

Autonomous Vehicles

Upholding the Promise, Reimagining Mobility

3 Revolutions Conference

March 4, 2021

Carol Tyson, Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF)

Government Affairs Liaison



Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund

Vision & Principles

- DREDF is a legal and policy center led by people with disabilities, and parents of children with disabilities.
- ***We seek a just world where all people, with and without disabilities, live full and independent lives free of discrimination.***
- Advocate for integration and inclusion over segregation.
- Access to mobility for all is a civil right.

Access & Equity in Mobility Today

30 years after the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act

- Public buses are accessible, yet
- Many bus stops, sidewalks, and transit stations are not accessible
- Passenger vehicle accessibility extremely limited & expensive
- Limited access to broadband and tech in marginalized communities
- Accessibility has been an afterthought for new modes & services
 - Real world impacts -> Uber & Lyft providing free rides to vaccine sites. Few accessible vehicles in their fleets.

The Autonomous Vehicle Promise

Potential to Transform Mobility & Lives, *if*

- Vehicles are designed to be safer and fully accessible for all, including people with disabilities and darker skin tones
- Accessible public rights-of-way and access to broadband and tech is prioritized
- We learn from the past and require integration at the outset, pushing back against the 'we'll get to accessibility later' mindset
- AV services meet needs and marginalized communities are engaged and leading at every level

DREDF AV Access & Equity Needs Checklist

Universal Design & Accessibility Policies

- Human Machine Interface (communication, identifying the vehicle ...)
- Vehicle Hardware (including securement, ramps)
- Policies
 - Anti-discriminatory licensing and insurance
 - Accessible AV crashworthiness, occupant & pedestrian safety requirements
 - Improved infrastructure (sidewalks, curb cuts, and broadband access)
 - Funding for travel training

Equity Policies

- Ensure benefits and access for low income, BIPOC, underserved communities
- Workforce transition plans
- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Environmental Justice and ADA compliance

Disability AV Advocacy & Engagement (abridged)

Federal & State

- National Council on Disability Self-Driving Cars Report & Recommendations
- Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities AV Principles, Legislation Feedback
- AV Tenets: Safety & Equity Stakeholder Coalition
- CA Public Utilities Commission, DC AV Interagency Work Group Letters-Uphold Shared Mobility & AV Equity Principles
 - ***Demand response systems, including those using AVs, must comply with the ADA by providing accessible AVs in fleets***

OEMs & Stakeholders

- We Will Ride Advocacy Coalition & Letter to OEMs
- Auto Alliance (now Auto Innovators) Accessibility Workshops Participation

Resources - Federal

- USDOT Automated Vehicle Activities
 - <https://www.transportation.gov/AV>
- USDOT Inclusive Design Challenge
 - <https://www.transportation.gov/accessibility/inclusivedesign>
- Access Board AV Forums
 - <https://www.access-board.gov/av/>
- DREDF checklist & comments, CCD AV Principles & Comments
 - bit.ly/DREDFav, bit.ly/CCDAVPrinciples, bit.ly/CCDTransportation
- Autonomous Vehicle Tenets – Safety & Equity Advocates
 - <https://saferoads.org/autonomous-vehicle-tenets/>

Resources – Accessibility

- NCD & Ruderman Self-Driving Cars Reports
 - <https://bit.ly/NCDSelfDriving>, <https://bit.ly/RudermanAV>
- Auto Alliance AV Accessibility Workshop Series
 - <https://autoalliance.org/avsaccessibility/>
- We Will Ride Coalition
 - <https://joinwewillride.org/>
- DREDF & DRC Letter to CPUC on AV Accessibility
 - https://bit.ly/DREDF_CPUC_AV_Letter

Resources – Equity

- Greenling Institute: AV Heaven or Hell?
 - <https://bit.ly/GreenliningAV>
- BPRW: Will Self-Driving Cars Help or Harm Our Communities?
 - <https://bit.ly/AVsHelpOrHarm>
- Addressing Racial Bias in AI: A Guide for Curious Minds
 - <https://bit.ly/RacialBiasAI>
- Transportation Equity Caucus
 - <https://equitycaucus.org>

We are in a moment of both responding to crisis and reimagining mobility. Anything is possible. We need to hold each other and ourselves accountable to principles of justice and equity to ensure an inclusive future.

Thank You

Contact: ctyson@dredf.org