Comment from Shyla Patera

My name is Shyla Patera I am an Independent Living Specialist employed by and representing North Central Independent Living Services, Inc. in BlackEagle, Montana. As a long time Transpotation advocate, I submit these comments on this Notice by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions,and Approvals: Automated Driving Systems2.0, A Vision for Safety
As a Montanan with a disability, my and my agency NCILS'hope is that vehicles and proto types of vehicles will include accessibility guidance for all of us who experience disabilities and are both passengers and drivers in AV systems. We hope that will work with the United States Access Board as well disability designers and stakeholders to design accessible AV systems.NCILShopes that you will design accessible audible systems so that people who have visual disabilities and IDD disabilities can access driving possibilities and capabilities if AVVehicles and systems are to be built. NCILS also hopes that NHTSA will assist rural communities as AV technology and or technologies are explored and implemented.We need to ensure that communities implement the safest technologies possible and have modernized infrastructure to handle the possibilities and challenges that AV systems will experience throughout all phases of implementation.Current infrastructure strategies often leave rural areas behind and infrastructure is on a rotating schedule to be repaired. Due to funding constraints today, rural and small urban communities face
concerns about infrastructure repair and construction. Traffic for pedestrians in the age of automated system driving needs to be examined. As a person with mobility and visual disabilities , traffic can be challenging and troubling at the same time.How are we protecting pedestrians and those who are using our current infrastructure system as we design community infrastructure for AV systems and driving?Are we going to be designing
accessible AV traffic systems and writing new guidelines to provide PROWAG accessibility?