



June 7, 2024

The Honorable Charles Allen,  
Chairperson  
Committee on Transportation & the Environment  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC

Dear Chairperson Allen,

I am writing to follow up on my testimony in yesterday's Transportation & the Environment Public Hearing regarding B25-0710.

We appreciate the Council's efforts thus far to promote autonomous vehicle testing in the District and the emergency legislation passed this year to avoid interrupting current testing operations. We are encouraged that the Council has prioritized this issue and appreciate your committee's consideration and questions this morning.

Our concern with the provision in B25-0710 requiring a human safety operator to be present for all AV tests is that, in the absence of a final rule from DDOT regulating the AV Testing Program, it could limit long-term testing of various autonomous vehicle types in the District, ultimately limiting the full deployment of AVs. We otherwise support the continuation of current testing operations in the District.

We also appreciated the testimony of Sharon Kershbaum, Interim Director of DDOT. We look forward to engaging with DDOT and providing feedback on their proposed rule this summer. We look forward to the District creating a permanent testing program that paves the way for full deployment of autonomous vehicles to the benefit of District residents.

Thank you for your time yesterday and your continued attention to this issue. We are happy to be a resource to you and the rest of the Council going forward and

welcome further conversation. Please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or my colleague Brianna January, Director of State & Local Government Relations for the Northeast US, with any questions.

Sincerely,

Aden Hizkias  
Policy Analyst