

# Transportation Accessibility Institute

May 22, 2023

One Page Summary



## OVERVIEW

On May 22, 2023, [Transit Planning 4 All](#) hosted the Transportation Accessibility Institute in Oklahoma City, OK. The daylong event provided eight teams from across the country an opportunity to discuss transportation accessibility, learn about inclusive planning, build partnerships within and across communities, and ultimately, formulate solutions to accessibility challenges in their communities.

## CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

In the morning, the TP4A partners presented on inclusive planning and accessibility, and in the afternoon, teams identified transportation accessibility issues in their communities, then narrowed them down into one to three issues that they wanted to address that day. Some of the challenges that teams identified were:

- Coordination; getting everyone to the table
- Signage in transit systems
- Communication
- Bureaucratic infrastructure and red tape

After identifying these challenges, teams discussed potential solutions and made plans to meet again after the Institute. Proposed solutions included:

- Create coalitions to increase coordination
- Form steering committees
- Put pressure on bureaucracy through equity workgroups
- Experiential learning simulations

### INSIDE A BREAKOUT GROUP: EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING SIMULATIONS

After lunch, attendees split up into the different affinity groups they had come to represent (caregivers, older adults, transit agencies, etc.). In the group representing people with disabilities, the attendees reasoned that policymakers should be asked to try using public transit with a simulated disability – in a wheelchair, with a blindfold, or with weights to mimic invisible illnesses – for 1-3 days, in the hopes that this activity would spur policymakers into action around accessibility.