United Spinal Association launched the SecureRide Coalition to develop a new wheelchair securement standard.

The nation’s 5.5 million wheelchair users will enjoy safer, more accessible and seamless independent travel in the future with a new wheelchair securement standard. United Spinal Association is partnering with wheelchair and vehicle manufacturers and other interested stakeholders to launch the SecureRide Coalition. The Coalition is developing a wheelchair securement standard that can be applied to personal vehicles, rideshares, public transit, as well as buses, rail and low-speed shuttles.

Some 25.5 million Americans aged 5 and older have self-reported travel-limiting disabilities according to the U. S. Department of Transportation. In those statistics, 13.4 million are age 18 to 64 and 11.2 million are age 65 and older. United Spinal Association’s President and CEO, Vincenzo Piscopo said, “For untold millions of Americans, accessible vehicles would be a game changer for our community. A true democracy of transportation depends upon one bedrock principle: equal access.” SecureRide’s work can lead to improved access, safety and independence for millions of wheelchair users across all modes of transportation.

SecureRide will leverage a wide range of organizations with specific working knowledge of products, securement systems and requirements to fully develop, test and publish standards, and advocate for policies that support them. These organizations will later expand to include a broad ecosystem of support with additional disability and veterans advocacy groups and networks, research universities, certifying bodies and standards groups, Federal agencies and the United States Congress.

SecureRide will engage in three stages:

Stage 1: Concept development with cross-industry groups responsible for developing and delivering solution.

Stage 2: Engage broad ecosystem of organizations required to fully develop, test and publish standards, as well as advocate for the policies that support them.

Stage 3: Deploy plan and engage with Federal agencies and the United States Congress

SecureRide will address the technical solutions for a wheelchair securement standard (such as WC19) and publish test results on various securement systems (i.e. wheelchair tiedowns and occupant restraint systems (WTORS). The Coalition will review the regulatory requirements and voluntary standards for opportunities to harmonize, streamline and analyze the wheelchair procurement process from the initial contact for prescription through insurance approval and delivery to identify key steps that could increase the number of wheelchairs using the coalition’s standard securement solution.

SecureRide Members:

- General Motors Global Technology Operations LLC, https://www.gm.com/
- Invacare Corporation, https://global.invacare.com/
- Ki Mobility, LLC, https://www.kimobility.com/Welcome.action
- Pride Mobility Products Corporation, https://www.pridemobility.com/
- University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute, https://www.umtri.umich.edu/
- Sunrise Medical (U.S.), LLC, https://www.sunrisemedical.com/