



Transportation Research and Demonstration Program

Office for Consumer Access & Self-Determination
and AIDD Programs of National Significance

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Another participant explained ‘public transportation is personally important to me as it is how I stay independent. I feel the only way to influence public policy is to be involved. I believe that the best way to predict the future is to be a part of it.’

*Program Participant, Interviewed for the
Environmental Scan – Easter Seals*



I know we have done an excellent job as a coalition working on behalf of older adults and individuals with disabilities. However, we haven't done as good of a job at working **WITH** older adults and individuals with disabilities. Regardless of whether we get the grant or not the change in perspective is priceless and is necessary for our coalition as we move forward!!!

*Program Administer, Interviewed for the
Environmental Scan – from Judy Shanley,
Easter Seals*



Transportation Research and Demonstration Program AKA The Inclusive Transportation Planning Project

What We Know

- Older adults and people with disabilities (participants) often feel isolated
- Community transit is vital to employment access, healthcare access and full-inclusion in the community

Our Theory

- Involving people with disabilities, including people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and older adults on the project planning team will increase the effectiveness of the solution for participants
 - There may be other positive benefits for transportation planners – increased job satisfaction, better understanding of project by decision makers and the community
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Transportation Research and Demonstration Program AKA The Inclusive Transportation Planning Project

What the Inclusive Transportation Projects Seeks to do

Purpose:

- Identify proven models and approaches that can be used by states and communities across the country to empower people with disabilities and older adults to be actively involved in the design and implementation of coordinated transportation systems in ways that successfully make those systems responsive to the needs of these populations.
 - Promote independence and community inclusion of participants through coordinated transit systems that are responsive to their transportation needs
 - Identify and disseminate proven models that empower participants to be actively involved in the design and implementation of coordinated transit systems
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Inclusive Transportation Planning Project

Federal Partners with Federal Transit Administration

National Partners Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) lead, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A), Easter Seals, Westat

Program Activities

- Establish transit, human service agency, and participant/consumer work groups
- Conduct an environmental scan to identify current best inclusive transportation planning practices
- Develop a National Knowledge Sharing Network of experts to serve as a resource for communities
- Design and implement a “Small Grants” Demonstration Program to communities to test the replication of proven best practices as well as new models and approaches to successfully empower participants to be actively involved in transit planning and implementation
- Develop an evaluation tracking and measuring the progress and success of the community projects
- Complete a review of the demonstration projects and disseminate best practices



Key Findings and Early Learnings

Environmental Scan





Characteristics of the Coordinated Transportation System that Encourage Participation

- Strong leadership structure that affirms the value of participation
- High level commitment for participation of people with disabilities and/or older
- Needs and resource assessment processes which identify gaps and needs around including people with disabilities and/or older adults.
- Diverse coalition of organizations, some of whom represent people with disabilities and/or older adults, involved in planning, decision-making.
- A formal action plan in place that identifies opportunities and activities for the participation of people with disabilities and/or older adults.



Organizational Characteristics that Support Inclusive Practice

Environment that is:

- Accommodating and respectful of the populations that they serve.
- Engages participants in feedback mechanisms and in the involvement of participants in the outreach and awareness efforts.
- Accommodates the physical needs of people with disabilities and/or older adults (e.g., accessible meeting facilities, flexible meeting times, availability of communication assistance).
- An accountability system to ensure that participation of people with disabilities and/or older adults is at desired level.
- Develops and follows an action plan for recruiting and retaining participants who have disabilities or are older adults.



Personal Characteristics that Influence Participation

Commitment to:

- Community volunteerism
- Influence policy
- Stay socially engaged
- Encourage environmental responsibility

Easter Seals Environmental Scan





Participation Outcomes for People with Disabilities and Older Adults

- Enables a greater variety of potential funding sources.
- Tangible outcomes such as vending machines, increased routes, bringing unmet needs to the coordinated transportation system and that resulted in the system leadership taking those concerns to the state department of transportation, this highlights the importance of feeling that the participants efforts have been followed-through on by the system.



Key Findings and Early Learning

Small Demonstration Community Demonstration Project

- Round I – 65 applications and 17 awarded for 6 month projects to design inclusive process and demonstrate use
 - We learned interest is high on the part of consumers to be actively engaged in an ongoing community transit development process
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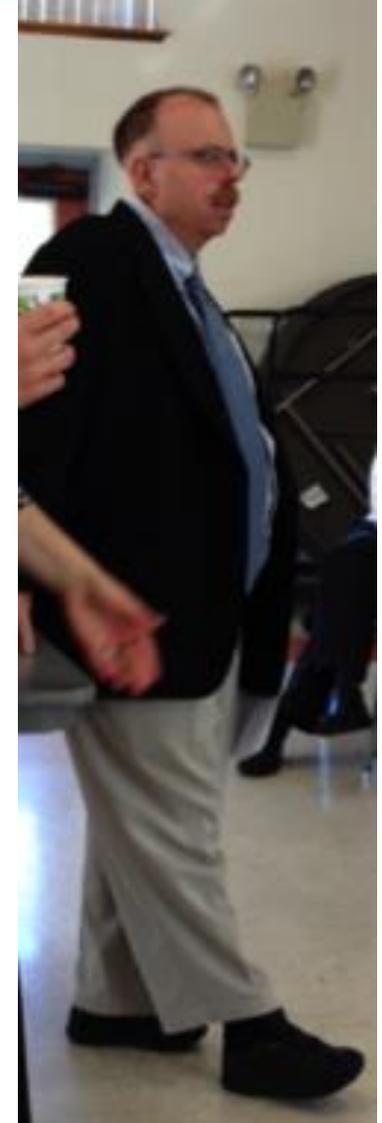
Round II - Inclusive Transportation Community Demonstration Projects (All projects have consumer/stakeholder work teams)

7 community projects chosen from pool of 17 – to further identify inclusive process and improvements /enhancements to transportation systems that make them more responsive to the people they serve.

Site	Activities
Fairbanks, AK	develop mobility management and website for rider information
Portland, OR	draw on the experience of dialysis consumers for better transit options
Helena, MT	improve and expand transit options, pilot to expand hours of service
Detroit, MI	support development of RTA, use experience of consumers to demonstrate need for RTA/expanded transit options, establish consumer advisory committee to RTA
Knoxville, TN	discover and prioritize transit improvements through “Project in a Box”, chose driver-rider communication as focus – develop transit communication app
Connecticut	raise awareness of transit options and gaps, develop website for riders to more easily find/use transit options
Montgomery County, MD	discover and prioritize ideas for transit system improvement, utilize students in awareness campaign

“Though I could get a job in one town, I could not actually get to it. Because Connecticut has some large sections that are very rural and some that are much more populated, there were gaps in transportation options and services. Therefore, I helped plan 18 public transportation forums around the state of Connecticut, and I attended and spoke at 17 of them.”

Jamie Lazaroff, *Self-advocate and co-project manager for Round 1 of the Inclusive Coordinated Transportation grant. Arc of Connecticut*





Knoxville/Knox Process

Advisory Group

- Steering Meeting
- Volunteers

Data Collection

- 31 Meeting in a Box sessions with 441 participants
- Online Passenger Survey : 138
- Online Driver Survey [CAC,KAT & ETHRA]: 65

5 Counties - Anderson, Blount, Knox, Loudon, Union.





Knoxville/Knox Process

- Identified communication as a top priority through meetings
 - Identified creating app as an option
 - Identified most common phrases and narrowed to 59 using Pareto chart
 - Developed app and tested with participants
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Ride Connection – Portland, OR

- <http://www.rideconnection.org/ride/AboutUs/DialysisResearch.aspx>
- <http://www.rideconnection.org/ride/Services/Dahlia.aspx>



What's Now and What's Next

- Current Activity - Community Project Teams are developing skills to serve as peer mentors for new community projects in Year 4 and 5, develop case studies and an Inclusive Planning Toolkit
 - Year Four - disseminate Inclusive Transportation Planning Toolkit, case studies, and conduct peer support to new community projects
 - Widely include process in transportation planning
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Find Out More

www.transitplanning4all.org

<http://www.acl.gov/Programs/CIP/OCASD/Transportation/index.aspx>

