# NIDILRR Research: Effect of guidance surfaces on individuals with vision impairments

**Description of project:**

This study is part of a research project for the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) titled ***The* *Effect of Guidance Surfaces on Travelers with Vision and Mobility Impairments*.** This study is being conducted by Western Michigan University (WMU) and Accessible Design for the Blind. The purpose of the study is to evaluate the use of guidance surfaces at certain types of complex intersections (roundabouts, channelized turn lanes, large radius corners, skewed intersections and others) to determine if the installation of such surfaces improve alignment and crossing by participants who are blind. The photo below shows the prototype ‘bar tile’ surface to be used in previous research.

The research team for this project consists of Rob Wall Emerson, PhD, COMS, Western Michigan University, Janet Barlow, COMS, and Billie Louise (Beezy) Bentzen, PhD, COMS, Accessible Design for the Blind. This research has been approved by the Institutional Review Board of Western Michigan University.

Each participant in the research will receive an honorarium and reimbursement for transportation expenses. We expect to collect data on alignment and street crossings by 20 people in your city over the course of the study. Our plan is to collect data on 18 participants during our data collection visit of approximately one week. There will be two ‘pilot’ participants in addition to the 18.