

Advancing Complete Streets The Accessibility Component

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Easter Seals Project ACTION & the National Center on Senior Transportation

Project ACTION (Accessible Community Transportation in Our Nation)

Promoting cooperation between the transportation industry and the disability community since 1988

Increasing mobility for people with disabilities under the ADA and beyond through training, technical assistance, and resources

Funded through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration

National Center on Senior Transportation (NCST)

Increasing transportation options for older adults and enhancing their ability to live more independently within their communities



Four Core Activities

- Training
- Technical Assistance
- Research
- Outreach – Website & newsletters
- Publications and resource materials
- Social media, conferences, & advisory committees



ESPA Coalition Event 2010
Allen County, Ohio

Training Resources

- ***Distance Learning Webinars***
- 2010 - Building Livable Communities through Increased Pedestrian Access; Using the *Toolkit for Assessing Bus Stop Accessibility and Safety*
- 2011- Planning for Accessibility of Livable and Sustainable Communities
- Creating Livable, Accessible Communities by Completing Our Streets
- Environmental Barrier Analysis



Training Resources

In-Person Events

- **Accessible Transportation Coalitions Initiative**
 - Held annually by application; 10 communities in 2011
 - Consists of a 2-day event with 1 year of follow-up technical assistance
 - Local discussion and planning among disability, transportation, and community officials



King County ATCI

Technical Assistance

National (800) Line Available

- Monday-Friday 9 am to 5 pm Eastern
- **(800) 659-6428** or
projectaction@easterseals.com
- ADA requirements, service animals, paratransit
- Transit facility access, pedestrian access, community coordination
- Involving people with disabilities in the planning process





Research

- **ESPA and NCST staff support Transportation Research Board advisory panels**
- **ESPA collaborates with university researchers**
- **Recent projects:**
 - Carnegie-Mellon (RERC-APT) and University at Buffalo Universal Design
 - University of Illinois at Chicago, Texas A&M and University of California-Berkley Transportation, Health & Wellness Connection



Outreach – Resources & Publications

- **Reaching out through:**
 - Print and e-newsletters, conferences, website and social media, products, and publications
- **Universal Design and Access Resources**
 - *Accessible Pathways & Livable Communities Pocket Guide*
 - Getting There Together training activity (online)
 - *Toolkit for the Assessment of Bus Stop Accessibility and Safety*



Technical Assistance Questions What We're Hearing...

- How do we fund improvements?
- Who owns the bus stop property? Who is responsible for taking care of it?
- How do we handle barriers such as overgrown trees?
- How do we advocate for accessible bus stops in our community?
- How do we form public-private partnerships to improve or maintain a transit stop or facility?
- How can we make fixed-route transit more accessible?

Raising Awareness of the Accessibility Component of Complete Streets

• Accessible Pathways & Livable Communities Pocket Guide

- For planners, public works, local officials & advocates
- Basics for getting started in your community



What We're Trying to Avoid



**What We're
Trying
to Accomplish**



Photos: National Complete
Streets Coalition

Community Actions to Develop Accessible Infrastructure

Include people with disabilities in the planning process

Describing gaps in service/identifying environmental barriers

Prioritizing improvements and providing feedback on pathway alteration during construction

Incorporate accessible features into transportation facility design

Wider fare gates at transit facilities

Installing an additional elevator

Visual and audible pedestrian signals

Signal timing long enough for people to cross the street

Fundamental Steps for Improving the Traveler's Experience



Pedbikeimages.org / Jan Moser 2009

- **Community Action Steps for Improving Accessibility**
 - Improve bus stop and transit system accessibility
 - Conduct a community bus stop inventory
 - Barrier-free design, wayfinding, safety and warning detection
 - Design stops using ADA standards
 - Add benches, trash receptacles and bike storage
 - Protect riders against heat, cold and wind

Green Yet Accessible



Coordinate so that
landscaping doesn't
conflict with →
accessible parking
locations...



Pedbikeimages.org / Dan Burden 2006

Accessible Streetscapes

Curb Zone - pedestrians transition to the street

Furniture Zone - buffer between vehicles and pedestrians
(Landscaping, benches, signs, bike racks, etc.)

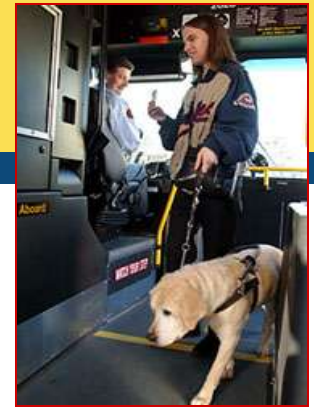
Pedestrian Zone - provides 5 to 6 feet of pedestrian or
wheelchair movement

Frontage Zone - entrances, doors, cafes, planters



Return on Investment

- **Benefits of Accessible Communities**
 - Assists 36 million people with disabilities in U.S. to live in an independent environment
 - Narrows the employment gap (39% employment rate for people with disabilities/80% for those without)
 - Helps maintain health and wellness
 - Reduces traffic and pedestrian fatalities
 - Provides safe mobility for seniors
 - Boosts economic and social vitality, protects environment & enhances community engagement



Other ESPA Resources

- **Print Resources include:**
 - *Accessible Pathways to Bus Stops and Transit: A Process Guide*
 - *Including People with Disabilities in Coordinated Transportation Plans*
 - *Universal Design and Accessible Transit Systems: Facts to Consider When Updating or Expanding Your Transit System*
- **ESPA & PBIC Online Toolkit**
 - *Getting There Together* – 2 hour adaptable training
 - Introductory level training (ADA 101, Signage, Paths of Travel, Pedestrian Signals)
 - Includes environmental barrier analysis form
 - Community-wide analysis

Other ESPA Resources

- **Bus Stop Accessibility Toolkit**

- *Accessible Pathways to Bus Stops and Transit: A Process Guide*

Transcript from June 2010 audio conferences
available at www.projectaction.org

Principles of barrier-free design

Bus stop checklist

Use of technology

Sample forms and policies



Livable Communities Partners

- **Partner Organization Support**
 - Co-sponsored publications and webinars
 - Website and newsletter features
 - Outreach events

Recent partnership endeavors:

- AARP
- American Public Transportation Association
- Community Transportation Association of America
- National Complete Streets Coalition
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center
- Regional Transportation Agencies



2011 Walk & Roll
Memphis, Tenn.

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