

Comment from Daniel Hellebuyck

Posted by the **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration** on Jul 28, 2022

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to ask that you deny this petition unless several safety items are included.

First off, I think the Cruise is a disaster waiting to happen. Having a vehicle without traditional safety protections such as seat belts and air bags are sure to cause injury or death if the vehicle is hit.

Secondly, equipping a vehicle without traditional controls such as a steering wheel or brakes are another invitation to disaster. If the vehicle were to stall in the middle of the roadway or run out of electricity there would be no controls to be able to steer and push it to the side. This would cause massive traffic jams imperiling the safety of other vehicles on the road. Also if an emergency movement of the vehicle were needed for whatever reason (e.g. to avoid a crime, be able to maneuver around an accident or police situation, the occupants would be sitting ducks in the vehicle unable to move. .

Finally, "carriage seating" is another safety hazard. Aside from crowing out redundant controls in the name of safety, being in a collision will throw occupants into each other further causing the potentiality of serious injury or death.

As can be seen recently by the problems with the Cruse technology in San Francisco (vehicles clustering toward each other and blocking traffic, sitting in the middle of a street while an emergency vehicle was trying to pass, and misjudging a turn from a vehicle in the opposite direction causing a collision) as well as the recent Wall Street Journal report alleging coverups in accidents and malfunctions regarding these vehicles, this technology is nowhere near ready for prime-time on our public streets.

This technology may be ideal for a low-speed shuttle for an airport or parking lot where speeds can be kept below 10 MPH, but in no way is it ready for higher speed trips on our public roads