



A Conversation on Transportation

National Center on Secondary Education and Transition

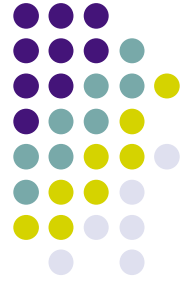
and

Easter Seals Project ACTION

Al Abeson and Karen Wolf-Branigin

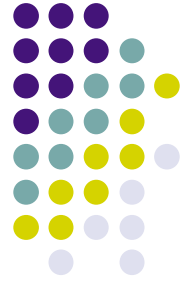


Easter Seals Project ACTION



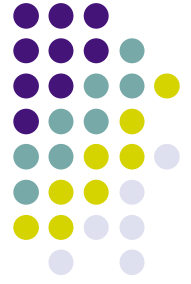
- National Technical Assistance Program
- Promote cooperation between the transportation industry and the disability community to increase mobility for people with disabilities
- Provide training, technical assistance, resources, and products at no cost

Transportation Challenges for Young Adults

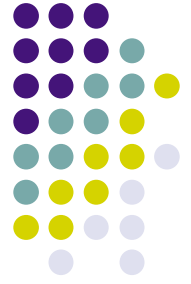


- We overlook the importance of planning for transportation services
- We are unfamiliar with using public transportation services ourselves
- We are unfamiliar with public transportation service operations
- We gravitate toward specialized services

Transportation Challenges for Young Adults

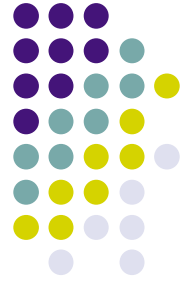


- We do not equate bus familiarization, travel training or orientation, and mobility services with driver's education
- We live in communities with limited or no transportation services
- We are unfamiliar with private transportation options
- We are concerned about personal safety



Transportation Answers for Adults

- Public and private transportation providers understand that people with disabilities are a large share of their customer base
- Public and private transportation providers work every day to meet the letter of the law
- Many providers are proud to work every day to meet the spirit of the law
- Easter Seals Project ACTION connects members of the disability community and transportation industry to improve local services

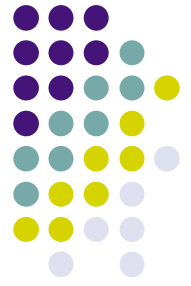


Resources: Clearinghouse

- Over 70 **free** print, video, and audio products for use in pre-service and in-service education
- Alternative formats available
- Materials cover a wide range of topics: ADA rights and responsibilities, customer education, transit personnel education, transportation coordination strategies, technology, and more.



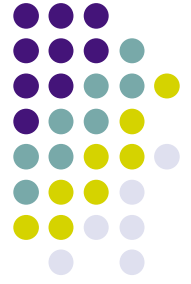
Resources: Research and Funding Opportunities



- Annual funding cycle begins with solicitation for statements of need
- Areas include technical research/demonstration, curriculum development, and marketing projects
- RFPs issued for selected projects
- Previous and current projects include: Accessible pedestrian signal curriculum, K-8 curriculum, and benefits of travel instruction and training

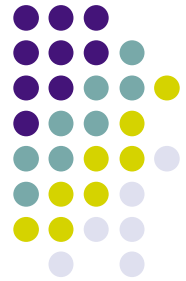


Resources: Toll-Free Information Line



- Information about the ADA and accessible public transportation
- Referrals to other resources, organizations, and subject matter experts
- 800-659-6428

Resources: Web Site



The screenshot shows the Easter Seals Project ACTION website. The browser window title is "Easter Seals Project ACTION: Disability & Transportation Access - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Easter Seals, Inc.". The address bar shows the URL: http://projectaction.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=ESPA_homepage. The website header features the logo "Easter Seals Project ACTION" with the tagline "ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITY™ TRANSPORTATION IN OUR NATION". A search box is located in the top right corner. The main content area is divided into a left sidebar with navigation links (Technical Assistance, Training & Conferences, Free Resources, Projects & Funding, Frequently Asked Questions, Who We Are) and a main content area. The main content area includes a "Shortcuts" section, a "What's New at Easter Seals Project ACTION" section with a "Welcome to Easter Seals Project ACTION" message, and a section titled "ESPA Supports Database Project" which describes the "Characteristics of ADA Paratransit Services in America" (CAPS) database. A "United We Ride" section is also present. The right sidebar contains a "Subscribe to our Easter Seals Project ACTION email newsletter" form and logos for "Easter Seals" and "CONVIO".





Resources: Newsletter

Project ACTION
UPDATE
ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION
IN OUR NATION

DECEMBER / JANUARY 2005

Houston METRO personnel, teachers help students with disabilities learn about transit

By Chip Lambert, Houston METRO

For the past year, personnel with Houston METRO's paratransit service - METROLift - have been helping educators and employment counselors across the Houston area introduce METRO services to children and young adults with disabilities.

The Choices program is opening the door for children to realize greater independence, more job opportunities and the ability to explore the many cultural and entertainment venues available using METRO transportation services, particularly the 100 percent accessible fleet of buses and light rail trains.

The METRO choices initiative was created after Mary Ann Dendor, ADA Administrator, and Suzie Edrington, Transportation Services Administrator, attended an Easter Seals Project ACTION training in 2001. Since then, more than 170 individuals have sought METRO's help in teaching students the benefits of bus riding.

"The concept is called 'travel training,' and it's being used by school districts, mental health agencies and employment services for those with disabilities," Dendor said. "We are not training the

students directly, but we are providing knowledge, examples and support to the people who are responsible for teaching children how to use public transportation services."

The Choices initiative is being used by travel trainers within their overall life and workplace skills training curricula. As part of the program, the travel trainers are issued a special pass and a letter of approval that allows them to take up to five students at a time on a bus. The students - from elementary through high school age - learn firsthand the various aspects of riding a METRO bus or light rail train.

For example, the teachers and counselors explain how to read a bus schedule and notify the bus operator that

Travel Training continued on page 3

Students with visual impairments are encouraged to get acquainted with a METRO bus through physical contact, which helps allay any fears or mystery involved in bus riding.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2 People on the Move dates set
- 2 ESPA Committee meets
- 3 20 teams selected for MPS
- 4 Calendar of events

- Free bimonthly print or electronic newsletter
- Information on ESPA activities, updates in the field, training events and conferences



Resources: Training and Technical Assistance

Easter Seals Project ACTION invites you to


**PEOPLE ON THE MOVE:
USING ALL TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS
(ADA AND BEYOND...)**


2005

A free "train-the-trainer" initiative to increase accessible transportation in your community

APPLICATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR THESE SESSIONS:

- March 15-16 - Honolulu, Hawaii
- April 13-14 - Ann Arbor, Mich.
- June 8-9 - Salt Lake City, Utah
- September 7-8 - Boston, Mass.
- November 14-15 - New Orleans, La.


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Easter Seals Project ACTION
ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITY
TRANSFORMATION OF OUR ACTION

- People on the Move
- Mobility Planning Services
- Travel Training
- On-site and telephone technical assistance

mobility
planning
services



Contact Information

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Questions and Answers

