CARTS Corporation for Automated Road Transportation Safety

Douglas Ito, Director
Consumer Protection & Enforcement Division
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Director Ito:

My name is Jerry He, the Executive Director of CARTS. Our mission is to connect communities in need with mobility innovations, and I am writing to you in support of Cruise's application to expand its services in San Francisco under the CPUC's Driverless AV Passenger Service Deployment program.

We believe having access to fully driverless and accessible vehicles will offer San Francisco residents, including many that are physically and/or economically challenged, a freedom they haven't experienced before. With Cruise's proposed expansion, many community members will be able to take advantage of these benefits immediately.

At CARTS, we promote safe, equitable, sustainable, affordable and high-quality mobility. We are excited that Cruise is working with General Motors to develop the first fully-autonomous wheelchair-accessible vehicle, the Origin Mobility, as we believe that **full autonomy** and **purpose-built accessible vehicles** are two key necessary conditions for safe and equitable transportation, especially for the currently underserved communities who:

- do not have access to private vehicles (*72% of San Francisco households own 1 or 0 vehicles, according to the latest US Census Bureau American Community Survey*),
- cannot/choose not to drive,
- live in public transit deserts.

A scalable, city-wide, 24/7 deployment of Cruise's services will significantly improve the freedom, opportunities and quality of life of many low-income and public housing residents, the senior community, the disabled community, high school students and many more. San Francisco and California have the unique opportunity to reinvent transit and mobility for public good with technology leaders such as Cruise.

I urge the commission to vote to approve Cruise's citywide expansion so they can advance their vision for providing a safe, accessible and dignified transportation experience to all.

Sincerely,

Jerry He
Executive Director, CARTS
Jan 20, 2023

cc:

Alice Reynolds, President, CPUC
Karen Douglas, Commissioner, CPUC
Genevieve Shiroma, Commissioner, CPUC
Darcie Houck, Commissioner, CPUC
John Reynolds, Commissioner, CPUC
Christine Hironaka, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Governor's Office
Mark Tollefson, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Governor's Office