



March 4, 2026

Reps. Jon Koznick and Brad Tabke, Chairs of the Transportation Finance & Policy Committee  
100 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd,  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Letter in support of HF 3513

Dear Members of the Transportation Finance & Policy Committee,

On behalf of the Blinded Veterans Association (BVA), I am writing to extend our support for HF 3513, which paves the way for fully autonomous vehicle operations, including ride-hailing services such as Waymo, to thoughtfully deploy in Minnesota.

As an organization that advocates for the needs of more than a million veterans who experience significant, uncorrectable vision loss in our country, we are dedicated to advancing solutions that serve our veterans' greatest needs, not least of which is transportation.

Founded in 1945 through an act of Congress, BVA is dedicated to promoting the welfare of blinded and low vision veterans so that they can fully participate in the world around them, regardless of the degree of their visual impairment. We strive to support and advocate for veterans and their families, enhancing their independence and quality of life through our programs and support services.

Autonomous ride-hailing companies such as Waymo have a commitment to safety that resonates with our mission. An autonomous ride-hailing service could profoundly improve the quality of life for our members who are blind or low vision, offering them a new, reliable transportation option. Autonomous vehicle ride services can complement blind veterans' existing mobility options such as public transportation and relying on others to drive them around. As a technology that is designed to obey road rules, offer a consistent rider experience 24/7, restore a sense of independent travel for those who have lost their ability to drive, and will never deny service to veterans with a guide dog, we believe there are numerous benefits that can provide a confident, dignified way to move through their communities. This technology may also improve safety for blind pedestrians as it's designed to follow speed limits, recognize crosswalks, and identify pedestrians far in advance. The vehicle's technology can even anticipate what a pedestrian may do next and make decisions to optimize the safety of everyone on the road.

Waymo has worked with the Blinded Veterans Association for several years and takes a keen interest in understanding the mobility preferences of BVA members and exploring how autonomous technology can enhance their independence. The Blinded Veterans Association is a member of the Waymo Accessibility Network, which includes many other advocacy organizations for people with disabilities and solicits their guidance. This collaboration reflects our shared commitment to inclusivity and equal opportunity, as well as to the belief that advancing technology should serve the collective good.

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We, the Blinded Veterans Association, urge Minnesota legislators to pass HF3513. We are optimistic that this advancement will pave the way for a more inclusive, accessible, and equitable transportation future for blind veterans.

Sincerely,



Lea Rowe  
National Executive Director  
Blinded Veterans Association