

Transportation Accessibility & Inclusive Planning Resource Guide



From [Transit Planning 4 All's](#)
Transportation Accessibility Institute

May 2023

This guide is a reference document for resources related to the Transportation Accessibility Institute on May 22, 2023. It includes resources on inclusive planning, accessibility and universal design, assistive technology, and funding and technical assistance, as well as a glossary of key terms.



[Transit Planning 4 All](#) is a technical assistance center and transportation-planning project that seeks to explore and promote the practice of inclusive planning.

Inclusive Planning

Transit Planning 4 All Resources

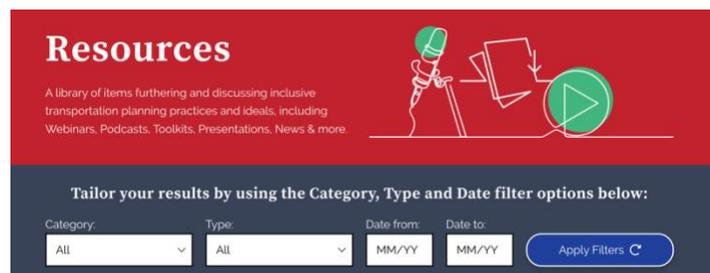
TP4A, [Inclusive Planning Guide](#). This guide was created by TP4A as an introduction to inclusive planning. It will briefly walk you through each step of the inclusive planning process: exploring, designing, implementing, evaluating, and sustaining.

TP4A, [Pathway to Inclusion](#). The Pathway to Inclusion is a graphic tool developed by TP4A that shows the different levels of active and meaningful inclusive planning. This tool can help communities evaluate the level of inclusion in their projects at any given time.

TP4A Videos (each video has a runtime of 4-5 minutes). These videos showcase past grantee projects of TP4A, including mobility on demand programs.

- [Introduction to TP4A](#)
- [Portland, ME: Community Transportation Leaders Program](#)
- [Seattle, WA: "Ride Now" Pilot Program](#)
- [Baltimore, MD: Inclusive Design and Testing of Accessible Signage](#)
- [Portland, OR: "Ride Connection" Mobility on Demand Program](#)

The searchable [TP4A Library](#) contains a wealth of resources, not just on inclusive planning, but on accessibility, civic engagement, assistive technology, and more. Some inclusive planning resources are highlighted below.



- [Inclusive Transportation Planning Toolkit](#) (Greater Portland Council of Governments and Catalyst Collaboratives, 2019) & [Inclusive Planning Toolkit](#) (Hopelink, King County, WA, 2020). These toolkits include strategies and links to resources on inclusive planning, creating partnerships, and universal design.

- [Partnering With People with Disabilities and Older Adults](#) – Brief on lessons learned around partnerships.
- [Intro to Inclusive Mobility on Demand: Success and Best Practices](#) – Webcast on best practices from mobility on demands projects.
- [Sustaining Inclusion](#) – TP4A conducted a study on if and how past grantees sustained inclusion, including during the height of the COVID-19 epidemic.

Public Engagement

Transportation Research Board, [Inclusive Public Participation in Transit Decision-Making \(2023\)](#), [Chapter 5: Key Findings](#). This paper discusses strategies for inclusive participation in transit planning, and highlights case studies and key findings.

Greater Portland Council of Governments, [Inclusive and Accessible Virtual Engagement: Lessons from the Field \(2020\)](#). This guide highlights best practices and tips for virtual engagement.

[NRTAP, ADA Toolkit: Public Meetings and Outreach](#). Part of NRTAP's ADA toolkit, it includes strategies and requirements in including people with disabilities in activities of transit agencies.



Diversity and Equity Resources

University of Washington, [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Glossary](#). Defines key terms related to DEI.

[Kimberlé Crenshaw: What is Intersectionality?](#) Watch this video from Crenshaw explaining intersectionality, a term she coined in 1989.

Accessibility and Universal Design

National Disability Authority, [7 Principles for Universal Design](#). These seven principles, originally developed in 1997, can be used as a starting point in evaluating existing designs and developing new ones. Find more UD resources at the [Centre for Excellence in Universal Design](#) from the National Disability Authority (Ireland).

[Cast.org](#). CAST created the [Universal Design for Learning Guidelines](#) and framework and focuses on projects related to universal design, accessibility, and inclusive technology. Find projects and resources here: [Accessibility and Inclusive Technology Resources](#).

[APTA](#), [Transit Universal Design Guidelines Principles and Best Practices for Implementing Universal Design in Transit](#). "An action-based handbook that provides a decision-making and prioritizing tool for transit agencies, design consultants and policy-makers in the implementation of universal design-based enhancements to accessibility accommodation within the transit station environment."



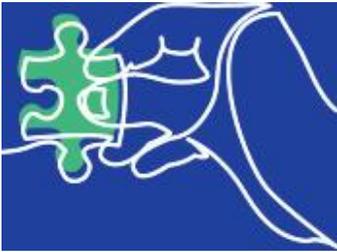
World Institute on Disability, [Transportation Accessibility Resources](#). Resources developed through a disability-led research project on transportation accessibility. Scroll down for an Introduction to Transportation Accessibility and the Disability Rights Movement, Transportation Policy and Training Tools and Resources, and more.

[NADTC](#), [Best Practices Compendium](#). Lessons learned from NADTC grantees which established new transportation services or programs for older adults and people with disabilities. Read about Section 5310 funding, expanding transportation hours to evenings/weekends, rural transportation, and more.

[ADA and Transportation Accessibility](#). This hour-long webinar from 2020 covers "current state and federal efforts to increase accessibility, as well as how policymakers are working to ensure autonomous vehicles are accessible to everyone, including those with disabilities."

[Eldercare Locator](#). A service operated by the Administration on Community Living that helps older adults locate services, including transportation.

Assistive Technology



Find your state's AT program: [State/Territory Assistive Technology Programs](#). Each US state/territory has a federally funded AT program in accordance with the Section 4 Assistive Technology Act, administered [by ACL](#). View state plans for state AT programs at the [Center for Assistive Technology Act Data Assistance](#). "AT Act Programs assist individuals with disabilities of all ages (including veterans and older adults) to identify and acquire AT that supports their independence, safety, and personal goals" ([Assistive Technology Is A Part Of Everyday Life: Transportation](#)).

Minnesota Guide to Assistive Technology, [Types of AT](#). Check out this (non-exhaustive) list of types of AT. Remember that AT for transportation does not only include transportation-specific AT like lift-equipped vans or adaptive seat belts, but also any technology that is used in transportation processes – for example, wayfinding for people who are blind or visually impaired or specialized computer software.

[ATTRI](#) is a Department of Transportation initiative that researches accessible transportation technologies. Browse their resources [here](#) or review their 2016 [user needs assessment](#), which includes findings on providing information, options, assistance, and access to travelers with disabilities.

[N-CATT](#), [Promising Practices: Transit Technology Adoption](#), pp 16-22. Look at pages 16-22 of this guidebook from N-CATT to read two case studies on promising accessibility practices related to technology.

Funding and Technical Assistance

Search for Funding

- [DOT Navigator](#). Visit the Department of Transportation website for resources on grants, technical assistance, and understanding new infrastructure-related laws.
- [Search FTA's Competitive and Formula Grants](#).

- [Funding Topic Guide - from NRTAP](#). List of over 20 sites and resources to start your funding search. Includes both federal funding opportunities and non-federal funding opportunities.
- The NADTC keeps an updated list of [Federal Grant Opportunities](#) and [Non-Federal Grant Opportunities](#) related to transportation and accessibility for older adults and people with disabilities. Visit NCMC for another list of [External Grants and Opportunities](#).
- [CCAM Program Inventory \(2019\)](#). Browse an inventory of 130 Federal programs which provide funding for human services transportation for people with disabilities, older adults, and/or individuals of low income.
- Some technical assistance centers also provide grants or funding opportunities:
 - [NCMM Grants and Opportunities](#)
 - [N-CATT Strategic Technology Technical Assistance Teams](#)

Funding Guides

The NADTC has several resources related to federal funding. Check out their [Federal Funding Guide](#), as well as their [FTA Section 5310 Overview](#) and their guide on using federal funds for local match, [Section 5307, 5310, and 5311: Using Non-DOT Federal Funds for Local Match](#).

NCMM, [Cost Sharing and Cross Partnership Funding Models](#). This guide includes information on federal fund braiding between two partner programs, case studies on cost sharing, and resources / references to help you find more information.

[Technical Assistance Coordination Library](#). The TACL includes resources from FTA-funded TA centers and their partners. Search by keyword, TA center, or browse through over 100 resources on transportation.

Technical Assistance Centers



AT3 Center (Assistive Technology Act Technical Assistance and Training Center):

A national technical assistance center that works to “increase access to and acquisition of assistive technologies by individuals with disabilities across the lifespan.” Each state has its own AT program, and the AT3 Center provides training for these programs, as well as resources for the public on AT.

National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC): Provides resources and training on transportation and supports older adults and people with disabilities in finding mobility options. Check out [Every Ride Counts](#), a publicity campaign on transportation options for older adults and people with disabilities around the country.

National Center for Applied Transit Technology (N-CATT): Mission to “provide small-urban, rural, and tribal transit agencies with practical, replicable resources that help them apply technological solutions and innovations.” Take a look at their [State Technology Summits](#) and [technology workshops](#), and watch for the next time applications are open for [Strategic Technology Technical Assistance Teams](#).



National Center for Mobility Management (NCMM): Provides technical assistance around [mobility management](#) and works to create partnerships between mobility management agencies and human/health/community services agencies. One highlight is their [Community Transportation Providers Map](#), which depicts “the approximate location of transit agencies and organizations across the United States of America.”

National Rural Transit Assistance Program (NRTAP): Provides training, resources, and peer networking to address “the training and technical assistance needs of rural, and tribal transit operators across the nation.” Check out the [Tribal Transit Program](#) for a topic guide, events, and private peer forum.

Transit Planning 4 All (TP4A): Promotes the practice of inclusive planning in transportation. Read case studies, visit the [inclusive planning guide](#), and watch [roundtables](#) on inclusive planning to hear from past grantees.

Transit Workforce Center (TWC): Mission to “help urban, suburban, tribal, and rural public transportation entities recruit, hire, train, and retain the diverse workforce needed now and in the future.” Visit their [Resource Center](#) or look over their [Zero Emission Buses Workforce Transition](#) training materials.

Key Terms

Accessibility: There are several definitions of accessibility, but in general, it is defined in relationship to transportation as everyone being able to use a transportation service. [According to the US Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights](#), “Accessible means a person with a disability is afforded the opportunity to acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions, and enjoy the same services as a person without a disability in an equally effective and equally integrated manner, with substantially equivalent ease of use.”

ADA - Americans with Disabilities Act: The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 is a civil rights law that protects individuals with disabilities from discrimination in public life, including transportation. Amendments were passed in 2008. Read more about the ADA's ground transportation requirements [here](#).

AT – Assistive technology: “Assistive Technology (AT) is any item, device, or piece of equipment used to maintain or improve the functionality of people with disabilities, allowing them to be more independent in education, employment, recreation, and daily living activities” ([AT3 Center](#)). Examples of transportation AT include lift-equipped vans, tie-down systems for wheelchairs, or hand controls for driving without pedals. You can explore innovative AT through your state's AT program.

Inclusion: Inclusion has many different definitions. The [DEI Glossary from the University of Washington](#) defines inclusion as: “The act of creating an environment in which any individual or group will be welcomed, respected, supported and valued as a fully participating member.” [Transit Planning 4 All](#) defines inclusion in transportation planning as “The active and meaningful involvement of people with disabilities and older adults in transit planning and operations.”

Universal design: [According to the Centre for Excellence in Universal Design](#), “Universal Design is the design and composition of an environment so that it can be accessed, understood and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size, ability or disability.”