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## From Exclusion to Autonomy: The History and Future of Accessible Transportation in Western Pennsylvania

On Thursday, October 8, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm, join the Heinz History Center and Western Pennsylvania Disability History Consortium to celebrate 30 years of the Americans with Disabilities Act with a virtual program on accessible transportation.

The program will feature a discussion of the early roots of innovative accessible transportation, culminating with a discussion of current and future challenges and opportunities.

Following an introduction by John Tague, a decades-long advocate for people with disabilities, panelists representing multiple eras of transit advocacy will reflect on the unique innovations in accessible transportation that were forged in Pittsburgh.

Nationally recognized researchers and scholars will then discuss current and future challenges and opportunities in accessible self-driving car development and the larger quest for autonomy in transportation.

Panelists will include:

- Rory A. Cooper, Ph.D., FISA Foundation & Paralyzed Veterans of America Distinguished Professor at the University of Pittsburgh; Founder-Director and VA Senior Research Career Scientist of the Human Engineering Research Laboratories at VA Rehabilitation R&D Center; adjunct professor of Robotics at Carnegie Mellon University; and Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences.
- Holly Dick, former ACCESS Community Liaison and noted disability advocate.
- Rebecca A. Grier, Ph.D., UX (user experience) researcher; member of the executive council for the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society; and chair of the SAE Taskforce on Identifying ADS-DV (Autonomous Driving System – Dedicated Vehicle) User Issues for Persons with Disabilities.
- Karen Hoesch, Executive Director of ACCESS Transportation Systems.
- Paul W. O’Hanlon, former disability rights lawyer and Senior Housing Attorney with Neighborhood Legal Services Association in Pittsburgh.
- Aaron Steinfeld, PhD., Associate Research Professor at The Robotics Institute at Carnegie Mellon University.

The program will also include the premiere of the Consortium's short film about late Western Pennsylvania transportation advocate Paul Dick, whose papers and photographs are housed in the collections of the Detre Library & Archives at the Heinz History Center. The film highlights the transportation limitations Paul faced after he was diagnosed with polio in the 1950s and his role in shaping Allegheny County's ACCESS Transportation Systems.

This program is made possible by support from the Edith L Trees Charitable Trust and FISA Foundation.

Register [HERE](#) for this free event.

For more information or to request accommodations, contact [info@wpdhac.org](mailto:info@wpdhac.org) or 412-204-7199.

