



Testimony in favor of Autonomous Vehicles in New York State
Submitted February 3, 2026

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony to express our strong support for the provisions within TED Part E of the Governor's Executive Budget, which would authorize the commercial use of for-hire autonomous vehicles (AVs) throughout New York State, with the exception of New York City.

Waymo is an autonomous driving technology company with the mission to be the world's most trusted driver. Since its start as the Google Self-Driving Car Project in 2009, Waymo has focused on building the Waymo Driver—The World's Most Experienced Driver™—to improve everyone's access to mobility while saving thousands of lives now lost to traffic crashes. Waymo's fully autonomous ride-hailing service has served over 20 million trips to riders to date, and is available to the public in San Francisco, Phoenix, Los Angeles, Austin, Atlanta, and Miami. Our technology has driven over 100 million fully autonomous miles on public roads, and tens of billions in simulation across 15+ U.S. states

This driving experience is directly transferable to New York's streets, and can make the Empire State's roads safer. By removing human error, which is the cause of the vast majority of all traffic crashes, our technology is making roads safer where we operate. Peer-reviewed data shows the Waymo Driver has been involved in 92% fewer pedestrian crashes with injuries, 90% fewer serious injury or worse crashes, and 83% fewer cyclist crashes with injuries compared to human benchmarks.

Paired with the State's ongoing investments in slower speeds, greater enforcement, and congestion management, Waymo and other autonomous vehicle technology can be a powerful tool for accomplishing road safety goals. New York State also has an exciting opportunity to unlock improved mobility access for its citizens and significant economic development from this technology. And to do so, New York does not need to be first – already, more than half of U.S. states have legalized fully autonomous vehicles.

Furthermore, autonomous vehicles offer a path to enhance mobility by providing a reliable, accessible, and efficient transportation solution for all New Yorkers. This technology provides newfound independence for seniors, the visually impaired, and neurodivergent individuals who are currently underserved by the status quo. Beyond general accessibility, Waymo serves as a critical tool for personal safety; significantly more women riders feel that Waymo improved their sense of personal safety in getting around compared to traditional ridesharing services, where reports of misconduct are alarmingly frequent.



Passing AV legislation is a strategic move for the state. By signaling that New York is open for business, the state can attract significant global investment, fostering the creation of new jobs for New Yorkers who have a range of experience and educational attainment. These jobs will be in engineering, manufacturing, and service-supporting services. In fact, [research](#) suggests that for every 1,000 AVs, approximately 190 jobs will be required for manufacturing and servicing, with 82% of AV workers making more than the U.S. median wage. Waymo is also committed to worker opportunities, including proactive measures for professional drivers like retraining initiatives, partnerships with public universities like Bronx Community College, and creating a pipeline for affected workers to jobs in the AV industry. By embracing a clear and comprehensive regulatory framework for AV testing and commercial operation, New York can join the majority of the U.S., and signal its commitment to both safety and innovation, and begin the work of managing a methodical transition for affected industries.

It is our hope that the 2026 New York State Budget legislation will reflect the necessary forward-thinking investment in this safe, autonomous future for the Empire State.

For additional information: Please visit www.waymo.com/safety or contact Matthew Walsh at matthewwalsh@waymo.com.