



Accessible Transportation Resource Center

NATAN Newsletter

National Accessible Transportation Accelerator Network

December 22, 2023

Happy Holidays NATAN! This month in accessible transportation:

- Watch a webinar on inclusive transportation
- Explore a learning module on universal mobility
- Provide feedback to the USDOT on the accessibility of public transit for people with disabilities

Also, check out our [press release on the ATRC's first Steering Committee meeting](#)! The Steering Committee is made up of 20 members who bring experience from their lived experiences as people with disabilities, older adults, community engagement and outreach, and manufacturing. During their first meeting, the Steering Committee shared why accessible transportation matters to them and began developing a framework for prioritization of issues. Committee members also shared their biggest issues with accessible transportation, including pedestrian safety issues and lack of transit options during the evenings and weekends.

The National Accessible Transportation Accelerator Network (NATAN) Newsletter is the ATRC's monthly update on accessible transportation around the nation. Keep reading to learn about upcoming events, resources, opportunities, and more.

Events & Trainings

USDOT Advisory Committee on Transportation Equity (ACTE): Virtual Public Meeting

January 5, 2024 | 2:30PM – 4:30 PM Eastern Time

The meeting will be held via Zoom. Access the meeting, a detailed agenda for the entire meeting, meeting minutes, and additional information on ACTE and its activities on the [USDOT website](#) and [register for the public meeting here](#). The registration form will close on Thursday, January 4.

Webinar: The Role of Person-Centered Planning for Employment Support

January 9, 2024 | 3:00PM Eastern Time

As we kick off a new year, join the Disability Employment Technical Assistance Center (DETAC) and the National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems (NCAPPS) for a webinar focused on strengthening the connection between person-centered planning and advancing competitive, integrated employment.

[Register for the person-centered planning webinar here](#).

Webinar: Making Videos Accessible from the AT3 Center

January 18, 2024 | 3:00PM Eastern Time

Using video content is now essential for disability service organizations. Join Lyssa Prince of Oklahoma ABLE Tech to learn about making your videos accessible to all audiences. Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org.

[Register for the AT3 Webinar here](#).

Featured Resources

Webinar: Inclusive Transportation – The Long Game with Veronica Davis

The Ohio State University's Center for Urban and Regional Analysis (CURA) and the Kirwan Institute hosted a webinar on inclusive planning for transportation projects on December 1. Veronica O. Davis, a civil engineer and director of transportation and drainage operations for the city of Houston, presented on her experience working on transit projects in Houston and Washington DC. [Watch the webinar with Veronica Davis on YouTube](#) or [read more about the inclusive transportation webinar here](#).

A Universal Mobility Implementation Resource

New mobility solutions have provided more options for the public to travel, and transit agencies have increasingly explored these options to enhance their services. Public transit and its riders must be at the center of this mobility ecosystem, and while these new mobility options hold great promise, deliberate planning and attention are needed to ensure that they are equitable and universally available. This resource defines universal mobility, offers insight into the importance of various universal mobility components, and provides recommendations and resources to promote universal mobility. [Check out the learning module on universal mobility by SUMC and NCMM here](#).

From Our Partners

NCMM 2024 Mobility Management Forum

This year's event will cover the role of public transit in the delivery of non-emergency medical transportation, including a review of the recently released CMS "Medicaid Transportation Coverage Guide"; mobility management in "wrap around" support services; transportation and substance use disorder treatment; and multiple other promising practices, including a highlight on what's happening in Florida. Our keynote speaker will be Dana Brumitt, an expert in health and wellness in older adults. Dana has a long career background in corporate learning and development and now concentrates on designing initiatives that promote health and wellbeing for seniors. The Forum will wrap up with its traditional Ice Cream and Cookies social. [Register for the forum now](#).

NCATT: Technical Assistance Applications Now Open

The National Center for Applied Transit Technology (N-CATT) is now accepting applications for transit agencies to receive one-on-one technical assistance through the Center's [Strategic Technology Technical Assistance Teams \(STTATs\)](#). N-CATT will work with transportation providers to navigate a technology challenge or opportunity that results in a useful starting product for the agency, such as an implementation plan or ready-to-go technology solicitation. We will review and accept applications on a rolling basis based on our capacity, so please apply when you're able! Please submit your application in one document in PDF format to carpenter@ctaa.org.

Federal Opportunities

[Exploring the Future of Public Transportation Research: An ePolicyWorks National Online Dialogue](#)

This important virtual conversation aims to make public transit safer, cleaner, greener as well as more resilient, inclusive and equitable. Visit ExploringFutureTransit.IdeaScale.com now through January 5, 2024, to share your ideas, or comment and vote on ideas submitted by others! At the conclusion of the dialogue, the Department of Transportation will analyze the results to inform FTA's strategic plan for transit research and guide FTA's future funding opportunities to support public transit and improve access to jobs for people with disabilities.

USDOT Request for Information

To promote equity in public transportation, the U.S. Department of Transportation has published a [Request for Information](#) (RFI) in the Federal Register to seek public comment on ways to improve the accessibility of public transportation facilities for people with disabilities. The Department strives to provide equitable access so that people with disabilities are able to use and navigate public transit with the same ease, reliability, and independence as any other user. Input from transit riders, adaptive technology professionals, and the transit industry is critically important in informing USDOT as it contemplates potential enhancements to the [ADA standards](#). Please visit the [RFI link](#) to provide feedback by January 5, 2024.

Accessible Transportation News

[The ATRC Holds First Steering Committee Meeting](#)

The Accessible Transportation Resource Center (ATRC) is thrilled to announce that we have held our first steering committee meeting.

[People with disabilities hope autonomous vehicles deliver independence](#)

“GRAND RAPIDS, Minn. — Myrna Peterson predicts self-driving vehicles will be a ticket out of isolation and loneliness for people like her, who live outside big cities and have disabilities that prevent them from driving.”
Source: Indiana Capital Chronicle.

[After losing vision, passenger brings new perspective to transit accessibility](#)

“After Annie Young lost her vision several years ago, she saw transit as key to maintaining her independence. So, she made it her mission to do what she could to help it feel safer to get around on buses and trains.”
Source: Metro Transit.

[Federal grant awarded to Oklahoma for accessible rural transportation](#)

“The Biden-Harris administration is awarding a grant to rural and tribal communities in Oklahoma for transportation needs. The money could help people with disabilities and seniors get to where they need to be.” *Source: KOSU NPR.*

[Biden Administration Announces More Than \\$300 Million Available to Make Transit Stations Accessible for All](#)

“The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced the availability of \$343 million in Fiscal Year 2024 federal funding to make it easier for people with disabilities and mobility needs to access some of the nation's oldest and busiest rail transit systems through essential upgrades, such as elevators. Hundreds of transit stations built before 1990, known as legacy stations, are not accessible to people with disabilities.” *Source: USDOT.*

[Millions of Americans Poised to Lose Primary Transportation](#)

“Millions of Americans are at risk of losing key modes of transportation as intercity bus depots close down en masse in many cities due to rising operation costs and loss of government funding, among other reasons.”
Source: Newsweek.

[Business Sense: Embracing ADA accessibility: Fostering cultural inclusion and economic prosperity](#)

“While compliance with ADA requirements can be costly, it's imperative to understand that adhering to these guidelines can profoundly impact both our culture and economy.” *Source: Times Standard.*

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