

## **Comment from Javier Robles**

Posted by the **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration** on Sep 21, 2022

As a person with a spinal cord injury who has been both a driver and now dependent on others for transportation, I can see the clear advantages of fully automated vehicles. A lack of accessible, affordable, and reliable transportation, continues to be an issue of critical importance to the disabled community. Currently, we depend on a patchwork system of transportation that is both unreliable and unsustainable.

Automated vehicles will offer individuals with disabilities the opportunity to be truly independent. We will no longer have to rely on the current system, which keeps many unemployed, unable to obtain a greater education or job security, and, a prisoner in their own homes or neighborhoods. As a person who uses a power wheelchair, we need vehicles that are fully accessible to provide us with one of the most essential tools for independence.

I encourage the full embrace and support of automated vehicles to ensure that our community has access and can truly thrive in a country.