Breakout Session # 24 – AVs for People with Disabilities

Summary of Key Findings and Lessons Learned

• The needs and challenges for each disability type is different and the AV design should consider integrating solutions to address those different needs and challenges
• Need a conceptual framework to inventory, analyze and develop requirements to address the above
• While developing AV design criteria it is also critical to think about the interaction with the surrounding built environment and pedestrians
• OEM perspective is to provide more mobility solutions that has social impact, hence their interest in this target population group
• While considering information/data-based universal design, data formats and standardization (performance and outcome related) are important
• There are several policy and regulatory barriers that affect outcome of services (e.g., paratransit service reservation within 24 hours and service provision within a 2-hr window)
• Pedestrians face challenges while interacting with vehicular traffic and bi-directional communication with AVs is important, especially during the transition phase where AVs and non-AVs are in the traffic mix
Recommended Action Items

- Integrate automation solutions in human service transportation for people with disabilities and older adults in both urban and rural areas.
- People with disabilities have similar needs as others and hence AV design that accommodates the varied needs and challenges are important to bring a feeling of inclusion.
- Data silos has no value and it is critical to integrate various data sources into associated needs and services (e.g. connected citizens, care givers, safety alternatives).
- Technology is changing at a very rapid pace and different industries need to work together to develop integrated solutions while those solutions are in planning/design stages.
- Need new data on infrastructure assets in order to analyze, plan and support new investments.
- The transportation industry needs to have collaborative efforts to review, analyze, and develop or make recommendations for updated sets of standards, policies, and regulatory frameworks for universal accessibility.