

*Title of the Presentation:***User perception of the effectiveness Trekker© GPS as a travel aid***Abstract:*

The Trekker© global positioning system (GPS) is designed for use by blind and visually impaired pedestrians. Trekker©, like other GPS devices, allows users to locate places or points of interest in the environment and determine routes of travel to reach desired locations while keeping track of their current position in relation to both the environment of travel and their intended destination. Information provided by the Trekker© includes the name of the street of travel, the upcoming intersection and the distance to it, as well as, estimated address, direction of travel, and if travelling a planned route; the direction to proceed once an upcoming intersection or decision point has been reached. Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester Michigan conducts training courses in the use of Trekker© for blind and visually impaired travellers from all over North America. The purpose of the study reported here was to determine user perception of the usefulness of Trekker© as a travel aid from persons who had completed one of those courses. Specifically, we sought to identify the extent to which graduates of those courses use Trekker© as a travel device in their home environment and over time, the situations in which it is most often used, the tasks they feel it is best used for, and the impact it has had on their lives. To do this, we contacted all those who had completed a training course and surveyed those who agreed to participate. Results of that survey are reported in this presentation.

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*Title of the Presentation:***The end of the partnership with a guide dog: emotional response and relationships with subsequent dogs**

Abstract:

Results of a study to measure compatibility and the success or failure of the relationship between a person and his or her first guide dog were published in the proceedings of the 11th International Mobility Conference³. This presentation builds on these findings by discussing how feelings at the end of the partnership affect the handlers' relationships with subsequent dogs, and shows trends in the dataset concerning multiple dog use. The effects of being without a dog, after experiencing guide dog mobility, on quality of life will also be presented.

³ LLOYD, J. K. F, LA GROW, S. J., BUDGE, R. C. & STAFFORD, K. J. (2003). Matching guide dogs: mobility and compatibility outcomes. [CD-ROM]. *Proceedings of the 11th International Mobility Conference*, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

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Title of the presentation:

Lessons learned: Eight years of research regarding pedestrian access to roundabout intersections

Abstract:

In this presentation, we will provide an overview of the extensive work we have completed regarding access by pedestrians who are blind to roundabout intersections. Roundabouts are relatively new in the United States. The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that all pedestrian facilities in the public right of way be accessible to all users. Based on concerns raised about roundabout crosswalks approximately eight years ago, a research team began to investigate the nature of the access problems people with blindness encountered when crossing at roundabouts. We have conducted studies in Baltimore, MD, Tampa, FL, and Nashville, TN. In more recent studies in Raleigh, NC and Golden, CO, the team has investigated several technologies designed to improve pedestrian access. In this presentation, the research team will describe both their findings from the series of experiments at single and multilane roundabouts, the methods they