November 16, 2021

Secretary Michael Sandoval
New Mexico Department of Transportation
1120 Cerrillos Road
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Re: Support for 18.24.1 NMAC, Autonomous Vehicle Testing Rule

Dear Secretary Sandoval,

Waymo is pleased to submit this letter of support for the proposed Autonomous Vehicle Testing Rule 18.24.1 NMAC, which would establish regulations for the testing of autonomous vehicles in the state of New Mexico. Waymo appreciated the opportunity to collaborate with the Department as these regulations were formulated, and commends the proposed regulations for their streamlined approach to autonomous vehicle testing. We believe the regulations, as outlined, will enable New Mexico to attract companies like Waymo to test and operate vehicles in the state, in turn leading to increased economic benefit for all of New Mexico.

For background, Waymo is an autonomous driving technology company, founded in California and headquartered in Mountain View, CA. Our mission is to make it safe and easy for people and things to get where they’re going. Since our start as the Google Self-Driving Car Project in 2009, Waymo has focused on building the World’s Most Experienced Driver to improve the world’s access to mobility while saving thousands of lives lost annually to traffic crashes. The Waymo Driver- our in-house built autonomous driving system- powers Waymo Via, our trucking and local delivery unit we plan to test on New Mexico roadways.

To date, Waymo has driven over 20 million miles autonomously on public roads and driven over 20 billion miles in simulation. In that time, we’ve built a comprehensive safety program to guide our testing and development of fully autonomous driving technology. Waymo currently operates a fleet that includes hybrid and battery electric vehicles, with 600+ vehicles across several states. We’re currently operating the world’s first and only fully autonomous commercial ride hail service in Arizona, and we are also testing our autonomous trucking technology along the I-10 corridor, where the State of New Mexico serves a critical juncture.

As Waymo works towards bringing our autonomous passenger and goods transportation service to more customers, clear, harmonized, and industry-supported regulations around autonomous vehicle operations is paramount. Adoption of these autonomous vehicle regulations will ensure New Mexico continues to signal its desire to support autonomous vehicle operations. We look forward to continuing to work with your office as these regulations take effect and we increase our in-state operations.

Sincerely,

Aidan Ali-Sullivan
State Policy Manager