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Walker et al.

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(54) **METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR OPERATING VEHICLES TO REDUCE BUNCHING**

(56) **References Cited**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Systems and methods of operating vehicles to reduce bunching of the vehicles when traveling on a roadway determine an intra arrival time for two consecutive vehicles traveling on the roadway; calculate a virtual spacing between the two consecutive vehicles based on the intra arrival time; determine a following distance threshold; compare the virtual spacing between the two consecutive vehicles with the following distance threshold; determine that the two consecutive vehicles are in a bunched condition when the virtual spacing between the two consecutive vehicles is less than the following distance threshold; and control at least one of the two consecutive vehicles until the vehicles are no longer in the bunched condition.

32 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets

