



9/19/2022

Ann Carlson
Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
West Building
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Cliff:

On behalf of the City of Phoenix, I am writing to express our support for the General Motors & Cruise petition, Docket No. NHTSA-2022-0067, to put the Cruise Origin into commercial service.

Affectionately referred to as “The Connected Place” for its commitment to embracing emerging technologies, Phoenix is dedicated to modernizing services that benefit the lives of our residents.

We take great pride in our reputation as a place where innovation goes to scale, as demonstrated by our early adoption of 5G, making us one of the first cities in the nation to deploy the technology. This has accelerated the capacity for autonomous vehicle (“AV”) testing by decreasing latency across technologies, solidifying our spot on the map when tech leaders are looking to relocate.

The metro-Phoenix area has become a hotbed for AVs, with 15 major companies currently operating on one of the six proving grounds in the state. For good reason, the most cutting-edge tech companies are planting roots in Phoenix—they are attracted to our wide, sprawling freeway system, hospitable year-round driving conditions, supportive policies, established supply chain, competitive operating costs, diverse talent pipeline and high quality of life. We’ve seen a high-tech jobs boom based on the operations of those ventures, further positioning the Greater Phoenix area to absorb both new-to-market companies and the expansion of existing technologies.

Phoenix city and business leaders have enthusiastically embraced technology in preparation for the jobs of the future, particularly in the AV space, and we believe it is essential that this technology, and the jobs and economic benefits associated, stay here in the United States, benefiting American workers and communities. Cruise has made a conscious effort to collaborate directly with the City of Phoenix, with the launch of its dynamic Walmart delivery partnership here in the Greater Phoenix area, demonstrating new purpose and functions to self-driving systems. While the service is currently limited to certain geographic areas, the company plans to extend its deliveries in other Walmart locations in



City of Phoenix
Office of Mayor Kate Gallego

Phoenix and surrounding cities. As partnerships like this succeed, growth and job creation for AV companies, like Cruise, will continue to generate quality, sustainable jobs throughout the country.

Cruise currently employs more than 2,500 people at various locations throughout the United States dedicated solely to the design, development and testing of the Cruise AV and Origin self-driving software, hardware, firmware, and related technology. If the Cruise and General Motors' petition is approved, thousands of jobs will be created to develop and deploy the Cruise Origin. Beyond the direct manufacturing jobs growth, there will also be thousands of jobs needed to stand up and maintain electrification and charger installation efforts, as well as those to support fleet operations.

The City of Phoenix is eagerly prepared to meet those job demands, as our universities have invested in competitive, state-of-the-art programs in concentrations related to autonomous and electric vehicle research and development. In 2020 alone, roughly 4,500 students earned degrees relevant to the development of AV technologies.

A sustainable and efficient transportation network is necessary for a thriving environment, livable communities, enhanced productivity, and bustling commerce. On behalf of the City of Phoenix, I urge the administration to grant approval for this petition so General Motors and Cruise can fully build and deploy the Cruise Origin to work toward a transportation future that serves Arizona's communities as a global, inclusive economic force.

I appreciate the opportunity to share comments in support of the petition. Should the NHTSA have any questions regarding this submission, please feel welcome to contact me at mayor.gallego@phoenix.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Gallego".

Kate Gallego
Mayor of Phoenix