Addressing Transportation and Accessibility for All

An Accessible Chain of Travel
Invisible Disabilities
People with Disabilities in the Transit Workforce
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Learn more about the Transportation Research Board at www.TRB.org.
3 Addressing Transportation and Accessibility for All
Todd Hansen, Jill Hough, and Judy Shanley
From individuals with disabilities that affect the senses and physical movement to the concerns of older adults and those with invisible disabilities that present cognitive issues, the authors look at innovations and their applications in myriad settings that make transportation for this population easier or, at times, possible for everyday living.

5 One Step at a Time: Integrating Inclusive Mobility into Transportation Planning and Service Delivery
Jordana Maisel, Albert Benedict, Nate Seeskin, Steven Winters, and Judy Shanley
A lack of public transportation services and programs can create mobility barriers for those who rely most heavily on them. The authors describe how inclusive design incorporated into transportation planning can address this problem.

10 Challenges and Opportunities: Accessible Paths to Transit
Amy O’Hara, Yochai Eisenberg, and Ned Schweikert
Signed into law 33 years ago, the Americans with Disabilities Act has removed or eased many barriers faced by people with disabilities. However, there is still work to be done. The authors highlight remaining gaps that create barriers, examine holistic solutions, and look at funding sources for departments of transportation.

14 Enter Innovation! Rounding Out Rural Mobility Service Design and Delivery
Todd Hansen, Steve Yaffe, Will Rodman, and Matthew Daus
Wide open spaces and long distances between destinations are hallmarks of rural living. However, such features—along with the transportation needs of an aging population—present challenges for rural communities, among them a lack of personal mobility options. The authors examine innovative service models that help fill the gap in this geographic setting.

18 Transit Technology for Everyone
Krista Purser, Kevin Chambers, and Thomas Craig
For the most part, public transportation technology has favored urban riders without disabilities. However, equal access and useful technology designed for riders with disabilities and those in rural areas are needed. The authors define public transportation technology, describe its limitations, and offer strategies to help transportation agencies and regulators implement technology innovations.

22 Mobility for All
Mei-Yee Man Oram, Eazaz Sadeghvaziri, Ramina Javid, Anabela Simões, and Del Peterson
Transportation infrastructure and services create a path to improving social mobility, but they have tended to accommodate the largest number of people. This approach may contribute to creating or perpetuating barriers for those with mobility needs. The authors outline the gaps in collecting and interpreting data and look at solutions that result in inclusive mobility.

27 A Seat at the Table: Transportation Decision Making in Rural, Tribal, and Frontier Areas
V. Dimitra Pyrialakou, Natalie Villwock-Witte, and Vanitha Murthy
While engaging residents of rural, tribal, and sparsely populated frontier areas in discussions about transportation needs can be challenging, it is important that they have a voice—particularly older adults, people with disabilities, and those who lack reliable transportation options. The authors present case examples of communities that are successfully gathering around the table.

31 Breaking Barriers to Healthy Food and Healthcare
Jeremy Mattson, Ipek Nese Sener, and Jill Hough
The importance of transportation that enables access to healthy, affordable food and healthcare was emphasized during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The benefits of good nutrition and prompt healthcare are measurable and, especially in rural or underresourced areas, may outweigh the cost of transportation services.
35 Invisible Disabilities: Seeing the Unseen
*Steven Jones, Roger Mackett, and Julia Castillo*

Transportation agencies are responding to the special travel needs of those with invisible disabilities: conditions such as an inability to recall or interpret information, or fatigue, chronic pain, anxiety, confusion, and other health-related symptoms that impact an individual’s ability to use public transportation. The overarching journey, however, is one to inclusivity.

38 Opening Doors: Including People with Disabilities in the Transit Workforce
*Judy Shanley, Shayna Gleason, and Patricia Greenfield*

When it comes to people with disabilities, transit agencies have typically viewed them as riders with mobility needs to be addressed. However, hiring challenges in the transit workforce are contributing to a change in perspective. The authors discuss how transit agencies are including people with disabilities in their workforce and recognizing the benefits of the experience these employees offer.

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*Willie L. Brown, University of Maryland Eastern Shore*

41 Members on the Move

TRB COVID-19 Resources

Agencies and organizations can use TRB publications and online resources for useful and timely information to help address issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic. To read about TRB’s current research and activities, and for a list of relevant publications, visit www.nationalacademies.org/trb/blog/transpiration-in-the-face-of-communicable-disease.

42 Profiles
*Christopher “Kit” Mitchell, Transport Research Laboratory (retired), and Benito Pérez, Transportation for America*

44 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

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The September–October 2023 issue of TR News explores the theme of transportation in rural areas. The authors look at such topics as the availability of automated vehicles and associated infrastructure, how research and workshops inform transportation along low-volume roads, and how a vast network of airports serves Alaska’s traveling public.

**Coming Next Issue**

The September–October 2023 issue of TR News explores the theme of transportation in rural areas. The authors look at such topics as the availability of automated vehicles and associated infrastructure, how research and workshops inform transportation along low-volume roads, and how a vast network of airports serves Alaska’s traveling public.

A Pilatus PC-12 aircraft, part of the Ryan Alaska Air fleet, is prepared for take-off in the state’s rural outreaches. Larger than Texas, California, and Montana combined, much of Alaska is inaccessible on the ground. However, a broad network of private airlines, airports, and airstrips keeps the public moving.

**TR NEWS**

features articles on innovative and timely research and development activities in all modes of transportation. Brief news items of interest to the transportation community are also included, along with profiles of transportation professionals, meeting announcements, summaries of new publications, and news of Transportation Research Board activities.

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