A Roadmap for Inclusive Autonomous Public Transportation

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Abstract: Accessible public and private transportation provides individuals with disabilities access to work sites, educational programs, health care facilities, and social and recreational activities. However, there are many physical barriers and administrative challenges that prevent those with mobility impairments to take full advantage of transportation. In this presentation, I will summarize my work that has focused on how environmental design can impact transportation accessibility for those with mobility impairments. I describe how my collaborative experiences with researchers and practitioners from other disciplines has shaped the way I approach research problems in transportation systems, and conclude with a report of some of my interdisciplinary research projects that will result in future inclusive public autonomous transportation systems. The possibilities are amazing!

Bio: Dr. Victor Paquet is Professor and Chair of the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering at the University at Buffalo. His research areas focusses on occupational ergonomics for injury and illness prevention, and design practices and accommodations for those with physical disabilities, including topics related to the accessibility of transportation. These activities have been funded by U.S. government sponsors such as the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), National Institute for Disability Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), the United States Access Board, and private industry. He has authored or co-authored over 100 peer-reviewed journal articles and conference publications. Dr. Paquet frequently consults with industries in areas of safety, health and human performance, and teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in occupational safety, physical ergonomics, occupational biomechanics, and human factors.