

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON INFORMATION STATEMENT
Research Study Information Statement for Phase 1

Project Title:

StopFinder: Enhancing Independence for Blind Public Transit Riders

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Department of Computer Science & Engineering

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Investigators' statement

We are asking you to be in a research study. The purpose of this information statement is to give you the information you will need to help you decide whether or not to be in the study. Please read the statement carefully. You may choose to participate in the research study by submitting information about the bus stops in the application. If you do not want to participate in the study, do not submit information about bus stops in the application.

PURPOSE

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering are conducting a study to evaluate smartphone applications that enable blind people to use public transit more independently.

BENEFITS

Your participation may help blind people make better use of public transit. Beyond the satisfaction from this knowledge, you may not gain any personal benefits from participating.

PROCEDURES

To participate in the study, fill out information about a bus stop through this app. Contributing information about stops will take an estimated 2 minutes per stop, and we would expect that you would do this while waiting for the bus.

You also have the option to create an account by entering your e-mail address and a password or by signing in with an existing account such as a Facebook or Google account. You can use these to keep track of data you have previously entered for stops, or to receive e-mail alerts containing alerts about favorite stops or other service information. If you create an account, we will also use this information to help us assess which data is likely to be the most reliable. You also have the option of choosing a nickname to be recognized in a top contributors list that will be displayed within the app. Except for the nickname and top contributors list, your account information will be kept confidential. You can delete your account or unsubscribe from e-mail notifications at any time.

RISKS, STRESS, OR DISCOMFORT

Some people feel that providing information for research is an invasion of privacy. We have addressed concerns for your privacy in the section below.

OTHER INFORMATION

Taking part in this study is voluntary. You can stop at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. We will log the information you submit about bus stops along with your IP address. The bus stop information you submit will be available to anyone using the application. We will keep your IP address confidential and will delete it July 31, 2014 at the latest.

StopFinder is an internet application, and using it will result in a small amount of additional data being transmitted to and from your smartphone. Depending on your data plan, this may incur additional data charges if you are connecting via the cellular network.

Government or university staff sometimes review studies such as this one to make sure they are being done safely and legally. If a review of this study takes place, your records may be examined. The reviewers will protect your privacy. The study records will not be used to put you at legal risk of harm.

If you have questions later about the research, you can ask the researcher listed above. If you have questions about your rights as a research subject, you can call the UW Human Subjects Division at (206) 543-0098.