

# National Perspectives/ National Trends in Smart Growth for Everyone



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# Smart Growth Benefits Everyone

- Rapidly Expanding Rider Base
- Healthy Community & Economic Value Proposition
- Supports Enhanced Mobility Models
- Resources from our work



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# Expanding Rider Base

- 39M 65+ population will be 70M in the next twenty years
- 85+ population will grow by 74%
- 36M million people live with disabilities (12% US Population, not in institutions)
- 51.5% of people over 75 have disabilities (28M people are 70 or older) (CDC, 2007)



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# Healthy Community Living Relies on Sustained Mobility

- Intersection Health/Wellness and Transportation Access
  - Depression and Driving Cessation
  - Link between Depression and Health Status
  - Health Status and Healthcare Costs
- Aging Associated Health Changes Require more Transportation Options
- Lack of transportation Barrier to Preventative Care
- Hospital Discharge Re-Admission Reduction
- Exercise must increase - 32.5% of older adults over 65 have no leisure time physical activity (CDC, 2003)

# Maturing of America Economic Realities

- Transportation Options Enable People to Stay in the Community & Retain Assets
- Marketplace Affects on Retirement, Affordable Housing mixed with declining Federal & State Funds
- Difficulties for People to Live where They Work and Ride



\*estimates based on various public transit sources



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# Transit Challenges in Smart Growth Implementation

- Lack of Transportation in Rural Communities
- Safe & Accessible Pathways & Highways
- Difficulties in Fielding ADA Para-transit Eligibility Programs
- Reductions in Funding for Public Transportation & Transportation Infrastructure
- Public Transit Costs Fixed Route vs. ADA Complementary Paratransit (\$ 5/ride vs. \$ 30-65/ride\*)



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# Expanding Mobility Options/Modes

- Volunteer Driver Programs
- Accessible Taxis & Taxi vouchers
- Public Transportation Services
- Travel Training
- Non-Profit & Faith-based Community Services
- Coordinated Multi-modal Resources
- “Complete Streets”
- Technology – smart phones, GPS, One Call Centers
- Mobility Management



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# The New Mobility – Prepare & Partner for a Continuum of Transportation Modes

- Civic Engagement - Growth of Volunteer Driver Programs including Older Drivers
- Community Coalitions and Partnerships
- Caregiver Drivers – a Declining Resource
- Plan for Mobility Options
  - Youth Transition and Transportation
  - Train for Transitions from Driving
  - Care Transitions and Transportation



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# Federal Programs Stimulating Smart Growth Innovation

- Livability Sustainability Movement (DOT, EPA, HUD)
- Highway/Roadway Enhancements (FHWA)
- Driver/Pedestrian Safety Programs (NHTSA)
- UWR Mobility Management/Transportation Coordination (FTA)
- One Call Centers (FTA, AoA)
- CDC Healthy Aging and Healthy Communities
- Aging Network Involvement in Transportation (AoA)
- Workforce and Employment (DOL)
- Veterans Initiatives (VA)



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# Federal Transit Administration Cooperative Agreement Centers

## Easter Seals Project ACTION Accessible Transportation Center

- Expand accessible transportation **for people with disabilities** of all ages
- Audience – transportation and disability community

## National Center on Senior Transportation – Easter Seals and National Association of Area Agencies on Aging

- Expand family of transportation services **for older adults**
- Audience – human services and transportation community



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# Four Technical Assistance Functions

- **Training** – webinars, distance learning, conference calls, travel training, community coalition building services
- **Targeted Technical Assistance** – toll-free number, e-mail, tailorable to specific communities
- **Outreach** – conferences, develop and share useful materials, website, newsletter, partnerships with other national organizations
- **Applied Research** – Research contracts, student scholars programs and various community grants



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# Distance Learning Webinars

- 2010 - Building Livable Communities through Increased Pedestrian Access; Using the *Toolkit for Assessing Bus Stop Accessibility and Safety*
- 2011- Planning for Accessibility of Livable and Sustainable Communities
- Creating Livable, Accessible Communities by Completing Our Streets
- Environmental Barrier Analysis



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# Outreach – Resources & Publications

- **Universal Design and Access Resources**

- Facts to Consider when Updating or Expanding your Transit System
- Getting There Together training activity (online)
- Toolkit for the Assessment of Bus Stop Accessibility and Safety



# Outreach – Resources & Publications

- **Accessible Pathways & Livable Communities Pocket Guide**
  - For planners, public works, local officials & advocates
  - Basics for getting started in your community



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# Outreach – Resources & Publications

- **Bus Stop Accessibility Toolkit**
  - *Accessible Pathways to Bus Stops and Transit: A Process Guide*
    - Transcript from June 2010 audio conferences available at [www.projectaction.org](http://www.projectaction.org)
    - Principles of barrier-free design
    - Bus stop checklist
    - Use of technology
    - Sample forms and policies



Pedbikeimages.org / Laura Sandt 2006



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# The Journey....

## What We're Trying to Avoid



## What We're Trying to Accomplish





# Is Worth It! Smart Growth Benefits Everyone



- Fosters Community Social Capital & Economic Capital
- Helps maintain health and wellness
- Reduces traffic and pedestrian fatalities
- Provides safe mobility for seniors
- Creates intergenerational bridges breaking down stereotypes
- Protects environment
- Enables Seniors to continue to contribute to their communities
- Value proposition is at all levels – person, community, economy



Statistics: 2008 American Community Survey

# Thank You

**National Center on Senior Transportation  
Easter Seals Project ACTION**

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