



Accessible Transportation Resource Center

NATAN Newsletter

National Accessible Transportation Accelerator Network

March 28, 2024

Hello NATAN Members,

Welcome to Spring! The past month has been full of exciting news and opportunities in accessible transportation. Here are a few highlights:

- [FHWA's new Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program \(ATIIP\)](#) will focus on building networks of connected bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements.
- The [National Aging and Disability Transportation Center's 2023 Innovations Showcase](#) presents 14 innovative transportation practices selected from a nationwide competition.
- The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is [seeking public comments on a new proposed rule](#) designed to ensure airline passengers who use wheelchairs can travel safely and with dignity.

Keep reading to learn more! Also, be sure to check out a new section of the NATAN Newsletter: **The Transportation Accessibility Research Round-Up**. This section spotlights three papers published in the first quarter of 2024 that advance research on accessible transportation.

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

Upcoming Events & Trainings

Vertical Access: Elevators, Lifts, and Stairs

April 4, 2024 | 2:30PM – 4:00PM Eastern Time

Vertical access between different levels along accessible routes is a crucial aspect of accessibility. This session will address the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and clarify common sources of confusion when providing vertical access. [Learn more and register for this US Access Board webinar here.](#)

Common Myths and Mix-Ups: Accessibility Standards

April 17, 2024 | 2:00PM – 3:30PM Eastern Time

Certain provisions in the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design are prone to misinterpretation or are not applied correctly and generate many of the non-compliant accessibility issues in new construction and the alteration of existing facilities. This webinar will review and clarify common sources of confusion in the standards, including application of the standards in new construction and alterations, electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, toilet and bathing rooms, signage, accessible routes and ground surfaces, and other areas and elements. [Learn more and register for this Mid-Atlantic ADA Center webinar here.](#)

Featured Resources

[Equity in Practice: Strengthening Transit through Community Partnerships](#)

This report from TransitCenter explores LA Metro's strategies for engaging in partnerships with community-based organizations. Part of this strategy is incorporating the perspective of community members.

[NADTC 2023 Innovations Showcase](#)

The National Aging and Disability Transportation Center's 2023 Innovations Showcase presents 14 innovative transportation practices selected from a nationwide competition. The Showcase profiles out-of-the-box thinking in six categories: Accessibility, Coordination, Cross Jurisdictional Boundaries, Equity, Health Care Access and Technology.

Community Transportation Map

The Community Transportation Map is a record of FTA funded transportation agencies across the nation and it now shows a heat map of agencies nationwide. Mobility management and volunteer driver programs have been added to our service categories and we are asking for your help populating the map! Use our quick survey to submit your information so that you can be added. [See what the map can do](#) and [add or update your information](#).

[AAA Longitudinal Research on Aging Drivers \(LongROAD\) Data User Guide](#)

The aim of the AAA Longitudinal Research on Aging Drivers (AAA LongROAD) study was to understand the natural history, determinants, and mechanisms of driving behavior, safety, and related outcomes among older drivers. The project's goal was to enhance safe mobility among older adults by developing and conducting a prospective cohort study of older drivers and generate an extensive data and knowledge base that will fuel future research and decision-making regarding older driver safety and mobility. This document serves as the data user guide for the 5-year multi-site AAA LongROAD study of 2,990 drivers aged 65–79 at baseline.

From Our Partners

Participate in a National Standards Survey

American Public Transportation Association (APTA) and Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) are seeking to identify current and future priorities for new standards and/or recommended practices development. A survey has been developed to gather responses from a wide section of the industry – transit agency personnel across disciplines and within each transit mode, transit industry associations, transit users and advocates, members of the academic community and other researchers, federal and state agency employees, consultants, industry vendors/business groups, and others. [You can access the survey here](#).

N-CATT Office Hours

The National Center for Applied Transit Technology (N-CATT) will be hosting six drop-in sessions in April for you to come and ask questions about GIS and data. No questions or queries are too big or too small; we're here to help point you in the right direction either in the office hours or in one-on-one technical assistance sessions. View the [sessions on N-CATT's events page](#). If you have any questions, please email helpdesk@n-catt.org.

Putting Your GTFS Data to Work

N-CATT is excited to announce a new workshop on April 31-May 2 from 2:00-4:30 PM EST. The workshop will cover the process of creating and validating a GTFS feed, how GTFS can help riders, and help transit agencies get a better understanding of what their GTFS feed is capable of. [Sign up for the workshop here!](#)

Federal Opportunities

Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$45 Million in Available Funds to Improve Bicyclist and Pedestrian Connectivity and Safety

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) announced today that it has opened applications for up to \$44.5 million in funding for projects that will strengthen safety and improve bicycling, walking and access to public transit in communities across the country. FHWA's new Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP), made possible by the President's Investing in America Agenda, is a competitive grant program that will focus on building networks of connected bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements, including to better connect trail networks between communities.

[Learn more about the grant opportunity here.](#)

Input Opportunity: Ensuring Wheelchair Users Can Fly with Dignity

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is seeking public comments on a new proposed rule designed to ensure airline passengers who use wheelchairs can travel safely and with dignity. The proposed rule would set new standards for prompt, safe, and dignified assistance; require enhanced training for airline employees and contractors who physically assist passengers with disabilities and handle passengers' wheelchairs; and specify actions that airlines must take to protect passengers when a wheelchair is damaged during transport.

[Comments can be submitted online, by mail or fax, or hand-delivered](#) through Monday, May 13, 2024.

Accessible Transportation News

[The Transportation Department proposes new rules for how airlines handle wheelchairs](#)

For people who use wheelchairs, air travel can be a nightmare. There are countless stories of wheelchairs damaged, delayed and even destroyed. Now the Biden administration is trying to change that by proposing new standards for how airlines must accommodate passengers with disabilities.

Source: NPR

[Website Streamlines Michigan Transit Information](#)

A new website from Disability Rights Michigan helps people with disabilities access information about transit options in the state, reports Shandra Martinez in Second Wave Michigan.

Source: Planetizen

[Civic Mapping Initiative Supports Transit Planning & Accessibility](#)

For the last few years, the public transportation needs of Americans have been changing faster than ever. In response, city leaders, planners, and transit agencies have been hard at work developing creative ways to improve and adapt transportation networks. A new resource from the National League of Cities (NLC) will support local leaders and transit planners in these efforts.

Source: NLC

[Centre to help people with disabilities access public transport unveiled](#)

A "first of its kind" centre has opened in north Dublin that aims to help people with disabilities become familiar with public transport and teach authorities how to design more accessible services.

Source: Breakingnews.ie

[An App That Helps Riders With Vision Loss Navigate Complex Transit Systems](#)

Finding the right bus stop can be a challenge for any transit rider. Some transit agencies are using an app to make wayfinding easier for blind and low-vision riders.

Source: Nextcity.org

Transportation Accessibility Research Round-Up

[TRansit ACcessibility Tool \(TRACT\): Developing a novel scoring system for public transportation system accessibility](#)

This project created an open data platform on accessibility information. The research team reviewed the twenty-six public transportation systems with the most federal funding in 2020 and scored each system in six accessibility information categories. You can [view the Public Transit Disability Dashboard here](#).

[Transportation for People with Disabilities and Older Adults During COVID-19: Lessons for Emergency Response \(2024\)](#)

This report from the Transit Research Board's Transit Cooperative Research Program examines lessons learned on transportation for people with disabilities and older adults during the COVID-19 pandemic and offers strategies for providing service during emergencies.

[Co-Designing Auditory Navigation Solutions for Traveling as a Blind Individual During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

This study interviewed blind or low-vision individuals (BLIs) to understand the effects of COVID-19 on the travel of BLIs. The paper provided recommendations for increasing travel and COVID-19 knowledge of BLIs based on these interviews.

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