

# Rural Mobility Challenges for Seniors in the Roanoke, VA Area

NSF Project ID: 1951850

Miguel Perez, Ph.D., CPE, Virginia Tech Transportation Institute

NSF-JST PG, FY2020

## Principal Research Investigators

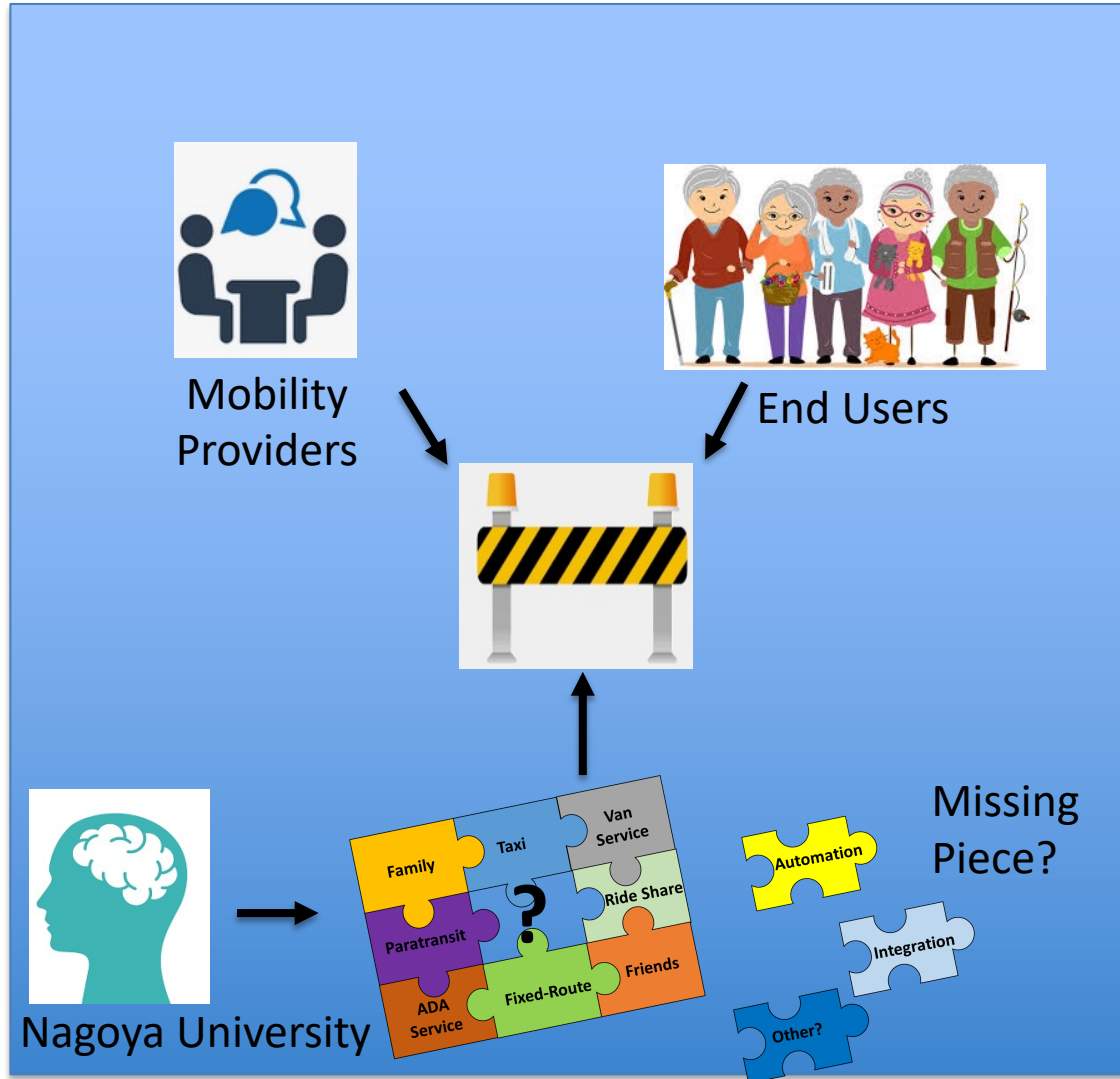


**(PI) Miguel Perez, Ph.D., CPE & (Co-PI) Jonathan Antin, Ph.D., CHFP**  
Virginia Tech Transportation Institute

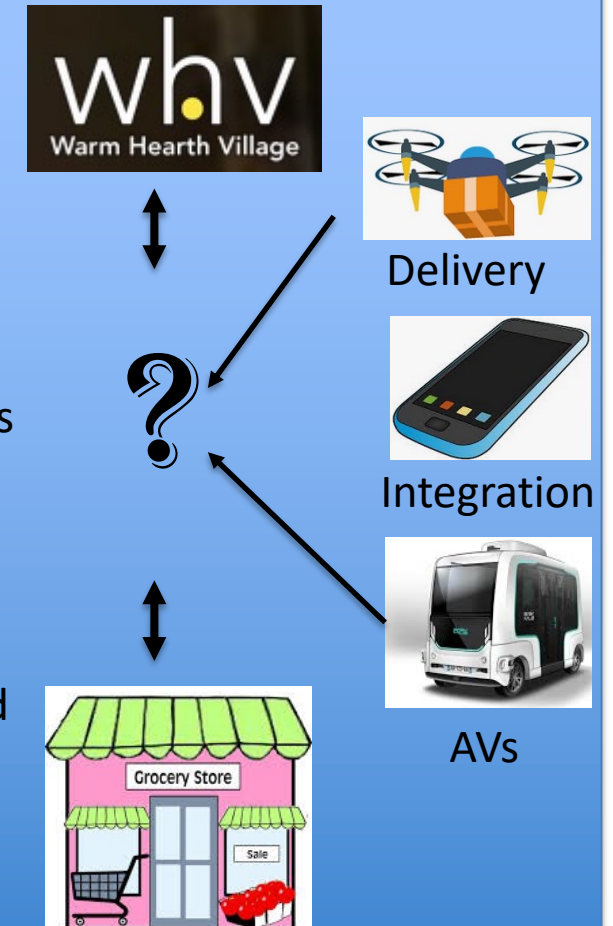
## Community Partners

**Shannon Able & Chrissy Hannabas**, Local Office on Aging  
**Nancy Lo**, Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services  
**Jeremy Holms**, Roanoke Valley Regional Commission  
**Melissa Lucas**, Botetourt Resource Center  
**Dr. Elizabeth Leffel**, Community Health  
**Rev. Ron Parker & Dorian Allen**, Valley Metro and Pastor  
**Nathan Sanford**, Roanoke Area Dial-A-Ride

# Project Overview



- Shaping a comprehensive alternative transportation “ecosystem” for seniors in rural environments
- Ecologically valid approaches to assess usability, attitudes, and safety



# Project Overview

- Across Japan and United States – similar rural areas with disparate culture and attitudes
  - Comfort with technology
  - Acceptance of automation solutions



- **Leverage Nagoya University experience**
- **Structured interviews with mobility providers**
- **Assessment of barriers**
  
- **Structured interviews with front-line workers**
- **Survey for end users**
- **Explore additional potential solutions**
- **Document process and findings**

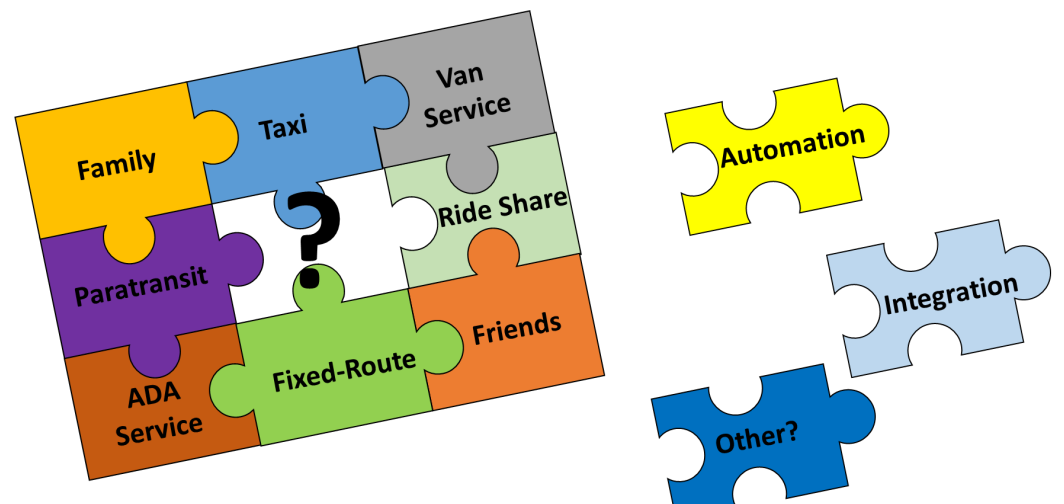
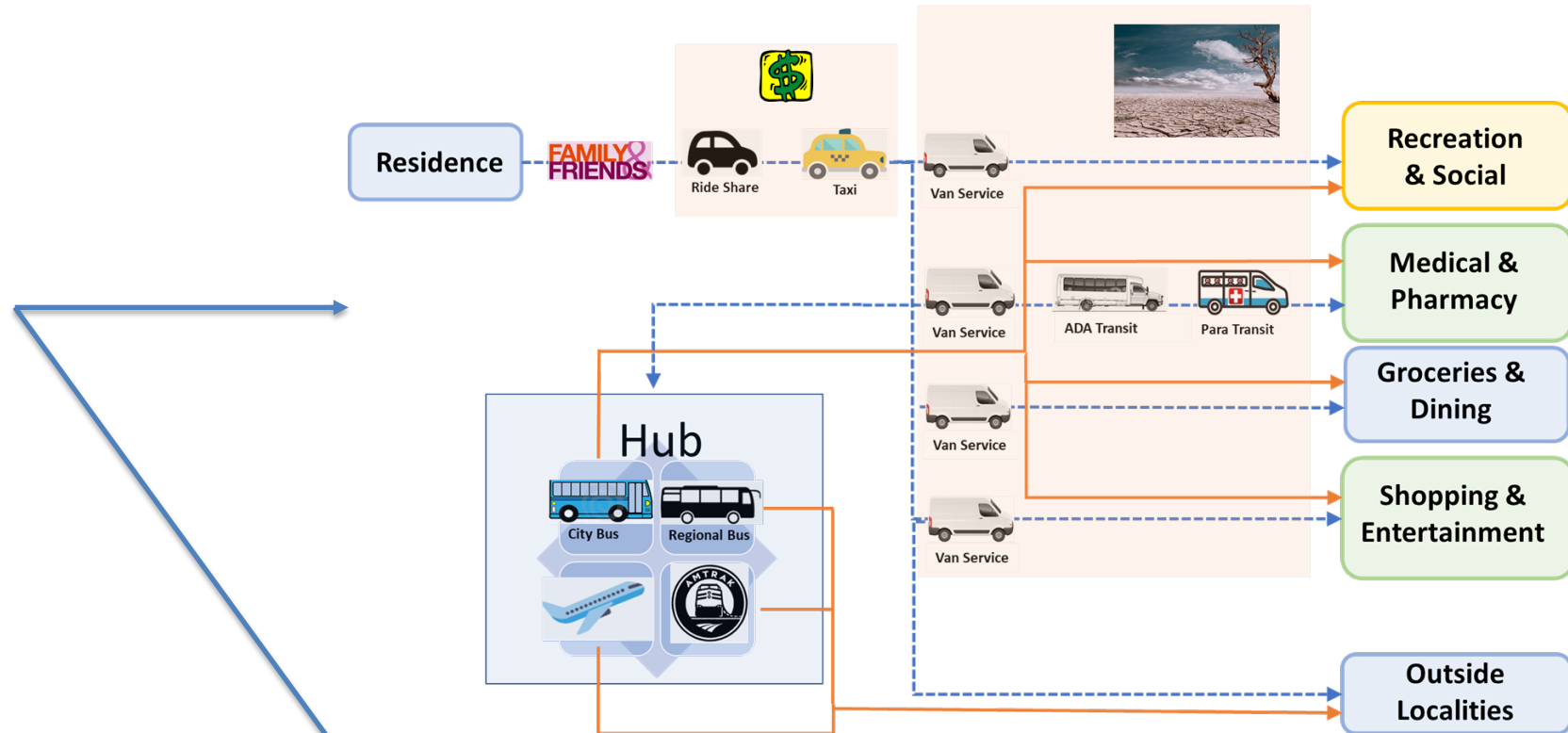
# Project Update



Botetourt Resource Center, Inc.  
"Together We Make a Difference"



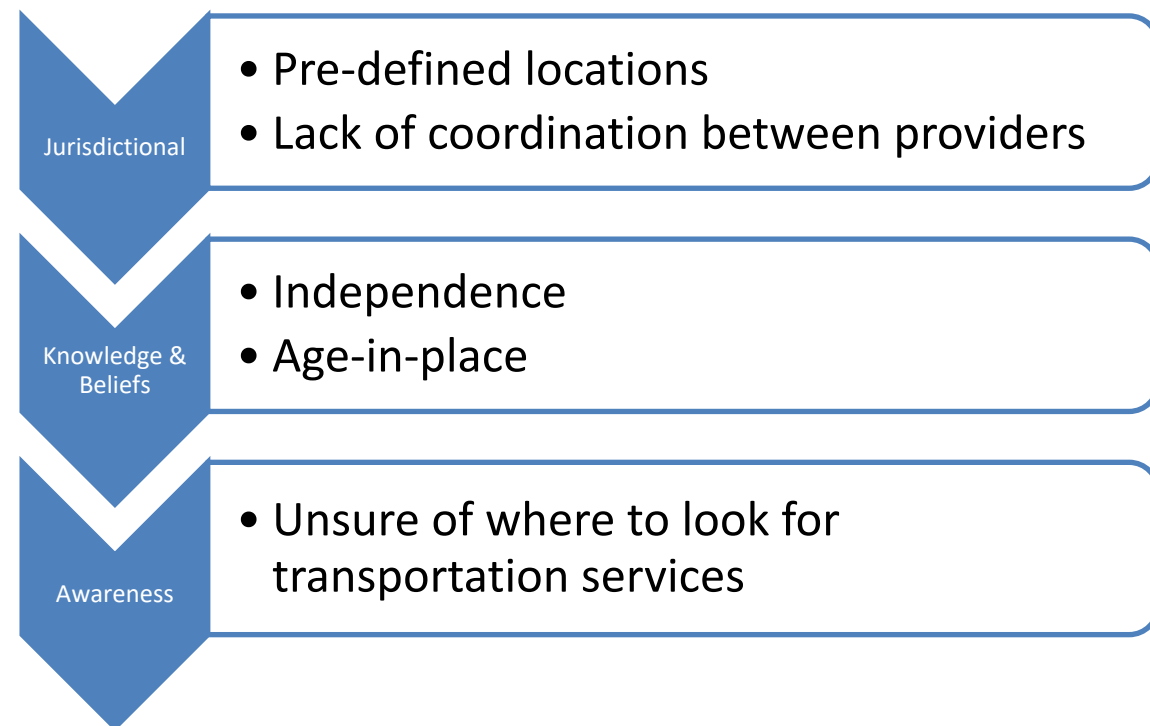
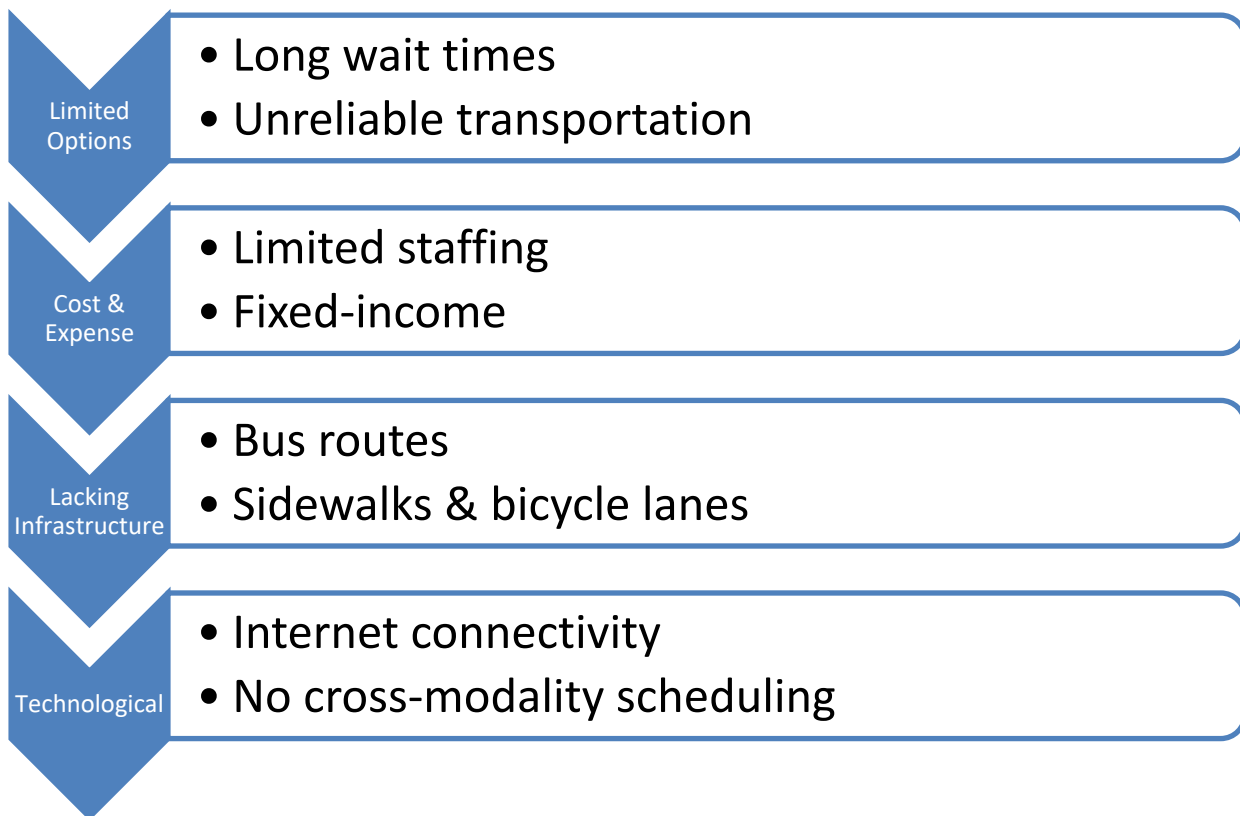
Roanoke Valley Community Health Assessment



# Project Evolution

- Identified large and wide-ranging barriers to transportation
- Automation was thought to be an all-encompassing solution

- Does NOT address all issues
- May exacerbate some barriers
- Automation now seen as another tool

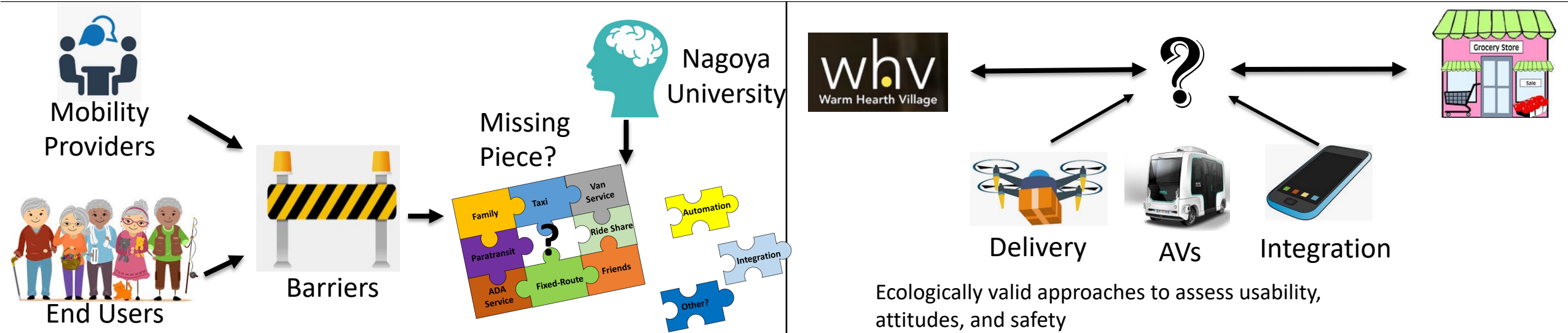


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