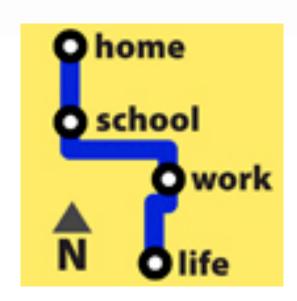
National Perspectives National Trends in Smart Growth for Everyone





Mary Leary, PhD. **Assistant Vice President Easter Seals Transportation Group**





Smart Growth Benefits Everyone

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







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)









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









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*)







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**









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







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)





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







Four Technical Assistance Functions

- Training webinars, distance learning, conference calls, travel training, community coalition building services
- Targeted Technical Assistance toll-free number, email, 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







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**









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









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
 - Principles of barrier-free design
 - Bus stop checklist
 - Use of technology
 - Sample forms and policies









The Journey....

What We're Trying to Avoid





What We're **Trying** to Accomplish





Photos: National Complete Streets Coalition





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 Surveys

Thank You

National Center on Senior Transportation Easter Seals Project ACTION Mary Leary

Questions? Please feel free to email:

mleary@easterseals.com

General Information & Technical Assistance

866-528-6278

TDD 202-347-7385



www.seniortransportation.net

www.projectaction.org



