



Join NCSL in celebrating the
Americans with Disabilities Act

July 20-26, 2020

ADA and Transportation Accessibility

Thursday, July 23, 2020

1 pm ET



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

ADA & Transportation Accessibility

Upholding the Promise

NCSL ADA30 Virtual Meeting Series

July 23, 2020

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DREDF Overview

Vision & Principles

- DREDF is a legal and policy center led by people with disabilities, and parents of children with disabilities
- ***We seek a just world where all people, with and without disabilities, live full and independent lives free of discrimination***
- Access to transportation for all is a civil right

1990: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Findings

- Disabilities in no way diminish a person's right to fully participate in all aspects of society
- Society has tended to isolate and segregate individuals with disabilities
- [who] continually encounter various forms of discrimination, including ... transportation barriers

Mission

- To provide a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination

Disability & Mobility in the U.S. Today

- Nearly 1 in 4 people in the U.S. has a disability (up to 61 million)
- People with disabilities are 2x as likely to live in poverty, and have insufficient access to healthcare and services
- Safe and reliable access to mobility for disabled travelers can be vastly different depending on our income, race, gender, religion, immigration & LGBTQ+ status, urban vs rural or Tribal settings
- Lack of transportation is reported as the biggest barrier to employment

Present Mobility: Access, Equity Concerns

99% of buses are accessible, yet

- Inaccessible architecture, modes, technology & attitudinal barriers remain
- Many bus stops, sidewalks, and transit stations are NOT accessible
 - Infrastructure improvements are needed in low income neighborhoods
 - Disabled Black, Indigenous, and people of color who walk, roll, bike or drive are at risk of being racially profiled

Present Mobility: Access, Equity Concerns (con't)

- Transit agencies in some cities are cutting bus routes which decreases paratransit service areas
- Most ride-hailing (Uber, Lyft), bikeshare and scooters are inaccessible. Relying on them as back-up transportation during emergencies creates bigger access gaps
- Limiting transit access and policies extending restaurant service on sidewalks exacerbates existing access barriers
- Many Amtrak stations remain inaccessible, incl. state-owned facilities

Addressing Barriers & Upholding the Promise

Identify Access Gaps & Fully Utilize Resources

Adopt new mobility performance measures, collect data

- Identify paratransit deserts
- Survey your state's sidewalks, curb cuts, roads in rural areas, and bus stops
- Measure access to affordable, accessible housing; jobs; EJ impacts
- Work with mobility managers in your state
- Utilize Section 5310 funds for PROW improvements, travel training, accessible vehicles and other projects that go above and beyond the ADA
- *See: Seattle data collection, MassDOT Pedestrian Plan's statewide survey of sidewalks and curb cuts*

Message Equity & Commit

Develop equity principles for partnerships & collaborate

- Consider Maintenance of Effort policies in transit, state services
- Require accessibility plans and accessible service in partnerships with micro-mobility, ride-hailing and AV operators
- Establish a state accessibility, equity or sustainable mobility office
- **Provide a seat *at the head of the table*** for community members with disabilities to guide your accessibility work. **Hire people with disabilities.**
- *See: Seattle Transit Equity Program, SFMTA Equity Principles, MI 2018 PlanetM AV grants stakeholder process, and Tennessee's new Office for Accessible Transportation*

Resources: Disability History & ADA

- To Ride the Public's Buses, The Advocado Press
 - <https://bit.ly/ToRideBuses>
- ADAPT & The Gang of 19
 - <https://adapt.org/we-will-ride-the-gang-of-19/>
- ADA Overview & Fact Sheet
 - <https://adata.org/factsheet/ADA-overview>
- DREDF ADA Transportation Resources
 - <https://dredf.org/public-policy/transportation>

Resources: Current Mobility

- CCD Transportation TF COVID-19 Letter to Governors
 - <https://bit.ly/CCDGovLetter>
- Rooted in Rights NACTO Disabled People Ride Bikes Video
 - <https://rootedinrights.org/video/disabled-bikers/>
- USDOT Access and Mobility for All Summit
 - <https://www.transportation.gov/accessibility>
- USDOT Shared Mobility FAQs & Dear Colleague Letter
 - <https://www.transit.dot.gov/shared-mobility>

Resources: AVs

- USDOL ODEP AV Listening Session Report
 - <https://bit.ly/ODEPAVAccessReport>
- NCD & Ruderman Self-Driving Cars Reports
 - <https://bit.ly/NCDSelfDriving>, <https://bit.ly/RudermanAV>
- Auto Alliance AV Accessibility Workshop Series
 - <https://autoalliance.org/avsaccessibility/>
- DREDF AV checklist
 - bit.ly/DREDFav

Resources: AVs

- Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities AV Principles
 - bit.ly/CCDAVPrinciples
- We Will Ride Coalition
 - <https://joinwewillride.org/>
- Greenling Institute: AV Heaven or Hell?
 - <https://bit.ly/GreenliningAV>

Best Practice Examples

- Seattle Ride-hailing Data Collection
 - <https://www.seattle.gov/business-regulations/taxis-for-hires-and-tncs/transportation-network-companies/tnc-companies#datareporting>
- MassDOT Sustainable Mobility Office & Pedestrian Plan
 - <https://active.transportation.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/53/2019/01/MassDOT-State-Bike-and-Pedestrian-Planning.pdf>
- Seattle Transit Equity Program
 - <http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/projects-and-programs/programs/transportation-equity-program/equity-workgroup>

Best Practice Examples

- SFMTA Equity Principles

- www.sfmta.com/sites/default/files/reports-and-documents/2017/11/final_guiding_principles_emst_factsheet.pdf

- MI 2018 PlanetM AV grants stakeholder process

- https://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,4616,7-151-9621_17216_86614---,00.html

- Tennessee's new Office for Accessible Transportation

- <https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/acts/111/pub/pc0600.pdf>

Equitable Mobility is Possible

We are in a moment of reimagining and can work together to uphold the promise of the ADA.

We need to hold each other and ourselves accountable to principles of justice and equity.

Thank You

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