

Symposium 2021 Breakout Session Title:

B303-AVs in Rural America- Equity and Mobility for All

Session Contact/Organizers:

- Omar Ahmad, Deputy Director-- National Advanced Driving Simulator, University of Iowa
- Cher Carney, Senior Research Associate-- National Advanced Driving Simulator, University of Iowa
- Jaime Sullivan, Senior Research Engineer-- Western Transportation Institute at Montana State University

TRB Sponsor/Partner Committees (if any):

Rural Transportation Issues Coordinating Council (A0400C)

Session Description

We have barely scratched the surface when it comes to discussing the challenges and opportunities associated with AVs, particularly in the rural environment. While it is important to discuss how the technology will work, many other issues related to policy, infrastructure and economy are just as important. Including as many stakeholders in the conversation as possible will help to ensure that everyone, particularly those who are transportation-disadvantaged, have the opportunities and services needed. We hope that this session raises awareness and identifies ways in which we can increase equity and mobility for all in the age of automation.

Goals/Objectives/Outputs

- Increase awareness of the vast potential societal benefits associated with AVs in rural communities
- Identify concrete ways in which they can take action to promote equity-smart rural communities
- Understand the importance of including local and regional entities in the discussion of AVs
- Understand the economics and potential business cases for AVs in rural America
- Lessons learned regarding AV testing in rural areas/communities

Agenda

Challenges and Opportunities: (45 minutes for presentations and Q&A)

- Equity Issues- Why we Need Avs in Rural America – Carrie Kissel- NADO
- Mobility Issues- Benefits and Challenges of Shared Ownership – Jon Dowd- Univ. of VT
- Economic Issues- Is there A Business Case for AVs in Rural Communities – Rich Granger- DriveOhio

Stakeholders: (45 minutes for presentations and Q&A)

- Local perspective- Amy Kessler- North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission
- Regional perspective- Kristin White- MnDOT
- Federal perspective- Rob Hyman- USDOT ROUTES

Progress Towards Solutions: (45 minutes for presentations and Q&A)

- ADS for Rural America- Omar Ahmad- Univ. of Iowa
- DriveOhio- Cynthia Jones- DriveOhio
- Michigan Mobility Challenge- Jean Ruestman- Michigan DOT

10 minute break

Breakout Groups: (30 minutes)

Performance measures for success

Business/use cases

How will the ADS data be used to inform policy and practice and next steps

Thank you and Final Thoughts (5 minutes)

Related Sessions:

Non-conflicting with:

- *Automated Shuttles and Buses for All Users*
- *Inclusive by Design: Creating an Equitable and Accessible Automated Future*