



Accessible Transportation Resource Center

NATAN Newsletter

National Accessible Transportation Accelerator Network

April 18, 2024

Hello NATAN Members,

Yesterday, April 17, was National Assistive Technology Awareness Day. According to the Administration for Community Living, “Assistive technology (AT) is any item, device, or piece of equipment used to maintain or improve the independence and function of people with disabilities and older adults.” Assistive technology can be essential to accessible transportation, and [the AT3 Center](#) has a wealth of resources on AT and transportation that you can explore.

More highlights from this month in accessible transportation include:

- A [white paper from Transit Planning 4 All](#) on inclusive planning practices,
- A video for transit personnel on [effective communication for travelers who are deafblind](#),
- And, article on [data related to traffic fatalities and injuries of people with disabilities](#).

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

Rural Transit Resources: Building Capacity and Resilience in Rural and Tribal Communities

May 2, 2024 | 2:00PM – 3:00PM Eastern Time

Your state or rural or tribal community may be eligible for – or already participating in – one of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development grant programs focused on issues such as economic development, community facilities, housing, or the environment. For some of the grants, transit vehicles or facilities may be an eligible expense. This webinar is for public transit and rural development stakeholders to learn about the USDA and FTA rural grants and technical assistance programs and how to be effective partners to make these projects successful. [Register for the webinar here](#).

USDOT Public Engagement Workshops

The U.S. Department of Transportation Office of the Secretary’s Office of Public Engagement is organizing a series of three in-person public involvement workshops in different locations across the country, between April and July 2024. The workshops will engage transportation practitioners on ways to deliver opportunities for meaningful public engagement, as well as community leaders and members of the public on the transportation decision-making processes and how stakeholders can ensure their voices are heard. [View the dates, cities, and registration information here](#).

Featured Resources

[Lessons Learned in Inclusive Transit Planning with Persons with Disabilities, Older Adults, and Priority Populations](#)

This white paper funded by Transit Planning 4 All identifies six principles for inclusive planning with people with disabilities, older adults, and other priority populations. For each principle, this paper details purposes, barriers addressed, specific strategies and techniques to implement the principle, and provides specific examples or case studies from transit agencies and planning organizations to aid others in operationalizing inclusive planning.

[Effective Communications with Travelers who are Deafblind](#)

View a new training video for frontline transit personnel on effective communication with passengers who are deafblind, developed by Sound Transit (Seattle) with participation from employees of the Lighthouse for the Blind and the DeafBlind Service Center in Seattle.

Meaningful Public Involvement in Transportation Decision-Making

On March 6, USDOT hosted a Meaningful Public Involvement in Transportation Decision-Making virtual training. The training provided an in-depth overview of DOT's [Promising Practices for Meaningful Public Involvement in Transportation Decision-Making](#), including key considerations, approaches, and techniques. The training also provided opportunities to share best practices and experiences in public engagement. [View the presentation slides from the March 6 training.](#)

From Our Partners

[National Center for Mobility Management: Community Transportation Map](#)

The Community Transportation Map is a record of FTA funded transportation agencies across the nation, now showing 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 the map [here](#).

Putting Your GTFS Data to Work

The National Center for Applied Transit Technology (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!](#)

[State of the Industry Technology Demonstration](#)

N-CATT is accepting applications for our first-ever State of the Industry Tech Demonstration, which will take place in Grand Rapids, Minn., from July 22- 25. We will gather a small group of transit operators to study goMARTI: an automated vehicle (AV) deployment in a small-town setting. The demonstration aims to help agencies already considering AV deployment get a better understanding of how AVs can work in transit systems to see how or if it would work for their community. Applications are due on May 3 at 5:00 p.m., Eastern. [Please see our website for detail about the application and the draft agenda.](#)

Federal Opportunities

New Research Funding on Mobile Applications For Use By People With Disabilities

The Administration for Community Living's [National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research](#) (NIDILRR) is announcing a new funding opportunity for the Disability and

Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) program. The [DRRP on Mobile Applications For Use By People With Disabilities](#) will conduct development and knowledge translation activities to facilitate the efficient development and distribution of mobile applications for use by people with disabilities.

Safe Streets and Roads for All Amendment

On April 16, 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation published [an amendment to the FY24 Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\) Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#). For more information on how to apply for the SS4A grant opportunity, please visit the [How to Apply page of the SS4A website](#).

[Biden-Harris Administration Opens Applications for More than \\$5 Billion in Funding for Significant National Infrastructure Projects](#)

U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg announced that the Department of Transportation is now accepting applications for approximately \$5.1 billion in funding for projects of regional or national significance for three major discretionary grant programs. The application process has been streamlined into the single Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Program (MPDG) opportunity.

Accessible Transportation News

[Biden-Harris Administration Sends Another \\$20.5 Billion from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to Transit Agencies Across the Country](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced that \$20.5 billion in federal funding, part of the largest investment in public transit in U.S. history, is available to support public transportation in communities throughout the country thanks to President Biden's Investing in America agenda.

Source: USDOT

[U.S. Department of Transportation Announces Latest Step Toward Launching New Reconnecting Communities Institute](#)

The RCI will be DOT's center for learning on restoring and reconnecting communities that have been harmed, isolated, and cut off from opportunity by past transportation choices.

Source: USDOT

[Disabled People Are Dying in America's Crosswalks. We Need to Protect Them.](#)

The data on traffic fatalities and injuries doesn't account for their needs or even count them. Better data would enable better solutions.

Source: Governing

[NJ bill would let Uber, Lyft offer more rides to seniors, people with disabilities](#)

The state Assembly voted unanimously this week to allow New Jersey seniors and those with disabilities to use rideshare companies and taxis as an alternative to Access Link.

Source: northjersey.com

[Disabled Riders Need Comprehensive Public Transit Planning](#)

As Washington state shifts to zero-emissions vehicles, it has the opportunity to fund truly equitable and accessible transportation.

Source: NextCity.org

[Senators call for Transportation to offer ‘accessible, mobile-friendly’ service animal form](#)

Sens. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., and Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., called the paperwork that disabled Americans need to complete before traveling with their service animals “poorly designed and needlessly difficult to complete.”

Source: NextGov.com

[Justice Department Issues Historic ‘Final Rule’ On Better Web Accessibility For Everyone](#)

Early last week, the Department of Justice (DOJ) announced Attorney General Merrick Garland signed what it described in a press release as a “final rule” under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Source: Forbes

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