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An Investigation of Automated Transportation

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An Investigation of Automated Transportation

As drive-by-wire driving systems become more popular, the advent of completely automated vehicles will become a distinct possibility. This technology would eliminate the dangerous human factor of driving and provide many previously unheard of options.

In an effort to investigate the feasibility of automated transportation, a computer system with sensory inputs and a GPS receiver was constructed. It was able to detect lanes, the distance of objects in its proximity, their relative rates of change, and was capable of navigating from one location to another. Upon completion, the system was analyzed to determine its safety as well as its processing time. These numbers were compared to known information about current driving systems, and supported the development and introduction of such a technology.

Michelle Vaughan is a junior at Missouri University of Science & Technology and is double majoring in computer engineering and computer science. She is currently in her fourth semester of classes and plans to graduate in May of 2010. Michelle is a member of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) at Missouri S&T and is registered national member as well. She also holds the officer position as co-webmaster for SWE so she is currently working on setting up the SWE web page for Missouri S&T. As an extracurricular activity she is a member of the Missouri S&T Symphonic Winds Band in which she plays the flute and the piccolo. Michelle enjoys computer programming so she got involved in this project to enhance her skills in programming and overlook the programming of the project.