



National Human Services Assembly "Thursdays at Three" Webinar Series

Improving Mobility for Americans with Disabilities Through Accessible Transportation

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Outline



- Who We Serve and Why
- Who We Are & How We Work
- Key Movements for Expanding Mobility
- Suggestions for Services
- Resources
- Future Directions of Accessible Transportation
- Impact - Benefits



Who & Why

*“Transportation is the
most important thing”*

Elder focus group participant



- 54M people today have a disability
 - 71% of people 80 & older have a disability
- 85+ population fastest growing
 - 36% increase by 2020 (4.2M to 5.7M)
- Must Grow Person-Directed Community Based Living Infrastructure
- Avoid unnecessary institutionalization



Who We Are



Easter Seals Project ACTION

- Expand accessible transportation **for people with disabilities** of all ages
- Audience – transportation and disability community
- 22 years

National Center on Senior Transportation – Easter Seals and National Association of Area Agencies on Aging

- Expand family of transportation services **for older adults**
- Audience – human services and transportation community
- 6 years



Center Functions



- Training – webinars, distance learning, conference calls, travel training, mobility planning services
- Technical Assistance – toll-free number, e-mail
- Outreach – conferences, advisory groups, free materials, website, newsletters
- Applied Research – Student Scholars programs and various community grants

How We Work



- Safe place for transportation and disability community to build solutions
- Coordinate and Partner
- Across disability spectrum
- Across modes – public/private
- All aspects of Accessibility – including pathways of travel

Key Movements to Expand Mobility



- Livability & Sustainability Movement
- Person Directed Mobility Management
- Americans with Disabilities Act transportation education and support
- Older Adult Family of Transportation Services
- Health/wellness & transportation
- Youth with Disabilities and Career Transition Transportation Education
- Continued Focus on Community Coordination

Livability Principles



DOT Secretary LaHood: "Creating livable communities will result in improved quality of life for all Americans and create a more efficient and more accessible transportation network that serves the needs of individual communities."



- More transportation choices including promoting public health
- Equitable affordable housing
- Enhance economic competitiveness
- Support existing communities
- Coordination and leverage federal policies and investments
- Value Communities and neighborhoods

Livability is Well Funded



- \$ 1B+ in various types of grants
- Criteria Applies to Large DOT projects
- Unprecedented level of National Transportation Infrastructure Investment
- Roles Exist for Local Human Services Providers to Help Shape these Projects
- Emerging Projects with Department of Health and Human Services – Community Living Incentive partnership
- Dept. of Education...Promise Neighborhoods May Even Have Applicability

Livability Connects with Traditional Funding for Human Services Transportation



- Federal Transit Administration
 - 5310 Elderly and People with Disabilities
 - 5317 New Freedom
 - 5316 Job Access Reverse Commute
- Administration on Aging
 - Title IIIB Transportation & Assisted Transportation
 - ADRC's one Call Systems
- Medicaid Non-emergency Transportation

Livable & Sustainable Communities Attributes



- Have Multi-modal Accessibility
- Safe
- Equitable
- Affordable
- Efficiently use resources
- Universally designed
- Person-directed
- Ensure economic viability for people and business
- Healthy for people and the earth

Livability Requires Transportation Choices



- Fixed Route Public Transit
- ADA Paratransit
- Dial-A-Ride or Demand Response Paratransit
- Vanpools
- Medical Transportation
- Accessible Rail
- Accessible & "Friendly" Taxi Service
- Volunteer Driver Programs
- Universal or Inclusive Design Accessible Paths of Travel



Person Directed Mobility Management



- Builds bridges that connect people to the right transportation option
- Requires dual community analysis
 - Accessibility needs of people in the community
 - Assessment of accessibility & resources in the community
- Identifies gaps and advocate to fill gaps
- Announcing the Independent Living Mobility Coaches Easter Seals Project ACTION, National Council on Independent Living and Association of Program for Rural Independent Living Project



Wisconsin Success Story



- Person directed – moving people
- Multiple funding sources – Federal and State
- Went from 29 mobility managers (MM) in 2008 to 47 2009
- Employed by diverse stakeholders
- Projects planned by collaboration and transportation coordination plans
- Formal training program for MM
- 69 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have mobility management projects

Americans with Disabilities Act



- ADA Eligibility
- ADA responsibilities and good customer service
- ADA Paratransit Topics
- Service Animals
- Motor Coach & Charter Rules
- Wheelchair and Mobility Devices
- Coordination and Strategic Planning
 - The Framework for Action
 - Consumer involvement in planning

Older Adult Family of Services Emerging Trends



- Accessible taxis
- Travel Training/Mobility Mentoring
- Public/private partnerships
- Volunteer Driver programs
- Safe driving continuation, license policies
- Coordinate transportation across social services, health services, employment services, vocational rehabilitation, education, retail/recreation, public transit
- Cost Sharing between Older Americans Act Programs and Federal Transit Administration Programs for state match



Health/Wellness & Transportation – AARP



2009 Profiles of Long-Term Care and Independent Living



- Family caregivers provide most long-term care (\$ 375B vs. Medicaid \$ 97B) – almost 3.7x that of Medicaid
- Older people with disabilities often deplete their life savings
- Medicaid Long-term care still primarily nursing homes
- 3-1 is the number of people Medicaid can support in the community (HCBS) vs. in a nursing facility

**FTA now assessing transportation role in
healthcare & health/wellness**

Technology



- Assistive technologies
 - Web Information/Referral
 - Social Networking
- Intelligent Transportation Systems
 - handheld devices
 - Global positioning systems
 - Scheduling/dispatching
 - Smartcards
- One Call Centers
 - No wrong door)
 - Mobility centers
 - Aging & Disability Resource Centers
- Wayfinding, Trip Planning and Navigation
 - All points of intersection for community based living
 - Department of Motor Vehicles
 - Hospitals



Supporting Youth Transition Through Transportation

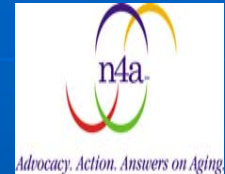


- Greater regional coordination & regional planning
- Intersection of cross county rural, urban and suburban transportation options
- Information & knowledge of transportation taught to all students
- Greater community awareness of needs of and the perspectives of youth with disabilities

ESPA & WWSA Arts Project



How Do We Create Community Accessibility?



- “Complete Streets”
- Connect with state & local development planning processes
- Retrofit where needed, use universal design
- Get Involved with Livable Communities Program
 - Housing
 - Transportation
 - Environment
- Partner with Nontraditional Players
 - Business Comm.
 - Schools
 - Community Associations



How?

Accessible Transportation Service Offerings



- Field Travel Training Services
- Offer Community Person-Directed Mobility Managers
- Livability Consulting Services
- Develop Transportation Options
- Develop Transportation Centers
- Train on Assistive Devices
- Add Transportation Training to Chronic Disease Management Programs
- Teach Transportation Options to Students

NCST

*National Center on
Senior Transportation*

Useful Links



Easter Seals Project ACTION

www.projectaction.org

FTA

www.FTA.dot.gov &
Livable Communities
webpage:

[http://fta.dot.gov/publications/p
ublications_10935.html](http://fta.dot.gov/publications/publications_10935.html)

Dept. of Labor
www.disability.gov

National Center on Senior
www.seniortransportation.net

Administration on Aging
www.aoa.gov

N4a
www.n4a.org

AARP
www.aarp.org

APTA
www.apta.org

CTAA
www.ctaa.org

National
Dissemination Center
for Children with
Disabilities
[http://www.nichcy.org
/Pages/Home.aspx](http://www.nichcy.org/Pages/Home.aspx)



Recent Project Action Publications



- Accessibility Design Guide for Bus Rapid Transit Systems
- Resource Guide to Effective Approaches for Stop Announcements and Route Identification
- A Survey on the Use of Taxis in Paratransit Programs
- Guide to Effective Communication Technology for Paratransit Service
- Accessible Pathways to Bus Stops and Transit Facilities: A Process Guide
- Universal Design & Accessible Transit Systems: Facts to Consider Fact Sheet collaboration with RERC-APT, Robotics Institute Carnegie Mellon University
Center for Inclusive Design & Environmental Access, University at Buffalo, State University of New York
- International Project on Accessible Transportation Best Practices

Future Directions Impacting Transportation



- Deepening partnerships with the private sector due to caregiver growth
- Public Transportation & Path of Travel Accessibility
- Supporting our Veterans
- Bridging public and private transportation – true multi-modal communities with cross county connection
- Continuous learning across the lifespan – mid-career changes

Future Directions Impacting Transportation



- Importance of older adults volunteers – major community resource
- Intersection of health/wellness and transportation – getting out of our cars is good for everyone and the environment
- Cross-policy programs and cost-sharing
- Expansion of community living through Livability and Sustainability Movement

Impact - Benefits of Transportation Access



- **Health** - increased quality of life
- **Civic engagement** - volunteers
- **Socio-emotional** – empowerment, independence
- **Economic**- lower cost of health & long-term care, access to jobs
- **Society-Family** - Richness of diverse & intergenerational communities



Thank You



Easter Seals Project ACTION

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Questions? Please feel free to email:

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