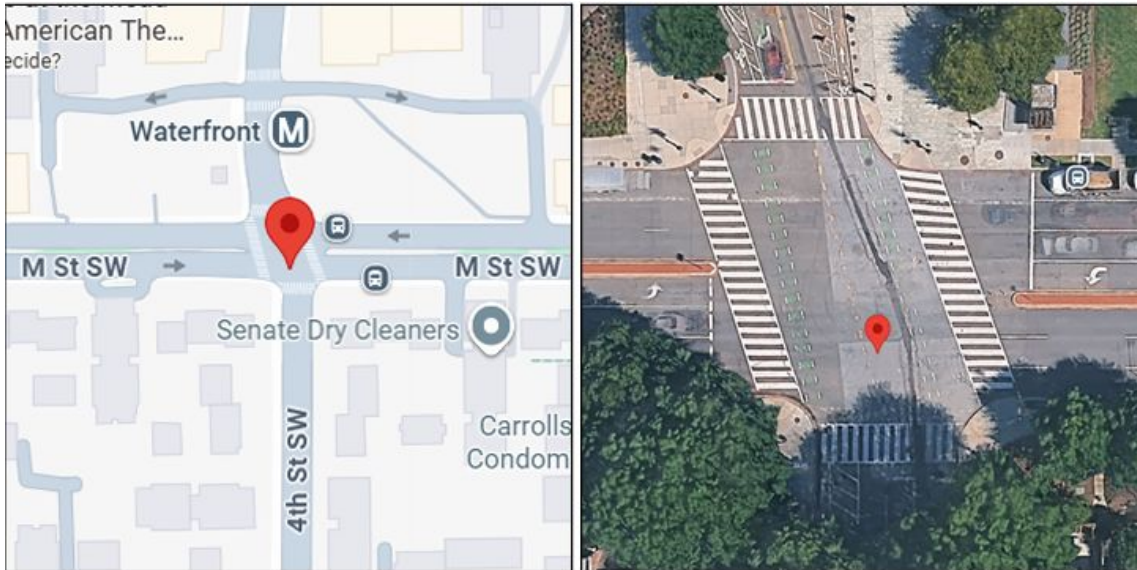
- Detect and monitor autonomous vehicles operating in mixed urban traffic.
- Observe interactions between AVs and other roadway users, including:
  - Pedestrians
  - Cyclists
  - Transit vehicles
  - Freight vehicles
  - Conventional vehicles
- Generate operational and behavioral analytics relevant to transportation planning and public safety.
- Support transparent, data-driven evaluation of AV activity in the District.



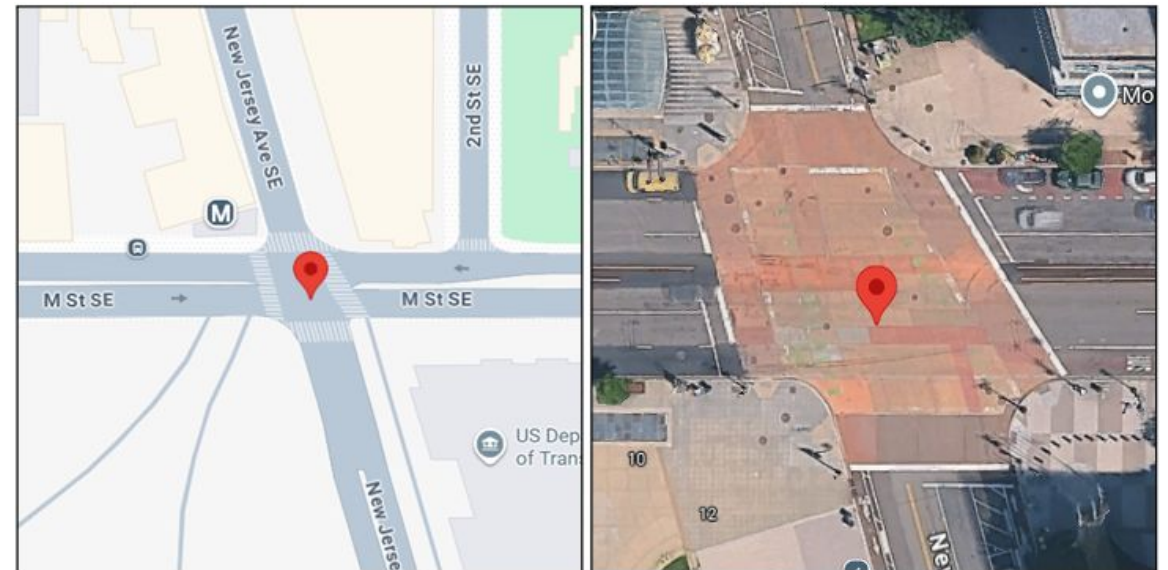
# Pilot and Technical Details

- Two Pilot Locations
  - Optional straight road segment along M St.
- AV Detection Requirement
- Traffic Behavior Detection
- Optional straight road segment along M St.

## 4th Street SW and M Street SW



## New Jersey Avenue SE and M Street SE





## Why Participate in the AVO Zone Challenge

- Earn a **\$50,000** pilot contract
- Demonstrate your solution's potential in a **real-world** urban deployment.
- Collaborate with DDOT, US Ignite, The George Washington University, and the University of Washington.
- Gain **visibility** through coordinated announcements, media outreach, and public communications.
- Help **shape future approaches** to autonomous vehicle observation and transportation analytics.



## Challenge Rules and Timeline

# Challenge Design

- AVO Zone Challenge Website ⇨  
[us-ignite.org/avochallenge/](https://us-ignite.org/avochallenge/)
- Single Phase - Single Winner Format
- Participant Package - Detailed Guide ⇩
  - About the Challenge
  - Appendix A - Submission Template
  - Appendix B - Technical Requirements

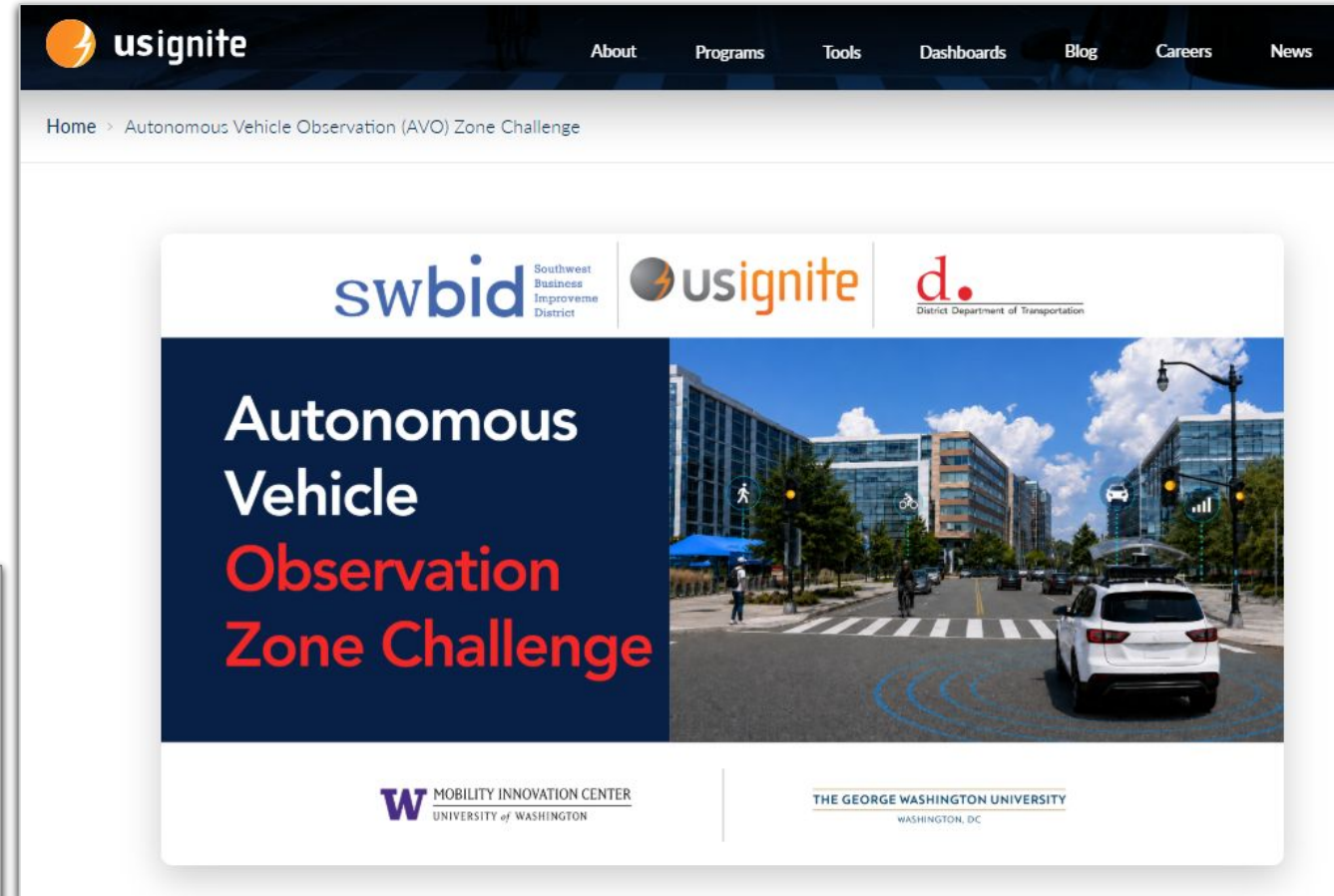
## Download the Participant Package

The participant package includes important details about the AVO Zone Challenge including:

- Timeline
- Eligibility details
- Proposal and technical requirements
- Proposal submission template
- Evaluation criteria

All interested applicants should start by downloading the package here, or clicking the button below.

[Download Participant Package](#) →

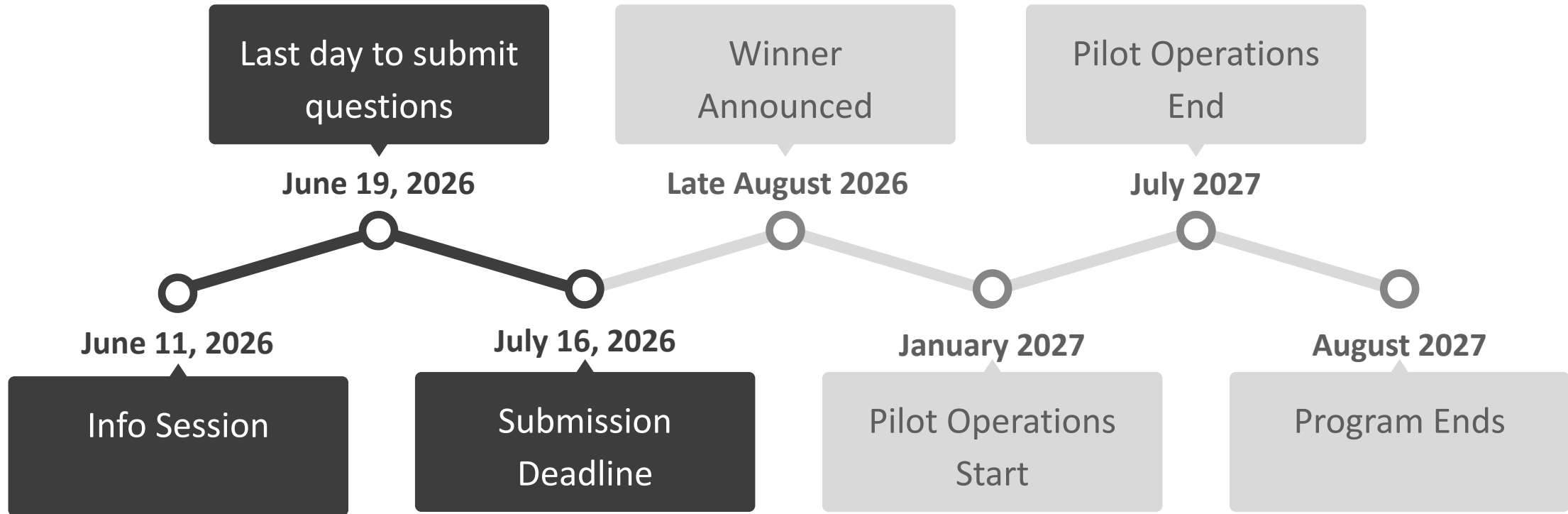


The screenshot shows the website for the Autonomous Vehicle Observation (AVO) Zone Challenge. The header includes the usignite logo and navigation links for About, Programs, Tools, Dashboards, Blog, Careers, and News. The main content area features logos for swbid (Southwest Business Improvement District), usignite, and the District Department of Transportation. The central heading reads "Autonomous Vehicle Observation Zone Challenge". Below this is a photograph of a white car on a city street with blue sensor waves emanating from it. At the bottom, logos for the Mobility Innovation Center at the University of Washington and The George Washington University are visible.



[challenges@us-ignite.org](mailto:challenges@us-ignite.org)

# Important Dates and Timeline



*Dates in light grey are subject to change*

# Eligibility

- Applicants must be based in the U.S. and demonstrate the ability to deploy, operate, and support the proposed pilot
- Applicants must be willing to collaborate with DDOT's academic partners in the data collection and analysis
- Applicants must submit proposals describing technologies capable of:
  - Detecting autonomous vehicles
  - Capturing multimodal roadway activity
  - Generating high-quality, shareable data
- The opportunity is open to:
  - For-profit companies
  - Nonprofit organizations
  - Universities and research institutions
  - Startup companies
  - Teams or consortia led by one eligible entity

***Additional criteria can be found in the Participant Package***

# Proposal & Technical Content

## Participant Package

- About the Challenge
- Appendix A - Submission Template
- Appendix B - Technical Requirements



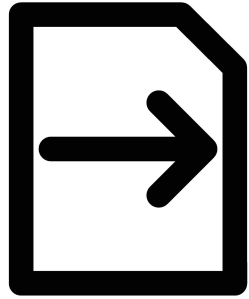
## DDOT Autonomous Vehicle Observation (AVO) Zone Challenge Participant Package

## Appendix A - Challenge Proposal Submission Template

Section 1 is excluded from the page count.  
Section 2 may not exceed 1 page.  
Sections 3-10 together may not exceed 15 pages.

## Appendix B - Technical Requirements

### 1. General System Requirements



## Submission and Evaluation

# How to Enter

APPLICATIONS DUE  
JULY 16 | 5 PM ET



Learn more and apply at:  
[us-ignite.org/avochallenge](https://us-ignite.org/avochallenge)

- Download the Participant Package
  - [us-ignite.org/avochallenge](https://us-ignite.org/avochallenge)
- Use the Proposal Submission Template in the package to write your proposal
- Submit your proposal by sending an email to [challenges@us-ignite.org](mailto:challenges@us-ignite.org)
  - Attach your proposal document
  - Subject line must include **“AVO Zone Challenge Proposal”**

# Proposal Evaluation

- Evaluation Criteria and Weighting
- Proposals will be evaluated by a panel of Judges that DDOT selects
- Top 4 Criteria are weighted at 20%

Evaluation Criteria
<b>Autonomous Vehicle Detection and Validation</b> <i>Evaluates the solution's ability to detect and validate the presence of autonomous fleet vehicles within the pilot area.</i>
<b>Multimodal Detection and Traffic Behavior Capture</b> <i>Evaluates the solution's ability to observe roadway activity and capture traffic behavior in mixed urban conditions.</i>
<b>Data Quality, Security, and Governance</b> <i>Evaluates the extent to which the solution produces usable, documented, and shareable data for DDOT and research partners.</i>
<b>Pilot Execution, Operations, and Scalability/Flexibility</b> <i>Evaluates the applicant's ability to deploy, operate, support, and develop the solution during the pilot</i>
<b>Team Capability and Relevant Experience</b> <i>Evaluates the team's qualifications, technical expertise, and demonstrated experience with similar deployments, including prior pilots or transportation-related projects.</i>
<b>Community and Public Engagement</b> <i>Evaluates how the solution supports transparency, public understanding, and communication of AV testing and findings to technical and non-technical stakeholders and the community.</i>



## Questions and Answers



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# District Department of Transportation

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