

NASHVILLE BUSINESS JOURNAL

TECHNOLOGY

Lyft starts construction on Waymo facility

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Lyft subsidiary Flexdrive has officially started construction on its largest autonomous vehicle fleet management facility, near Nashville International Airport.

The 83,043-square-foot facility, located at 230 Ellery Court, will house and manage Nashville's Waymo fleet, which launched rides to the public last week. It's set to open in the fall and is hiring for 70 jobs.

"Waymo partnering with Lyft and Flexdrive ... you get this vertically integrated kind of ecosystem that, in theory, is much more efficient," said Flexdrive CEO John Parks during a tour of the facility April 14. "We don't have third parties coming in to operate the site, which can create some inefficiencies."

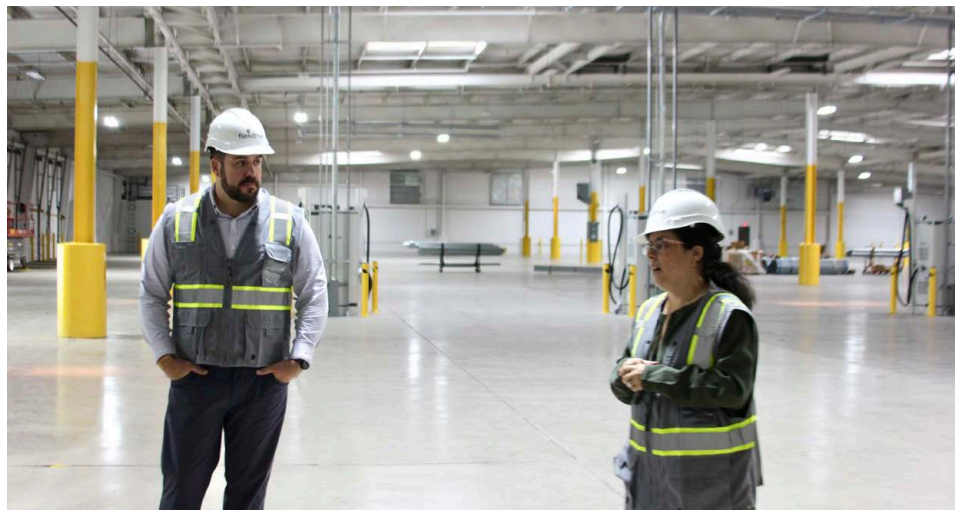
The property, a former U.S. Postal Service processing center, is owned by SL7 Nashville Industrial, an LLC affiliated with Houston-based Stonelake Capital Partners which purchased the building in February 2025 for roughly \$10.4 million, according to Metro records. The building sits on 5 acres and initially opened in 1995. Lyft is leasing the building, though officials declined to share the terms of the lease including length and cost. Parks also declined to disclose how much they are spending on renovations.

"We're not going to talk specifically about cost," Parks told the Business Journal. "As you can see, it takes a lot of investment to get a facility like this up and running."

So far this year, two electrical permits valued at \$861,623 have been issued for the property, associated with the electric vehicle chargers at the site, according to Metro records. A dollar figure is not publicly disclosed on the commercial building rehab permit issued for the site.

"We're very fortunate to have a good shell of this facility," Parks said. "We're also very fortunate that the power that we need to pull isn't very far away."

The construction will happen in three phases. Phase one, which has already been completed, was to add the first bay of EV chargers. Phase two is building out the office space, break rooms and vehicle services space. Phase three will be to add more chargers for a total of 42 charging stalls, which have dual port chargers. Flexdrive is currently working with the Nashville Electric Service on a power upgrade that will allow them to add the additional chargers, according to Kam



John Parks, CEO of Flexdrive by Lyft, gives a tour of the new facility.

Janiszewski, director for Flexdrive.

As part of the build-out, the loading docks will be opened and larger doors and ramps will be added. The architect on the project is Washington, D.C.-based Arcadis Inc. and the engineers are Ohio-based M-Engineering and New York-based Armour Unsdorfer Engineering, according to Metro records.

Why Waymo is partnering with Lyft in Nashville

This is the Waymo's first partnership with Lyft. John Tupps, Southeast policy manager at Waymo, told the Business Journal that both Waymo and Lyft's "strong presence" in Nashville played a large role in the partnership.

"Given this is a growing market, there is a challenge in the transportation that exists here," Tupps said. "If we bring this kind of tri-party partnership together... we think we can have a meaningful impact on the city, and what a better place to do it than Nashville."

"The interesting thing is, you do have a lot of tourists here," he added, "and so you're actually exposing more people to the technology by doing it in a place like this."

When it came to where Flexdrive wanted its facility, Parks said it had to have the space, electrical capa-

bilities and be close enough to the Waymo service area, which right now covers 60 square miles in the downtown area.

"Nashville is a rapidly growing city; real estate's hard to find here," Parks said. "A lot of real estate that they have here is going vertical. That highlights the need for us to be in the city and for us to be providing a transportation service."

By the end of the year, Flexdrive hopes to have 70 new employees hired for the facility. As of April 14, Janiszewski said it had 32 signed offers, half of which are Lyft drivers. The available jobs are entry-level through leadership positions, including technical roles and service coordinators.

"Over a third of our team members were current or previous Lyft drivers, and we were hoping to build that same team here," Janiszewski said.

Parks said they are hoping to start offering Waymo rides through the Lyft app by the end of the year, but there's not a specific timeline. Riders will have the option of taking a Waymo or a Lyft with a human driver.

"As we get closer to the full-scale launch, we'll be sharing more and what does the user experience look like," Parks said.