



TECHNET
THE VOICE OF THE
INNOVATION ECONOMY

TechNet Southwest | Telephone 916.903.8070
915 L Street, Suite 1270, Sacramento, CA 95814
www.technet.org | @TechNetUpdate

November 29, 2021

Douglas Ito
California Public Utilities Commission
Consumer Protection and Enforcement Division
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3214

Re: Autonomous Vehicle Passenger Service Approval of Fared Rides

Dear Douglas Ito,

TechNet strongly urges the Autonomous Vehicle Passenger Service Application of one of our autonomous vehicle members – Cruise.

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of innovation economy CEOs and senior executives. Our diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from revolutionary start-ups to some of the most recognizable companies in the world. TechNet represents over four million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, e-commerce, sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance.

TechNet is committed to improving conditions for all businesses in San Francisco, and a wider, more accessible transportation network in the city would greatly aid our mission. If Cruise is allowed to operate its driverless vehicle services commercially, it would help bring lasting benefits for businesses.

A robust and efficient transportation network is necessary for a thriving environment, livable communities, enhanced productivity, and bustling commerce. Self-driving vehicle services can connect San Francisco businesses to new customer bases from virtually anywhere in the city, either by shuttling customers to storefronts through ridesharing services or delivering goods to consumers' doors.

This lifeline to additional revenue is especially vital for small businesses, many of which are still struggling to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Autonomous vehicles can also help businesses' employees by giving access to dependable rides after working hours that are emission-free.

Our members are already making their mark in the San Francisco community by engaging with businesses on how our vehicles can operate to best serve customers and employees. We believe that if our members are able to expand commercially to the rest of the state, they'll do the same with local businesses wherever they go.

California's businesses need the support that driverless vehicles services can provide — we urge the CPUC to grant Cruise's Autonomous Vehicle Passenger Service Application.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to approve Cruise's Autonomous Vehicle Passenger Service Application, which would represent the state's investment and belief in the importance of innovation. If you need any further information, do not hesitate to reach out to Cameron Demetre at cdemetre@technet.org.

Sincerely,



Cameron Demetre
Executive Director, California and the Southwest
TechNet