

Comment from Kelly Mack

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As a person with lifelong disabilities who uses a wheelchair, finding accessible transportation is very challenging. I cannot drive and require transportation to be accessible for my wheelchair. Because of this, I moved away from my rural hometown and moved to a city with public transportation. Accessibility varies because when elevators break, the metro becomes inaccessible. Additionally, sometimes public transportation is inadequate for my needs, such as going to places not near public transportation stops or outside its hours. Despite working and having income to spend, getting an accessible taxi to show up to provide service is next to impossible (due to lack of drivers and discrimination by the taxi companies not wanting to provide accessible service). I would be very happy to have regular access to an accessible automated vehicle to meet my transportation needs. Addressing the lack of accessible transportation is a crucial issue for improving community living, integration, and quality of life for people with disabilities. Without reliable, safe, and accessible transportation people with disabilities cannot work, travel to appointments, engage in social activities, and are excluded from a wide range of community engagements. Launching accessible AVs is vital for finally improving transportation options for people with disabilities in the US.