**Talk – Acceptance of the Award in honor of Dr William G. Bell, 2022**

**Dr Agneta Ståhl**

**Madame Chair**

**Thank you for this wonderful honor.**

**The year 1979 had a great impact on my professional life. This was the year I got my first grant to study what impact barriers in the transport system might have on older people’s social life. The grant made it possible for me, as a quite young researcher, to enter the international scene in the field of mobility and transport for older people.**

**So, in 1981 I met Dr Bell, on the Second Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons, later called TRANSED, in Cambridge, UK. Dr Bell was a great man, very devoted to the field, the master of the scene.**

**This started not only a professional cooperation between us but also a long-lasting friendship. Dr Bell had special boundaries to Sweden, his son lived in Stockholm and very soon he had persuaded me that Sweden would be an excellent host for a future conference.**

**And so, it happened. In 1989 I was the conference coordinator for the 5th International Conference in Stockholm. In the light of what I have said, the acceptance of the Award in honor of Dr Bell is very special to me.**

**I have dedicated my life to ensuring the mobility of older people. Over the years I have been happy to experience important changes in public transport policies to better serve older people and people with disabilities. I have had the privilege to realize that my research has led to implementation in the transport and traffic system both nationally and internationally. A goal Dr Bell often used in his talks.**

**To achieve these goals, I have worked with so many wonderful people in Sweden and abroad and I accept this award on behalf of all of my many colleagues and partners.  But there is still much to do, and I am sure conference attendees here today have committed themselves to continued improvement in the lives of people with special transportation needs.**

**The best legacy a professor can have, is the students who have trusted her with their education. I feel especially grateful for the ability to have worked with all my fantastic graduate students representing a variety of disciplines.**

**When studying mobility of older people, it is important to have an interdisciplinary approach. Lund University offers an excellent environment in this context. It is there, I have had the honor to conduct my research with great colleagues both at the department of Technology and Society at the faculty of Engineering, and at CASE the Center of Ageing and Environment at the faculty of Medicine.**

**To TRB, thank you so very much for selecting me for the William G. Bell Award, 2022!**