

Before the
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), U.S. Department
of Transportation (DOT)

<http://www.regulations.gov>

In the Matter of)	
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Make Inoperative Exemptions; Vehicle Modifications To Accommodate People With Disabilities Supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking)	Docket No. NHTSA-2016-0031

COMMENTS BY JANICE S. LINTZ: PURPOSE: ADDING HEARING AC-
CESS TO CAR-RENTAL VEHICLES

January 31, 2021

ISSUE TOPIC:

The US DOT needs to mandate induction loops for car rentals so people with hearing loss can receive effective communication when they rent a car.

DISCUSSION:

I am aware this response is not directly related to the NPRM; however, I cannot recall any NPRM that considers adding induction loops for people with hearing loss to car rentals. Therefore, creative submissions are needed to address the omission of induction loops in car rentals.

To the best of my knowledge, car manufacturers and rental companies do not offer induction loops for people with hearing loss so that they [can hear](#) the radio, in-car video, GPS, or other passengers in the car. Induction loops are critical for people with hearing loss, yet they are not provided since, according to one major manufacturer, they need "more transparency on the

benefit." It is 30 years after the ADA's passage, and car manufacturers still require proof of concept of known technology.

All taxis in London, England, have induction loops. All Taxis of Tomorrow, which is about 3k taxis in New York City, have induction loops. Delta offers induction loops at its renovated terminals. (Ex A)

Induction loops enable the driver or passengers who wear a hearing aid or cochlear implant to hear the entertainment, GPS, or even communicate with other passengers simply by activating the [T-coil](#) on their hearing aid or cochlear implant when an induction loop is present. Yet no car-rental company or car manufacturer offers induction loops in its vehicles, 30 years after the ADA's passage

BIO:

I am Janice S. Lintz, CEO of Hearing Access & Innovations (HAI) (f/k/a Hearing Access Program) and I frequently write on topics related to hearing loss. I am a recipient of the 2018 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Goalkeepers Partnership with [ThePointsGuy.com](#); 2016 Aspen Institute Spotlight on Health Scholar; 2016 Nominated United State of Women Changemaker by the White House, the US Department of State, the US Department of Labor, and the Aspen Institute; 2015 Delta Salutes; 2008 People magazine's Heroes Among Us; and member of the following: 2013-2015, US Access Board's Committee on Rail Vehicle Accessibility; 2009, NYC Mayor's Office Taxi of Tomorrow Stakeholder Committee; 2008-2014, New York State Interagency Council for Services to the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing, established by Governor David A. Paterson (not currently funded); 2007-2008, US Access Board's Passenger Vessel Emergency Alarms Advisory Committee; 2006-2015, Lower East Side Tenement Museum's Advisory Board; 2004-2008 (two terms), FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin's Consumer Advisory Committee; and a current member of the Syracuse University Burton Blatt Institute's Advisory Board since 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

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