



Transportation Task Force Administration Transition Priorities

Transportation is necessary for 57 million people with disabilities in the U.S. to contribute to and participate in their communities, support and spend time with family and friends, and live their lives to the fullest; however, significant barriers to accessible, equitable, reliable transportation remain across modes. The administration will have numerous opportunities to transform mobility access for people with disabilities, including Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) with disabilities. The Task Force urges action on the following priorities.

Convene an annual USDOT cross-modal listening session with disability and civil rights stakeholders and modal administrators to discuss ongoing issues and solutions.

Ensure an equitable recovery from the pandemic for people with disabilities through transportation access, a [key to accessing employment, healthcare, and all aspects of life](#).

- Ensure funding reaches agencies to support the continued operation and development of accessible public transportation, rail, rural transportation and services such as non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) during and after the pandemic.
- Provide sufficient personal protective equipment and supplies for bus, rail, paratransit, and NEMT workers as the pandemic continues.
- Ensure transit and transportation providers can continue to use vehicles to deliver meals, groceries and medications through the pandemic if they are meeting all obligations.
- Ensure that policies to mitigate the pandemic do not discriminate against people with disabilities, including by requiring alternatives to drive-up testing and recognizing the applicability of the Americans with Disabilities Act to mask requirements.
- Study the effects of the pandemic on transportation access for people with disabilities, their caregivers, and support workers to inform ongoing policy and future emergency preparedness. Disaggregate data by disability, race, gender and income.
- Convene the Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility to address the impacts of transportation access changes during the pandemic.

Address continued discrimination across modes, including new mobility.

- Ensure FTA-funded partnerships between FTA and local authorities provide fully accessible service to all passengers, including wheelchair users.
- Highlight and prioritize accessible, equitable services, including wheelchair accessible ride-hailing and taxi service, concierge services (for those without a smartphone), and adaptive bikeshare and micromobility models. Update the 2016 Dear Colleague letter on equity and access obligations for shared mobility and include autonomous vehicles.
- Improve the accessibility of FTA Office of Civil Rights complaint reporting.

Ensure Autonomous Vehicles and other transportation innovations live up to their promise by prioritizing accessibility and equity in AV development.

- Convene stakeholders on a regular basis to identify barriers and solutions to ensuring access and safety to AVs for all people with disabilities. Develop safety and accessibility standards with the US Access Board and NHTSA.
- Ensure the needs of disabled passengers, including disabled Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC), are taken into account when considering changes and additions to FMVSS requirements.
- Provide a list of all available accessibility resources and technical assistance to OEMs, transit agencies and public entities.
- Engage the disability community, public entities and industry in identifying barriers to a complete trip, including safe onboarding and offloading of an on-demand AV or existing ride-hailing vehicle.
- Build upon the current disability community ties across its University Transportation Centers (UTC) Program. Offer financial and other technical resources to UTCs needed to strengthen their ties with the disability community.

Address the inaccessibility of public rights of way.

- Adopt the 2011 PROW Access Board guidelines.
- Develop best practices for micromobility including scooters and bikeshares that are shared with stakeholders to ensure the safety of disabled pedestrians and the accessibility of sidewalks, curb cuts, and transit facilities.
- Consider and engage the BIPOC community on the harmful impacts of racial bias in enforcement of bicycle, micromobility, pedestrian and state highway safety laws.
- Collect data on and incentivize remedies for inaccessible sidewalks and bus stops nationwide. Disaggregate neighborhood data by race, income and disability.
- Ensure state highway safety plans provide access for people with disabilities at all crosswalks, as required.

Promote disability employment by removing barriers to employment in the transportation workforce.

- Allow Deaf and hard of hearing individuals to obtain a commercial driver's license and end discriminatory testing requirements.
- Study the barriers to employment in transportation for people with disabilities.

Complete the Accessibility Strategic Plan by establishing a rigorous plan for eliminating discrimination. Promote equitable mobility for people with disabilities that prioritizes diverse voices from the disability community including Black, Indigenous and people of color.

Actively promote mobility justice for minority and low-income populations.

- Support enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations.
- Honor trust and treaty responsibilities by supporting tribes in creating accessible transportation infrastructure.
- Adequately support and fund territorial transportation infrastructure development.

CCD Transportation Task Force Co-Chairs: Sarah Malaier, American Foundation for the Blind, smaiaier@afb.org; Claire Stanley, National Disability Rights Network, claire.stanley@ndrn.org; Lee Page, Paralyzed Veterans of America, leep@pva.org; Carol Tyson, Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund, ctyson@dredf.org. <http://www.c-c-d.org>