

## Leading Change Session: From There to Here, from Here to There

Leading Change in Transportation on Tuesday, November 19, 2019 8:30 AM - 10:15 AM

Session Description:

Accessible and reliable transportation is often the key to full community participation in employment, community integration, recreation, healthcare, and education. In this session, we will discuss multiple issues faced by policy makers and infrastructure planners as they design and implement accessible transportation solutions. We will learn about innovative community-level planning for improved transportation services in urban, rural and frontier settings. And, we will discuss the myriad issues related to transportation technology innovations and their impact on people's lives. Panelists come to this discussion with diverse experience and varied solutions to transportation needs in communities, large and small.

**Travel Modes Used in the Past Month by People with Disabilities**

Background Information: <sup>1</sup>

- 68 percent of older adults and 79 percent of younger adults with disabilities say finding alternative transportation would be very difficult or somewhat difficult
- Those without caregivers are especially concerned about finding transportation if they stop driving (73 percent of older adults and 77 percent of younger adults with disabilities)
- Approximately 40% of rural Americans do not have access to public transportation<sup>2</sup>. While most rural residents never use public transportation, some people with disabilities depend on it. Nationally, nearly 7% of rural Americans do not have access to a private vehicle, and in places with high rates of disability, this rate can climb to as high as 20%.<sup>3</sup>
- Transportation is an important element to accessing services. For example, it's been observed that adults living in rural areas in North Carolina with a driver's license were nearly 1.92 times more likely to have regular medical checkups than those without a driver's license.<sup>4</sup> Nationally, studies show that lack of transportation had a larger impact on time spent working than presence of disability.<sup>5</sup>

Mode	Percentage of People		
	Under 25	25-64	65+
Personal vehicle (driver)	49.1	68.6	55.6
Personal vehicle (passenger)	89.6	77.5	70.5
Carpool, vanpool	28.7	8.8	3.6
Public bus	20.9	12.8	5.8
ADA paratransit	3.7	5.3	7.2
Other specialized services	2.6	4.0	2.9
Private or chartered bus	6.3	3.9	4.7
School bus	24.6	1.9	0.0
Subway/light rail/commuter rail	9.5	7.1	2.0
Taxicab	8.6	12.4	8.2
Electric wheelchair, scooter, golf cart	2.0	0.8	1.0
Bike	48.0	15.9	3.7
Walk	56.0	47.9	37.7
Other transportation	12.0	5.4	2.8

Laws on Accessibility in Transportation

There are several federal laws that address transportation access for people with disabilities:

<sup>1</sup> SOURCE: Table A9, Sweeny (2004). From: [G, Transportation Patterns and Problems of People with Disabilities](#)

<sup>2</sup> McDaniels et al., 2018

<sup>3</sup> United States Census Bureau, 2015

<sup>4</sup> Arcury et al., 2005

<sup>5</sup> Myers & Ravesloot, 2016

- *Americans with Disabilities Act*: Title II of the ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in public transportation services, such as city buses and public rail (subways, commuter trains, etc.).
- *Air Carrier Access Act*: The Air Carrier Access Act prohibits discrimination by U.S. or foreign air carriers on the basis of disability and requires airlines to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities.
- *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act prohibits discrimination based on disability in any programs receiving federal funds. Recipients of Federal aid and state and local entities that are responsible for roadways and pedestrian facilities must therefore ensure equal access for people with disabilities to roads and sidewalks, rest areas and pedestrian overpasses and underpasses.

#### Concerns in Transportation:

- Fixed Route Public Transit – buses/subway trains
- Paratransit
- Private Transportation – including accessible taxis and ridesharing programs
- Micro-transit – bikes, scooters, etc.
- Safe and accessible rights-of-way – including streets, sidewalks, crosswalks, curb ramps, crossing signals, street parking, and other public infrastructure
- Mass transit – trains/airplanes/ferries
- Rural access
- Autonomous vehicles
- Compliance and oversight assessments

#### Opportunities for Engagement:

- Educating people with disabilities of their rights
- Member of advisory council
- Evaluation research of needs and successes
- National Core Indicator surveys

#### Questions to Ask:

- Does your state/community prioritize public funding for transportation and which infrastructure does it favor?
- What transportation programs are available to people with disabilities? Who has access and who doesn't?
- Who is completing oversight and compliance with ADA? How are agencies held accountable?

#### Resources:

- We Will Ride Campaign - <https://joinwewillride.org/>
- Transit Planning 4 All - <http://www.acltoolkit.com/>
- National Aging and Disability Transportation Center - <https://www.nadtc.org/>
- Every Ride Counts - <https://www.nadtc.org/everyridecounts/>
- Community Transportation Association of America - <https://ctaa.org/>