

UTC Project Info	
Project Title	Utilizing Assistive Technology to Remove Communication Barriers in the Public Transportation System for Passengers with Disabilities
University	The University of Tennessee
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Funding Source(s) & match amounts provided (by each agency or organization)	\$48,292
Total Project Cost (includes cost sharing)	\$ 96,584
Agency ID or Contract #	2014-OE-08
Start and End Dates	September 1, 2014 – August 31, 2015
Brief Description of Research Project	The objective of the project is to overcome communication barrier experienced by the disabled when using public transportation. This barrier was cited by numerous disability groups as one of the top reasons for not using public transportation since they could not communicate their questions or concerns including those that are safety related. The need to provide information to passengers has recently been recognized by the transit organizations. Communication devices such as iPad/Tablets have been introduced into the Knox County transportation system in 2013. Regionally, ETHRA Transportation has completed their conversion to tablet scheduling and dispatch and CAC Transit plans their fleet conversion to tablets in the summer of 2014.
Describe Implementation of Research Outcomes (or why not implemented) Place any photos here	This research will generate the following deliverables: Smart Communication Board based on commercial tablet brands (such as Apple iPad or google NEXUS) to be installed on transit vehicles that can serve as a crucial tool for better communication between drivers and disabled passengers. Mobile app on smart phone for passengers to receive the pickup-delivery schedules, route update, and schedule change alert. Centralized online dashboard system that is connected to Smart Communication Boards for transit agencies to monitor, share and/or reschedule the bus timeline in case of emergency situations.
Impact/Benefits of Implementation (Actual, not anticipated)	

