

To Ride is to Live

Greenways and Highways . . Paths Leading to Connected Communities TAPA and TSITE 2010 Conference



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Easter Seals Project ACTION

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Today's Communities

- Car centric
- Limited transportation options for those who do not drive
- Growing need for transportation options
- Movement to 'get green'
- Movement to improve health & wellness in the community
- A perfect convergence of needs, movement and the enabling power of transportation

Planning is more critical than ever.....

- Is it easy to connect stakeholders?
- Is it easy to understand the diverse needs of various members and groups in our communities?
- Are there trade-offs with funding and infrastructure needs?
- Do we still have trouble with the ‘last mile’?
.....your work is so essential!

Goals of This Talk/Discussion

- Share economic realities and benefits of accessible communities
- Discuss some best practices that are working across the country
- Note how our training and technical assistance centers can help

Benefits of Accessible Communities for People

- Assists those within the 36M million people with disabilities (12% US Population, not in institutions) who need transportation choices
- Youth with Disabilities seeking career and college
- Helps address the employment Gap 40% (39% vs. 80% rates for people with disabilities vs. without)

Benefits of Accessible Communities for People

- 51.5% of Older Adults over 75 have disabilities (28M people are 70 or older) and today's 39M older adult population will grow to 70M Older Adults
- 7M working caregivers - employers lose \$ 36.3B annually due to lost productivity
- Many older adults are caregivers – cost of family based long-term care \$ 375B vs. \$ 97B Medicaid



Economic Benefits for Accessible Communities

- Safe, Accessible Communities reduce traffic and pedestrian fatalities
- Community based long-term care is less expensive (\$ 26K vs. \$ 9K per year person, AARP)
- Less need for expensive, special transit services like paratransit (\$ 5/ride vs. \$ 30-65/ride)
- Increased health and wellness and commensurate reduction in healthcare costs

- **Livability** – accessibility component
- **Mobility Management**
- **Travel Training**
- **Partnership Expansion and Coalition Building**



- **Americans with Disabilities Act transportation education and support**
- **Older Adults & their Family of Transportation Services**
- **Transportation Education for underserved communities**

Livability Program Principles

- 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



Livable & Sustainable Communities Best Practices

- Have Multi-modal Accessibility
- Safe
- Diverse stakeholder outreach including various types of riders
- Focus on
 - Equitable
 - Affordable
 - Efficiently used resources
- Universally designed
- Person-directed
- Ensure economic viability for people and business
- Recognize the connection between health and transportation options



Diverse Partnership Outreach Customers and Providers

- Transit providers
- People with disabilities
- Older Adults
- Human Services Providers
- **School System**
- **Students**
- People of limited income
- Business Community
- Faith-based community
- Non-profit community
- Civic leaders
- Planners
- Housing Industry
 - **Builders**
 - Realtors
 - **Owner associations**

Person-Directed Mobility Managers

- Connects people with the right transportation options
- Requires dual community analysis
 - Accessibility needs of people in the community
 - Assessment of accessibility & resources in the community
- Identifies and fills gaps in livability/accessibility
- New ESPA program Independent Living Coaches Initiative



- Person directed – moving people
- Multiple funding sources – Federal and State
- Went from 29 mobility managers (MM) in 2008 to 47 2009 – almost all counties covered
- Employed by diverse stakeholders
- Projects planned by collaboration and transportation coordination plans
- Formal training program for MM

Ease of Access to Information on Transit Services

- Marketing
 - Public service announcements
 - Up to date accessible websites & social networking
 - Regular communication, newsletters, success stories
- Call Centers
 - One call (no wrong door)
 - Mobility centers
- All points of intersection for community based living
 - Department of Motor Vehicles
 - Hospitals

Coordinated, Accessible Multi-Modal System

- Accessible Taxis
- Volunteer driver, shared ride & vanpool programs
- Bridging Public/private partnership transportation assets
- Caregiver transportation programs
- Accessible paths of travel
- Highway signage that is senior friendly
- Motor-coach/recreation & leisure transportation
- Accessible fixed route & paratransit services
- Schools and university transportation

Livability and 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



Federal Transit Administration Training and Technical Assistance Centers

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

Technical Assistance Center Functions

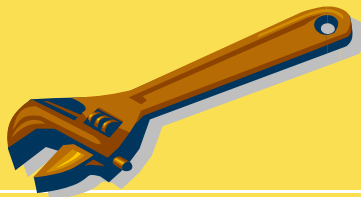
- **Training** – webinars, distance learning, conference calls, travel training, mobility planning services
- **Technical Assistance** – toll-free number, e-mail
- **Outreach** – conferences, disseminate useful materials, website, newsletter, partner with other national organizations
- **Applied Research** – Research contracts, Student Scholars programs and various community grants

Examples of Demonstration Grants

- Knoxville-Knox County Community Action (Tenn.)
- ACCESS Transportation (Pa.)
- Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
- Develop volunteer assisted transportation program, taxi certification
- Use cell phone technology to provide information on arrival time for vehicles
- Implement regional routing and scheduling system

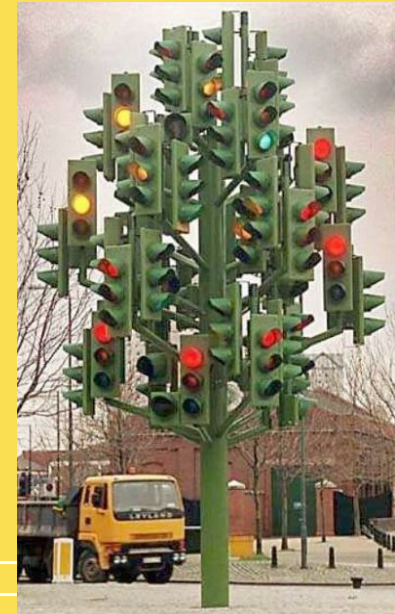


- Newsletters and free estore online
- Fact Sheets on various topics
- Taxi Toolkit
- ADA Information
- Travel Training Courses
- Transportation by the Numbers
- Transportation Options Template
- Older Driver Safety Materials
- Caregiver resources



Accessible Transportation Service Offerings

- Develop Travel Training Services
- Offer Community Person-Directed Mobility Managers
- Develop Transportation Options
- Develop Transportation Centers
- Coordinate community coalition building & stakeholder involvement with infrastructure projects
- Train on Assistive Devices
- Add Transportation Training to Chronic Disease Management Programs
- Teach Transportation Options to Students



- **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

Rides Do Change Lives – Thank You for all you do!

**Easter Seals Project ACTION and the National Center on Senior
Transportation**

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