UTC Project Information	
Project Title	Factors Surrounding Child Seat usage in Ride-Share Services
University	Virginia Tech; Texas A&M
Principal Investigator	Justin M. Owens
PI Contact Information	Jowens@vtti.vt.edu
Funding Source(s) and Amounts Provided (by each agency or organization)	Safe-D (Federal): $84,462 Match (Non-Federal): $75,904
Total Project Cost	$160,366
Agency ID or Contract Number	Grant No: 69A3551747115 Project: 01-005
Start and End Dates	April 1, 2017 – April 1, 2018
Brief Description of Research Project	With the recent explosion in popularity of ride-sourcing and ride-sharing services such as Uber and Lyft[1], and the impending cultural shift from privately-owning vehicles to the use of these services[2], a growing concern for families and caregivers is how to safely transport children when ride-sourcing. Unlike traditional personally-owned family vehicles, ride-sourced vehicles and taxicabs do not generally have permanently-installed child safety seats. Combined with the increasing size and weight of child safety seats that improve safety but reduce portability, this poses a serious concern for caregivers who want to protect their children during day-to-day travel and in unusual travel situations such as during vacations. In collaboration with researchers at the Texas A&M Transportation Institute and the Virginia Tech Center for Survey Research, researchers at VTTI plan to conduct an analysis of the current state of child passengers and child safety seat use in ride-sourced vehicles along with other more traditional sources of transit such as taxicabs. We anticipate this developing as a multiphase project, with the initial (Year 1) phase consisting of top level, qualitative and quantitative analyses of driver and rider perspectives and self-reported behaviors. Future phases could include observational and/or interventional approaches, including the collection of naturalistic driving data using instrumented vehicles, culminating in recommendations for improvement in the safe transport of children in this emerging and important industry. [1] http://www.huffingtonpost.com/syed-irfan-ajmal/2015-the-year-the-ridesha_b_9006438.html

	[2] https://newsroom.uber.com/economics-of-car-ownership/

Describe Implementation of Research Outcomes (or why not implemented)
 	
Place Any Photos Here
	Project outcomes will include:
	• A final report
	• Conference presentation (expected at 2018 Lifesavers Conference)
	• Educational benefits including:
	  ○ Funding for one or more graduate students
	  ○ Classroom materials about child seat usage and barriers
	• Technology transfer benefits including:
	  ○ Recommendations for improvements in policy regarding and/or communication of child seat requirements in ride-share vehicles
	  ○ Public information materials to be distributed via the internet (potentially on independent websites and/or on ride-share company websites) and/or physical media

Impacts/Benefits of Implementation (actual, not anticipated)	The results of this research will directly and immediately provide an improvement in safety for one of the most vulnerable populations of road users, young children, at a time when new modalities of transportation are expanding rapidly. This is a timely and critical need and one that will provide an implementable benefit via educational and information materials described above. Stakeholders will include ride-sharing companies, drivers, and users, caregivers who wish to transport their children without using public transportation or personal vehicles, regulators searching for more comprehensive information about child transportation safety, and educators who wish to provide information on this topic to their students. In addition, as data will be made publicly available via the Dataverse repository, detailed ridership datasets posted are likely to be of interest to ride-share and taxi companies who wish to gain a deeper understanding of real-world practices surrounding child safety relative to their industries. Finally, we anticipate that the data collected here will form the foundation for future proposals to study issues identified in this study as high priority in greater depth, potentially including real-world naturalistic data collection that will allow us to identify exactly how and when child safety seats are used in these transportation modalities.
Web Links • Reports • Project website	http://www.vtti.vt.edu/utc/safe-d/index.php/projects/factors-surrounding-child-seat-usage-in-ride-share-services/