

August 20, 2015

To: NCHRP IDEA Program

Re: Support of Proposal "Reliable Radar Guidance and Wireless Control for Automated Highways with Platooning" by Sirab Technologies

I am writing this letter of support to encourage you to provide funding for the referenced proposal. I believe that the Sirab Technologies proposal is addressing important technical challenges to the automation of road vehicles that have not been given sufficient attention in recent years, with the recent over-emphasis on autonomous approaches. The use of wireless communication among vehicles and between vehicles and the roadway infrastructure will be very important to ensure that the automation technology improves traffic flow, sustainability and safety rather than degrading these measures of transportation system effectiveness. Similarly, the improvement of millimeter-wave radar detection of targets in traffic will be important for ensuring viable performance and safety of vehicle automation systems. This technology is likely to offer superior performance to the video image processing and lidar approaches that have been more popular recently.

I have been doing research on road vehicle automation systems since my graduate student days over 40 years ago, and I am eager to see more rapid progress in this field, with additional support for research and development efforts such as the effort proposed by Sirab.

Sincerely yours,



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