

Inclusive Transportation Planning

MDOT
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION

MARYLAND TRANSIT
ADMINISTRATION

What the project will do

- Increase participation in transit planning efforts by older adults and people with disabilities
 - Making sure accessibility is incorporated early into project development
 - Providing evidence of actions taken by MTA in response to received comments
 - Coordinating participation with state-level agencies such as MDOD, MDoA, and DHCD, as well as transportation sub-committees

Why it matters

- MDOT MTA, MDOD, MDoA are working in similar circles
 - Each agency deals with transportation, housing, and health care, but from different perspectives
 - Each interact with older adults and people with disabilities, but in different ways
- We have established relationships with the communities we serve
 - Each state agency has its own group of trusted advisors, but these groups typically do not interact

Whom it serves

- Internal
 - MDOT MTA, MDOD, MDoA staff are interested in understanding how to better serve these populations
- External
 - Anyone utilizing MDOT MTA's transportation services
 - MDOD and MDoA clients

How will people know what you are doing

- Internal and external stakeholder meetings
 - MDOT MTA public advisory councils
 - MDOT MTA staff meetings
 - Presentations with community groups
- Public outreach
 - Digital communications, events and workshops
- Newly updated and accessible MDOT MTA website

What's the plan for sustainability

- Identify interested stakeholders internally
 - Staff who are interested in learning more about an inclusive planning effort and incorporating inclusiveness into their own work
 - In several cases, these are people with disabilities or older adults who are looking for ways to share their knowledge and experience
- Identify potential accessibility considerations in ongoing and planned projects
 - Wayfinding, paratransit information dissemination
- Connect interested stakeholders to these projects

Who is on the team

- Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA)
 - Office of Planning and Capital Programming
- Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD)
- Maryland Department of Aging (MDoA)
- Accessible Resources for Independence (ARI)
- National Federation for the Blind (NFB)
- The IMAGE Center
- ...Participants and citizens and community members!

What obstacles or barriers are you expecting to face

- We're looking to our Steering Committee and participants for guidance on:
 - What are the most thoughtful/accessible ways to record and share information with members?
 - What venues should we consider for future meetings?
 - What are topics to discuss we haven't covered yet?
 - How can we demonstrate their input has resulted in actual changes?
- **Change takes time!**
 - This grant is only 6 months

What are the next steps

- Late August: Steering Committee meeting to be hosted jointly by a participant and a Steering Committee member
- September: Public workshop focused on a topic (wayfinding and signage) selected by Steering Committee members
 - MDOT MTA project manager to present current project status, opportunities for input, and rough timeline for project

Conclusion

- We don't know what we don't know... but we're asking the right people the right questions.