

POLICY AND ORGANIZATION GROUP

Committee Triennial Strategic Plan (TSP)

Committee Name and Number: ABE60, Accessible Transportation and Mobility

Committee Co-Chairs: Julie Babinard, World Bank (April 2015 – April 2018)
Joey Goldman, Nelson\Nygaard Consulting (April 2015 – April 2018)

TSP Three-Year Period: April 2015 to April 2018

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Committee Future Outlook Statement:

Current Committee Scope

- To study factors that limit people's mobility, especially those with limited transport options (persons with disabilities, frail and older persons/seniors, the economically disadvantaged);
- To analyze ways in which various modes of transportation and mobility options could best meet their preferences and needs, particularly those incorporating the principles of universal and inclusive design;
- To research and disseminate information about accessible transportation for all;
- To examine how mobility management systems and coordinated transportation can address the travel preferences and needs of people with disabilities and older adults;
- To encourage new approaches to improve mobility and to evaluate the impact of mobility improvement programs; and
- To serve as a knowledge platform to exchange best practice for accessibility and mobility worldwide, with particular emphasis on the effectiveness and benefits of identified practices, and on user behavior.

Factors and Influences that Will Shape the Committee's Activities

Since 1995, the focus of the TRB Committee on Accessible Transportation and Mobility has changed significantly from that of the original Committee on Specialized Transportation. This is mainly because accessibility has become a feature of mainstream public transportation and not a separate specialized activity. There is increasing awareness of and commitment to incorporating access into transportation planning, design, and services.

Accessible transportation through universal and inclusive design is one of the most important messages that the committee is currently discussing with the various groups involved in providing seamless accessible transportation. An aspect of this is the importance of safe and accessible provisions for pedestrian mobility, without which other types of accessible transportation are much less effective. This Committee's mandate is to open up informed debate, to provide technical, policy and research leadership on issues relating to the mobility needs of individuals and groups with limited transport options (people with mobility, sensory and cognitive disabilities, older adults, and those without private transportation).

With the growth in the ageing population in most countries , the committee is also dedicated to ensuring mobility options that will provide people with disabilities, older people and others with limited options a high level of service while remaining affordable and sustainable. This is necessary to enable people to participate fully in every aspect of social and economic life. Europe is projected to remain the most aged region in the coming decades, with 34 percent of the population aged 60 or over in 2050, followed by North America (27 percent), Latin America and the Caribbean (25 percent), Asia, (24 percent) and Oceania (23 percent). Committee looks to share experience internationally.

Because accessibility is central to making transportation easier and more attractive for everyone to use, the activities of the Committee on Accessible Transportation and Mobility touch on the activities of transportation providers in all modes, and on the provision of safe and accessible pedestrian infrastructure. We have cooperated with other TRB Committees, particularly with the Paratransit Committee, Pedestrian Committees, and the Committee on the Safe Mobility of Older Persons. We see this kind of cooperative working with other committees increasing. In particular, we see a need to develop a closer working relationship with committees that address environmental sustainability, energy supply, livable communities, transportation facilities and public involvement.

As the committee expands its international efforts and focus on developing areas of the world, there is also a need to focus on affordable and appropriate methods and means for achieving accessibility and mobility. The UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities is an example of an international agreement that has raised awareness of the issues of disability and brought some momentum for cross country discussion on these issues. There are also partners who have growing agendas on issues addressed by the committee, such as the World Bank, International Transport Forum (ITF), EMBARQ, and the Institute for Transportation Development and Policy (ITDP).

Committee Plan:

Emerging issues inside and outside the committee scope

The committee has identified several emerging issues. These include research issues, awareness issues, and committee membership issues.

Research Issues

A review of the literature and possible new research is needed in the following areas:

- a) Factors and solutions for improving accessibility and mobility for the following groups:
 - People with cognitive impairments and mental health problems: Because these impairments are often not apparent or visible to others, they may cause particular problems. It is important that people with these challenges are able to travel with dignity and in comfort. Particular emphasis is needed on addressing the growing number of people with dementia (including Alzheimer’s disease) and how to ensure that they are able to continue to travel safely as long as possible.

- People with multiple disabilities: Understanding the travel issues of people with multiple disabilities and developing services and designs that address these needs.
 - Older people: The mobility and transportation preferences and needs of an ageing population, and approaches for meeting them in a sustainable way are required.
 - Economically disadvantaged individuals: Choice and use of transportation is determined by economic position for many people. It is important to find ways of servicing these groups adequately, especially for job access and employment.
 - People with disabilities who are unable to travel independently: establish the extent mobility is affected by lack of personal attendants.
 - Seniors, people with disabilities and people with limited income who do not speak the local language.
- b) Identify the key elements of good access solutions, develop ways of assessing how to transfer them between areas, countries and continents, and build capacity to implement strategies that work.
 - c) Accessible pedestrian infrastructure: To ensure the availability of appropriate design and infrastructure for an ageing population, and to facilitate independent mobility for people with disabilities, it is becoming more important to have a barrier free pedestrian environment. Additional research on ways to make the pedestrian environment accessible, safe, and convenient, and to include appropriate amenities is needed. The research also needs to address the sometimes conflicting needs of persons with various types of disabilities as well as other travelers, who may be using various types of mobility devices and sharing pedestrian pathways.
 - d) Explore the application of concepts such as ‘inclusive design’, ‘universal design’ and ‘barrier-free’ environments to the entire trip chain, including accessible terminals and infrastructure, and accessible travel information (in print, at facilities, and via electronic means).
 - e) Demonstrate new technologies on public transportation as well as private and individual modes.
 - f) Demonstrate the application of advanced technologies on accessible transport, e.g. Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), social networking, smart cards, security systems, trip scheduling systems, cellular phones and Global Positioning Systems (GPS).
 - g) Explore how mobility management systems and coordinated transportation planning can address the travel preferences and needs of older persons and persons with disabilities.
 - h) Examine strategies for transitioning young people who are leaving the educational system to inclusive public transportation.
 - i) Identify higher education curricula needed to train future professionals in the principles of accessible transportation design and operation.
 - j) Through international participation in TRB and US activities, identify international examples of best practice for wider dissemination. In particular, continue to support the triennial TRANSED conferences as the principal showcase of accessible transportation worldwide.
 - k) Examine the common aspects of land use developments and transportation systems that provide independent mobility for older people and people with disabilities, with those

that are environmentally sustainable and with those that are resilient to possible future threats to energy supplies.

- l) Quantify the economic and social costs and benefits of enabling people with disabilities and other disadvantaged people to lead independent and economically active lives.
- m) Assess and disseminate information on practices for meeting the multimodal travel needs of older adults, people with disabilities, and economically disadvantaged individuals, including but not limited to solutions involving rail, buses, paratransit, ships/ferries, airplanes, personal vehicles, taxis, bicycles, personal mobility devices, and pedestrian infrastructure.

Awareness Issues

Raise the awareness of accessibility for all in TRB activities, for example,

- a) Encourage other TRB committees with modal focus to take account of accessibility in their service and operational plans.
- b) Disseminate information about the concept that accessibility is no longer a specialized topic, but a mainstream part of the planning, design and operation of all passenger transport services.
- c) Perform accessibility audit on TRB meeting facilities and information material, including poster and paper preparation guidelines, meeting rooms, video conferencing facilities, sign language interpretation, travel scholarships for disabled delegates, accessible TRB web page, TTD, etc.
- d) Suggest that TRB include the symbol of accessibility on the front page of the TRB program brochure, provided the meeting facilities and information achieve a satisfactory standard of accessibility in accordance with U.S. law and best practice.

Membership Issues

The committee has widened its membership in the following categories, and should continue to strengthen and broaden its membership base:

- a) Professionals and students with disabilities: to foster the understanding of existing mobility problems, from the user's perspective.
- b) Manufacturers and suppliers: This group can help to implement practical and practicable accessible technologies and to disseminate research results.
- c) Young professionals: Active involvement of young professionals working in the transportation field will ensure new ideas, vitality, commitment and continuity into the future.
- d) Government: Government involvement is important for funding, policy development, promoting and monitoring accessible transportation at all levels (local, regional, state/provincial, and national). It also provides resources for researchers.
- e) Diversity: Consideration to be given to attract members in terms of ethnicity, gender, disabilities, geographical representation, both nationally and internationally.
- f) Linkage to other TRB Committees: Accessibility is a horizontal concern to many modal committees. Members drawn from committees such as transportation data, tribal

transportation, non-motorized transportation, safe mobility of older persons, etc. would enable cross-fertilization of ideas and concerted action.

- g) Linkage to other organizations: Develop working relationships, through membership or member contacts, with development banks and specialized agencies promoting sustainable, livable cities.

Current Goals

The committee has identified the following three primary goals:

1. To foster and contribute to the development of new accessible transportation technologies, approaches to developing accessible mobility solutions, and innovative practices internationally,
2. To strengthen TRB's activities in the accessible transportation and mobility area while maintaining TRB's role in contributing to improved highway transportation for older drivers and drivers with disabilities.
3. To advance professional knowledge and the application of good practices worldwide in the fields of accessible transportation and mobility.

Projects and Activities

The following projects and activities will be pursued to meet the committee's three primary goals:

Planned Activities for Goal 1

- Encourage members and friends of the Committee to participate in regional, national and international conferences on accessible transportation to learn from, share and disseminate good practice.

Planned Activities for Goal 2

- Propose at least one Synthesis Topic per year;
- Propose at least one TCRP/ESPA/NCHRP Research Statement per year;
- Continue annual Committee and Subcommittee meetings and sponsor at least two sessions at Annual Meetings;
- Develop cooperation and sponsor joint sessions at Annual Meetings in collaboration with other TRB Committees;
- Encourage members to serve on Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) Research Panels. The committee should nominate at least one member to serve on a panel per year;
- Publish research papers in Transportation Research Records.

Planned Activities for Goal 3

- Encourage members to contribute papers and presentations to journals, conferences and other meetings on accessible transportation and mobility;

- Support a Conference on Mobility and Transportation for Elderly and Disabled People (TRANSED) every three years and maintain the secretariat as a mechanism to sustain it beyond the most recent conference;
- Encourage members to provide peer review to non-TRB journals;
- Increase liaison and co-operative activities with related TRB standing committees, (e.g. Paratransit, Safe Mobility for Older Persons, Rural and Intercity Bus Transportation, ITS, etc.) to exchange ideas and information;
- Encourage TCRP/Project ACTION/NHSTA management to involve members from our committees in research programs;
- Continue to administer the William Bell Award in recognition of members with significant contribution in the field;
- Survey members and friends to solicit ideas on Committee-building;
- Provide information and outreach to members during the year about Committee activities and opportunities for participation;
- Continue to update the Committee Strategic Plan every three years and more often if needed.

Proposed Changes in Scope

No changes in the scope or title are needed at this time.

Appendix A - Committee History

Committee website

www.trbaccessmobility.org

Committee Membership Characteristics (number, international, emeritus, young, gender, racial diversity, professional affiliations)

Currently there are 31 members and five Emeritus members. This includes 14 International members and three Young Members.

The geographical distribution of U. S. members and the national distribution of non-U. S. members is shown in the following table.

Location	# of Members
United States	
Northeast	2
Mid-Atlantic	8
South	3
Midwest	2
Southwest	3
West	2
Northwest	2
International	
Canada	4
China	1
England	3
France	2
India	1
Mexico	1
Portugal	1
Scotland	1

There are 19 female members and 17 male members. There are 11 minority members and four members with disabilities.

Professional affiliations of members are shown in the following table.

Professional Affiliation	# of Members
Consultant	9
Nat'l and Int'l aid, industry assoc. and non-profit organizations	6
Nat'l and Int'l government and government research	8
University and university research	12
Private transportation provider	1

Subcommittees and their chairs

The committee has four subcommittees:

- ABE60(1): International Activities Subcommittee (Ann Frye and Nina Frid, Co-Chairs)
- ABE60(2): Technology Subcommittee (Daniel Blais and Aaron Steinfeld, Co-Chairs)
- ABE60(3): Research Subcommittee (Karen Wolf-Branigin and Anabela Simoes, Co-Chairs)
- ABE60(5): TRANSED Planning Subcommittee (Ann Frye and Nina Frid, Co-Chairs)

The committee also jointly sponsors two other subcommittees:

- APO60(2): Taxi Subcommittee (with the Paratransit Committee)
- ANB60(3): Senior Mobility Options Joint Subcommittee (with the Safe Mobility of Older Persons Committee)

Committee and Subcommittee Meeting Attendance

Attendance for ABE60 and its subcommittees for 2013-2015 is provided in the table below. Attendance for APO60(2) is provided in the Paratransit Committee Strategic Plan; attendance for ANB60(3) is provided in the Safe Mobility of Older Persons Committee Strategic Plan.

	Jan. 2013	Jan. 2014	Jan. 2015
ABE60 Main Committee	21 Members 35 Guests	27 Members 32 Guests	22 Members 21 Guests
ABE60(1): International Activities Subcommittee	15 Members 12 Guests	18 Members 12 Guests	14 Members 11 Guests
ABE60(2): Technology Subcommittee	13 Members 10 Guests	18 Members 13 Guests	12 Members 10 Guests
ABE60(3): Research Subcommittee	9 Members 15 Guests	16 Members 8 Guests	17 Members 13 Guests
ABE60(5): TRANSED Planning Subcommittee	17 Members 13 Guests	23 Members 14 Guests	12 Members 10 Guests

Other TRB Committee Relationships

Members of the committee are also active in other TRB committees, including:

- ITS
- Safe Mobility for Older Persons
 - Senior Mobility Options Joint Subcommittee
 - Older Women's Activities Subcommittee
- Pedestrian
- Paratransit
 - Taxi Subcommittee
- Rural & Intercity
- Rail
- Airport Terminals and Ground Access
- Ferry Transportation

Developing Countries
Women's Issues
Tribal Transportation
School Bus
International
Vehicle User Characteristics
Economics
Traffic Control Devices
User Information
Automated Road Vehicles
Education and Training

Outside Organization Liaisons

Through its members, the committee maintains an ongoing relationship with the following agencies and organizations:

World Bank
Easter Seals Project ACTION
National Center for Senior Transportation
Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
French Ministry of Ecology, Energy and Sustainable Development (CERTU)
French Institute for Sciences and Technologies on Transportation, Development and Networks (IFSTTAR)
National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Canadian Transportation Agency
Transport Canada
Federal Transit Administration
French Institute for Sciences and Technologies on Transportation, Development and Networks
Veterans Administration
Institute for Transportation and Development Policy
The Institution of Highways and Education
Federal Highway Administration

Annual Meeting and Research Activities

Following is a summary of workshops and sessions sponsored, research statements generated, and research published from 2009 through 2012 to be provided.

2013

Workshops (1): Co-sponsored workshop 177 – “Creating Age Friendly and Accessible Travel Environments.”

Podium Sessions (4): Co-sponsored sessions 306 and 369 – “Preserving and Extending Mobility for Seniors, Parts 1 and 2

Sponsored sessions 591 and 690

Poster Sessions (1): Session 560 with 10 posters

Research Statements (5): Two full research statements: "Determining the Optimum Role of Accessible Taxis in Paratransit Service," and; "Maximizing Benefits and Addressing Challenges of Volunteer Driver Transportation Programs." Three synthesis statements: "Volunteer Driver Transportation Programs – Best Practices;" "Educational Programs in Universal Design and Accessibility: A Review of Availability," and; "'Soft' Factors that Limit Accessibility."

Research Published: Four papers recommended for publication: Schoon, J., "Sight Distances For Disabled Pedestrians At Crossings: Methodology Comparison With Other Modes;" Kim, S., "Transportation in An Aging Society: The Link Between Transportation and Quality of Life;" Berlingerio, M., "A System for Improving the Accessibility of the Urban Transportation Network," and; "Pearlman, J., "Development of Surface Roughness Standards for Pathways Used by Wheelchairs."

2014

Workshops (3): Co-sponsored three workshops: 207 – "Transit's Reach: First Mile-Last Mile;" 1551 – Mobility for All Users: Understanding Barriers for Working-Age Adults with Cognitive Impairments and Anxiety Disorders;" and 142 – Opportunities for Accommodating New Technologies, Apps, Data Capture In Improving and Regulating Taxis."

Podium Sessions (2): Sessions 719 and 801

Poster Sessions (1): Session 260 with 12 posters

Research Statements (5): Three full research statement: "Transportation to Dialysis Centers: Health/Transportation Policy Intersection;" "Effects of automated pedestrian detection on pedestrians with visual impairments;" "Countdown Pedestrian Signals: Accuracy of Response by Pedestrians with Varying Levels of Visual Acuity." Two synthesis statements: "ADA Fixed Route Rider-Assistance Practices on Ramp Equipped Vehicles;" "ADA Paratransit Assessment Centers and Other Facilities for Transit Riders with Disabilities: Current Practices."

Research Published: Four papers recommended for publication: Meninger, H., "ADA Cost Savings and Increased Fixed-Route Ridership through Transit Agency-Provided Travel Training;" Quadrioglio, L., Innovative Operating Strategies for Paratransit Service with Zoning;" Krepp, B., "Developing Section 508 Compliant Document Production Protocols and Websites," and; Weyrer, T., "Intermodal Door-to-Door Routing for people with Physical Impairments in a Web-based Open Source Platform."

2015

Workshops (1): Co-sponsored workshop 867 – The Urgent Need for Improved Pedestrian Infrastructure and Options

Podium Sessions (2): Sponsored Sessions 330 and 394

Poster Sessions (1): Sponsored Session 638 with 9 posters

Research Statements (4): Two full research statements: “Accessible Wayfinding for Transit Facilities,” and; “Paratransit Vehicle Design and Fleet Mix.” Two synthesis statements: “Educational programs in Universal Design and Accessibility,” and “Social Service Transportation, How Good Is It? Productivity and Service Quality Data, Reporting and Peer Reviews.”

Research Published: TBD. 2 papers accepted and submitted for publication

TRANSED Conferences and Conference Proceedings

One of the primary, ongoing activities of the committee is to sponsor the International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled People (TRANSED) series. TRANSED conferences have been organized and held every two to three years since 1978. In September 2012, the 13th TRANSED was held in Delhi, India, hosted by Svayam. The conference was attended by 628 delegates from 34 countries. A total of 110 papers were presented and published in the conference proceedings.

The committee also accepted proposals for the 14th and 15th TRANSED conferences, which will be held in Lisbon, Portugal in July 2015, and Taipei, Taiwan in September 2018.