

POLICY AND ORGANIZATION GROUP

Committee Triennial Strategic Plan (TSP)

Committee Name and Number: ABE60, Accessible Transportation and Mobility

Committee Co-Chairs: Julie Babinard
Joey Goldman

TSP Three-Year Period: April 2018 to April 2021

Date Prepared: June 21, 2018

Committee Future Outlook Statement:

Current Committee Scope

- To study factors that limit people's mobility, especially those with limited transport options (people with disabilities, older adults, the economically disadvantaged);
- To analyze ways in which various modes of transportation and mobility options could best meet their needs, particularly those incorporating the principles of universal and inclusive design;
- To encourage new approaches to improve mobility and to evaluate the impact of mobility improvement programs; and
- To learn from and to disseminate best practice for accessibility and mobility worldwide, with particular emphasis on the effectiveness and benefits of identified practices, and on user behavior.

Factors and Influences that Will Shape the Committee's Activities

Since 1995, the focus of the TRB Committee on Accessible Transportation and Mobility has changed significantly from that of the original Committee on Specialized Transportation. Accessibility has become a feature of mainstream public transportation and not a separate specialized activity. There is increasing awareness of and commitment to incorporating access into transportation system design, pedestrian infrastructure, and the provision of transportation services.

Accessible transportation through universal and inclusive design is one of the most important areas of focus for the committee, with an emphasis on research and practice related to seamless accessible transportation for all stages of an individual's journey: access to and from one's home, as a pedestrian, boarding vehicles and enjoying safe transport, navigating multimodal transfer points and intermodal facilities, and making use of information systems to allow for guided or independent travel planning. Critical issues include understanding the demographic changes that impact transit investment needs; transportation services that are developing through emerging technologies; and opportunities for connected vehicles, aircraft, ferry, and rail transportation to address demands of people with limited mobility options.

The Committee's mandate is to facilitate informed debate and provide technical leadership on research, policy, practice, and information exchange relating to the mobility needs of

individuals and groups with limited transport options. With a diverse membership, the Committee brings together specialists on people with mobility needs, sensory and cognitive disabilities, older adults, and those without private transportation.

Global trends point to an aging population in most countries. The Committee's role is particularly valuable for ensuring information is shared about strategies and policy approaches that will allow transportation services to meet a growing population of people with likely mobility needs, and to find transportation services that are both affordable and sustainable to allow older adults to participate fully in society. The Committee's international experience is particularly valuable for sharing approaches that have been successful across the globe, especially in countries where the population of older adults already surpasses that of the US.

Because accessibility is central to making transportation easier and more attractive for everyone to use, the activities of the Committee on Accessible Transportation and Mobility touch on the activities of all transportation providers and on the provision of safe and accessible pedestrian infrastructure. We have cooperated with other TRB Committees, particularly with the Paratransit Committee, Pedestrian Committees, and the Committee on the Safe Mobility of Older Persons. We see this kind of cooperative working with other committees increasing. In particular, we see a need to develop a closer working relationship with committees that address environmental sustainability, energy supply, and livable communities.

As the committee expands its international efforts and focus on developing areas of the world, there is also a need to focus on affordable and appropriate methods and means for achieving accessibility and mobility. Working relationships also need to be strengthened with organizations that address international issues, such as the World Bank, EMBARQ, and the Institute for Transportation Development and Policy.

Committee Plan:

Emerging issues inside and outside the committee scope

The committee has identified several emerging issues. These include research issues, awareness issues, and committee membership issues.

Research Issues

A review of the literature, and possible new research is needed in the following areas:

- a) **Improving accessibility and mobility on all transportation modes (auto, transit, aviation, rail, water transport, etc.).**
 1. *People with cognitive impairments and mental health problems, particularly "invisible disabilities."* Because these impairments are often not apparent or visible to others, they may be misunderstood. It is important that people with these challenges are able to travel with dignity and in comfort.
 2. *Older adults.* The transportation needs of an aging population, and approaches for meeting these needs through sustainable approaches is required. Topics include

those related to in-home assistance, delivery of goods and services, and emerging technologies.

3. *Economically disadvantaged individuals.* For many people, choice and use of transportation is determined by economic position. It is important to find ways to serve these groups adequately, especially for job access and employment training.
4. *People with physical disabilities who are unable to travel independently.* Tools to facilitate travel including new technologies, assistance provided by transportation providers, and policies related to personal attendants. An emphasis on youth with disabilities is critical in terms of access to school, particularly in developing countries.
 - a) **Universal pedestrian infrastructure.** To meet the needs of an aging population, and to provide independent mobility to persons with disabilities, a barrier-free pedestrian environment is desirable. Additional research on ways to make the pedestrian environment accessible, safe, and convenient, and to include appropriate amenities is needed. This is of particular importance in relation to roundabouts/traffic circles, transfer facilities, airports, and roadways as “complete streets” are developed in developed and developing countries, and the sometimes-conflicting needs of people with various types of disabilities.
 - b) **Sharing of practices and policies; reciprocity.** Innovation is critical, and successful approaches in one community may also be replicated elsewhere. Identifying the key elements of good access solutions is necessary in relation to how to transfer strategies to other areas, countries, and continents – and particularly developing countries. Likewise, opportunities exist for coordination among communities/states/nations to participate in programs that afford reciprocal recognition of transit accessibility certification or accessible parking badges, and to make information about coordinated efforts/reciprocity widely available. Other tools include international human rights policies and declarations, which may also be further considered.
 - c) **Education for existing and future professionals in transportation and urban planning.** Understanding best practices and recommended approaches for educating students and practitioners on transportation for people with disabilities and older adults, and promoting this area of study has been an importation concern of this Committee.
 - d) **Resiliency.** Climate change, natural disasters, and acts of war disproportionately impact vulnerable populations worldwide, especially economically disadvantaged communities and people with disabilities. Approaches to prevent disasters, deal with them, and recover from them in ways that serve people with disabilities and individuals without transportation options is critical.
 - e) **Emerging mobility solutions.** Emerging mobility approaches appear to offer greater flexibility and more options for the general public. However, the impacts on people with disabilities or people without access to certain types of technologies suggests these new modes may not be universal after all. It is important to research approaches to ensure ride-hailing services, autonomous vehicles, on-demand transit services and other modes are accessible and easy to use for all potential user markets. Ongoing research must demonstrate the application of other technologies on accessible transport, including

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), social networking, smart cards, security systems, cellular phones, and Global Positioning Systems (GPS).

- f) **Understanding demographic trends.** Societies are changing globally as populations age. Population research allows for planning and forecasting, and quantifying the economic and social benefits of enabling people with disabilities and other disadvantaged people to lead independent and economically active lives. It is important to examine the common aspects of land use developments and transportation systems that provide independent mobility for older adults and people with disabilities and that are environmentally sustainable.
- g) **The role of information and public participation.** Information and navigation tools in appropriate formats are necessary to provide travel guidance for people with different abilities to access information. Ensuring that information about transportation is accessible is important, as is ensuring that people with disabilities, older adults, and economically disadvantaged individuals have opportunities to fully participate in the transportation planning process and developing the information tools. Understanding best practices for soliciting feedback and sharing information is a topic that is becoming increasingly important.
- h) **Global practices.** Through international participation in TRB and US activities, identify international examples of best practice for wider dissemination. In particular, continue to support the triennial TRANSED conferences as the principal showcase of accessible transportation worldwide.

Awareness Issues

Raise the awareness of accessibility for all in TRB activities.

- a) Disseminate information throughout TRB that accessibility is no longer a specialized topic, but a mainstream part of the planning, design and operation of all passenger transport services.
- b) Participate in diversity and inclusion-related programming and planning efforts within TRB to ensure that accessibility is considered.
- c) Partner with other TRB committees to take account of accessibility in their planning efforts.
- d) Perform ongoing guidance on accessibility of TRB meeting facilities and information material, including accessible rooms, video conferencing facilities, sign language interpretation, travel scholarships for disabled delegates, accessible TRB web page, TTD, etc.
- e) Suggest ways for TRB to better promote concepts of accessibility in programs, on websites, and in meeting planning.

Membership Issues

The committee has widened its membership in the following categories, and should continue to strengthen and broaden its membership base:

- a) Professionals with disabilities: to foster the understanding of existing mobility problems, from the user's prospective.

- b) Manufacturers and suppliers: This group can help to implement practical and practicable accessible technologies and to disseminate research results.
- c) Young professionals: Active involvement of young professionals working in the transportation field will ensure new ideas, vitality, commitment and continuity into the future.
- d) Government: Government involvement is important for funding, promoting and monitoring accessible transportation at all levels (local, regional, state/provincial, and national). It also provides resources for researchers.
- e) Diversity: Consideration to be given to attract members in terms of ethnicity, gender, disabilities, geographical representation, both nationally and internationally.
- f) Linkage to other TRB Committees: Accessibility is a horizontal concern to many modal committees. Members drawn from committees such as transportation data, tribal transportation, non-motorized transportation, safe mobility of older persons, etc. would enable cross-fertilization of ideas and concerted action.
- g) Linkage to other organizations: Maintain working relationships, through membership or member contacts, with development banks and specialized agencies promoting sustainable, livable cities.

Current Goals

The committee has identified the following three primary goals:

1. To foster and contribute to the development of new accessible transportation technologies and innovative practices internationally.
2. To strengthen TRB's activities in accessible transportation and mobility.
3. To advance professional knowledge and the application of good practice worldwide in the fields of accessible transportation and mobility.

Projects and Activities

The following projects and activities will be pursued to meet the committee's three primary goals:

Planned Activities for Goal 1

- Encourage members and friends of the Committee to participate in regional and national conferences on accessible transportation to learn from, share and disseminate good practice.
- Develop new calls for papers, including joint calls, that focus on technologies.
- Plan a workshop on accessible technologies.

Planned Activities for Goal 2

- Propose at least one Synthesis Topic per year.
- Propose at least one TCRP/ESPA/NCHRP Research Statement per year.
- Continue Committee and Subcommittee meetings and sponsor at least two sessions at Annual Meetings.

- Develop cooperation with other TRB Committees and sponsor joint sessions at Annual Meetings in collaboration with other Committees.
- Encourage members to serve on TCRP Research Panels. The committee executives should nominate at least one member to serve on a panel.
- Publish research papers in Transportation Research Records.

Planned Activities for Goal 3

- Encourage members to contribute papers and presentations to journals, conferences and other meetings on accessible transportation and mobility.
- Lead the planning of a Conference on Mobility and Transportation for Elderly and Disabled People (TRANSED) every three years.
- Encourage members to provide peer review to non-TRB journals.
- Increase liaison and co-operative activities with related TRB standing committees, (e.g. Paratransit, Safe Mobility for Older Persons, Rural and Intercity Bus Transportation, ITS, etc.) to exchange ideas and information.
- Encourage TCRP/ Project ACTION/ NHSTA management to involve members from our committees in research programs.
- Continue to administer the William Bell Award in recognition of members with significant contribution in the field.
- Survey members and friends to solicit ideas on Committee-building.
- Continue to Update the Committee Strategic Plan.

Proposed Changes in Scope

No changes in the scope or title are needed at this time.

Appendix A - Committee History

Committee website

www.trbaccessmobility.org

Committee Membership Characteristics (number, international, emeritus, young, gender, racial diversity, professional affiliations)

Currently there are 30 members and five Emeritus members. This includes 15 International members and three Young Members.

The geographical distribution of U. S. members and the national distribution of non-U. S. members is shown in the following table.

Location	# of Members
United States	
Northeast	4
Mid-Atlantic	6
Midwest	5
South	1
Southwest	1
West	2
Northwest	1
International	
Belgium	1
Canada	4
China	1
England	2
France	2
India	2
Mexico	1
Sweden	1
Taiwan	1

There are 18 female members and 17 male members. There are ten minority members and four members with disabilities.

Professional affiliations of members are shown in the following table.

Professional Affiliation	# of Members
Consultant	6
Int'l aid, industry assoc. and non-profit organizations	8
National government and government research	4

University and university research	12
State or local government	2
Public transportation provider	1
Private transportation provider	1
Other	1

Subcommittees and their chairs

The committee has four subcommittees:

ABE60(1): Policy and Practice Subcommittee (Judy Shanley and Mary Crass, Co-Chairs)

ABE60(2): Technology Subcommittee (Peter Cosyn and Mohammed Yousuf, Co-Chairs)

ABE60(3): Research Subcommittee (Andrea Lubin and Trevor Hanson, Co-Chairs)

ABE60(5): TRANSED Planning Subcommittee (Julie Babinard and Joey Goldman, Co-Chairs)

The committee also jointly sponsors two other subcommittees:

APO60(2): Taxi Subcommittee (with the Paratransit Committee)

ANB60(3): Senior Mobility Options Joint Subcommittee (with the Committee on the Safe Mobility of Older Persons)

Committee and Subcommittee Meeting Attendance

Attendance for 2016-2018 is provided in the table below.

	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018
ABE60 Main Committee	23 Members 44 Guests	22 Members 35 Guests	27 Members 52 Guests
ABE60(1): Policy and Practice Subcommittee	39 Members	29 Members	34 Members
ABE60(2): Technology Subcommittee	26 Members	38 Members	44 Members
ABE60(3): Research Subcommittee	18 Members	28 Members	42 Members
ABE60(5): TRANSED Planning Subcommittee	23 Members	35 Members	58 Members
APO60(2): Taxi Subcommittee	N/A	N/A	N/A
ANB60(3): Senior Mobility Options Joint Subcommittee	N/A	N/A	N/A

* ABE60 members in attendance. Does not include APO60 members.

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Other TRB Committee Relationships

- Members of the committee are also active in other TRB committees, including:
- ITS

- Safe Mobility for Older Persons
 - Senior Mobility Options Joint Subcommittee
 - Older Women’s Activities Subcommittee
- Pedestrian
- Paratransit
 - Taxi Subcommittee
- Rural & Intercity
- Rail
- Airport Terminals and Ground Access
- Ferry Transportation
- Developing Countries
- Women’s Issues
- Tribal Transportation
- School Bus
- International
- Vehicle User Characteristics
- Public Involvement
- Performance Measures

Outside Organization Liaisons

Through its members, the committee maintains an ongoing relationship with the following agencies and organizations:

- Canadian Transportation Agency
- Easter Seals Project ACTION
- ECO-MO Foundation
- Federal Highway Administration
- Federal Transit Administration
- French Institute for Sciences and Technologies on Transportation, Development and Networks (IFSTTAR)
- French Ministry of Ecology, Energy and Sustainable Development (CERTU)
- Institute for Transportation and Development Policy
- International Transport Forum (ITF)
- National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
- National Center for Senior Transportation
MassDOT
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- Svayam
- Transport Canada
- World Bank

Annual Meeting and Research Activities

Following is a summary of workshops and sessions sponsored, research statements generated, and research published from 2016 through 2018.

2018

- Workshops (1): Co-sponsored workshop – We Can Get There: Improving Accessibility and Creating Inclusive Cities Worldwide
- Podium Sessions (2): Sponsored Sessions 400 and 469
- Poster Sessions (1): Session 381 with 6 posters
- Research Statements: TBD
- Research Published: TBD. 3 papers accepted for publication

2017

- Workshops (2): Sponsored workshop – U.S. Department of Transportation Accessible Transportation Technologies Research Initiative Applications; Co-sponsored workshop - Roundabouts and Channelized Turn Lanes: Access for Pedestrians, Particularly Those with Vision Disabilities
- Podium Sessions (2): Sessions 764 and 861
- Poster Sessions (1): Session 278 with 7 posters
- Research Statements (1): One full research statement
- Research Published: 2

2016

- Podium Sessions (2): Sessions 568 and TBD
- Poster Sessions (1): Session 778 with 9 posters
- Research Statements (3): Two full research statements and one synthesis statement
- Research Published: 3

TRANSED Conferences and Conference Proceedings

One of the primary ongoing activities of the committee is to sponsor the International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled People (TRANSED) series. TRANSED conferences have been organized and held every two to three years since 1978. In 2015, the 14th TRANSED was held in Lisbon, Portugal with a theme of "Aim and Manage for Inclusive Access", hosted by IST (Técnico). 212 papers were accepted for presentation at the conference. The TRANSED permanent secretariat, Svayam, entered the proceedings in to the permanent secretariat website.

The committee also accepted proposals for the 15th TRANSED, which will be held in Taipei, Taiwan in November 2018. The 15th TRANSED will be hosted by the Eden Social Welfare Foundation.