

# The Return of the Community: Livability for All

**In the end, it is not the years  
in your life, but the life in your  
years. *President Abe Lincoln***



Easter Seals Project ACTION  
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Baltimore Metropolitan Council Meeting

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**“Transportation is the most important thing”**  
**Elder focus group participant**

- Goals for Today’s Talk
  - **Why Discuss Accessibility?**  
*Connect BRTB objectives to livability principles as they relate to accessible transportation and infrastructure in Maryland*
  - **Who Benefits and What are the Benefits?**
  - **How Do We Achieve Accessibility for All?**  
*Review of livability, mobility, sustainability community development methods*

# ESPA's Mission

**For 21 years Easter Seals Project ACTION's** mission has been to promote universal access to transportation for people with disabilities under federal law and beyond by partnering with transportation providers, the disability community and others through the provision of training, technical assistance, applied research, outreach and communication.

***Demographic Imperatives Continue to Expand Need for More Accessible Communities***



# A New Day for FTA, a New Way for BRTB

## Livability Principles

- More transportation choices including promoting public health
- Equitable affordable housing
- Enhance economic competitiveness
- Support existing communities
- Coordination and leverage federal policies and investments
- Value Communities and neighborhoods

“Everywhere I go, people tell me they want better transportation in their communities”

Secy. Transportation Ray LaHood

## BRTB Vision Objectives

- Establish framework for a future transportation system that invigorates local and regional economies, promotes an array of transportation choices and contributes to national public health...
- Develop strategic initiatives to enhance the livability and sustainability of our urban core, our existing suburbs, our emerging town centers and villages to efficiently accommodate future growth.

“ Super Saturday provides persons with disabilities, including veterans and older adults, an opportunity to obtain free income tax preparation,” said Mayor Dixon. “We can help eligible families obtain funds to assist them during these challenging economic times.” January 28th, 2010

Super Saturday Disability Income Tax Day

## Total Number of Marylanders 4,445,000

- **9.4% Marylanders have some type of disability:**
- **Hearing 2.6% Vision 1.5%**
- **Cognitive 2.5% Mobility 5.5%**
- **Daily activity limitation† 3.5%**
- **Self-care activities 1.6%**
- **Routine activities 3.3%**
- **No reported disability 90.6%**

Source: Maryland Data source Current Population Survey data for ages 18+ (households only) Year of collection 2008-2009

\* Any sensory, cognitive, or mobility disability or daily activity limitation; adds up to more than total because many people have multiple disability types.

†Any difficulty with self-care activities and/or other routine activities (performing errands alone); many people have difficulty with both types of activities.

# Who Benefits from Accessible Communities?

- Neighbors and workers with disabilities
- Businesses who need talented people and support for employees with caregiving needs
- Veterans and wounded warriors
- Caregivers who need respite support
- Children transitioning from Special Education to careers
- Older adults who can no longer drive
- People who either cannot drive or who do not own a car
- People requiring rehabilitative services either short or long-term
- Dialysis and other Patients requiring medical, psychological or social services
- People served by people who do not own cars and use public transit
- People served by the Americans with Disabilities Act, Olmstead Decision, and other legislation
- Tourists and visitors to museums, restaurants, waterfront, retail outlets and other recreation and leisure activities



## Accessible Infrastructure is a Sound Investment

- Community based living 3-1 difference (\$ 26K vs. 9K per year, AARP 2009 study)
- Business productivity Cost Metlife Study in US 7M caregivers = \$ 17.1B-33.6B lost
- 85+ population older adults will grow 74% 2007 to 2010 and then double to 2050
- Access to transportation choices sustains quality of life
- Infrastructure that supports people with disabilities helps everyone – example curb cuts & baby strollers

# Livable & Sustainable Community Characteristics

- Have Multi-modal Accessibility
- Safe
- Equitable
- Affordable
- Efficiently use resources
- Universally designed to do good
- Person-directed
- Ensure economic viability for people and business
- Healthy for people and the earth



**How do we achieve accessible transportation choices as part of a livability, mobility agenda using a values based approach that connects patterns of growth with economic activity and enhances quality of life for all citizens?**

- Include Youth Perspective
- Create pervasive partnerships – bike/pedestrian movement with disability civil rights movement
- Survey and involve current and future customers
- Coordinate services
- Ensure ease of access to information on services
- Identify & assess key indicators
  - Public transportation accessibility
  - Coordinated transportation modes
  - Paths of travel accessibility
  - Enhance Personal Networks

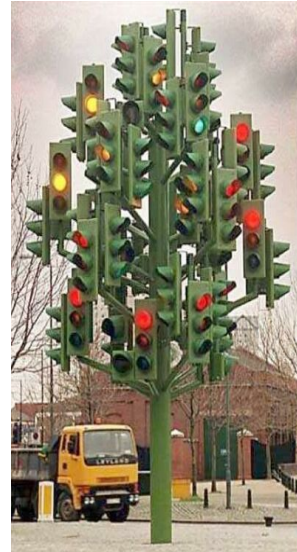
# A View from Youth with Disabilities

- Greater regional coordination & regional planning    ESPA & WVSA Arts Project
- Student transportation to enable “spontaneous” living
- Universal design for universal access
- Intersection of cross county rural, urban and suburban transportation options
- Expansion of transportation public/private partnerships
- Information & knowledge of transportation taught to all students in general education curricula
- Greater community awareness of needs of and the perspectives of youth with disabilities



## Person-Directed Mobility Management

- Over last ten+ years evolved from Transit program to Community Program
- Connects people with the right transportation options
- Requires dual community analysis
  - Accessibility needs of people in the community
  - Assessment of accessibility & resources in the community
- Identifies gaps in livability/accessibility
- Advocates to fill those gaps
- Develops and implements helpful programs



## Wisconsin Success Story

- Person directed – moving people
- Multiple funding sources – Federal and State
- Went from 29 mobility managers (MM) in 2008 to 47 2009
- Employed by diverse stakeholders
- Projects planned by collaboration and transportation coordination plans
- Formal training program for MM
- 69 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have mobility management projects

# Coordinated, Pervasive Partnerships – Customers and Providers

- Transit providers
- People with disabilities
- Older Adults
- Human Services Providers
- School System
- Students
- People of limited income
- Business Community
- Faith-based community
- Non-profit community
- Civic leaders
- Planners
- Housing Industry
  - Builders
  - Realtors
  - Owner associations

- Use social networking for online engagement
- Marketing
  - Public service announcements
  - Up to date accessible websites
  - Regular communication, newsletters, success stories
- Call Centers
  - One call (no wrong door)
  - Mobility centers
- All points of intersection for community based living
  - Department of Motor Vehicles
  - Hospitals

## Public Transportation & Path of Travel Accessibility

- Accessible buses, commuter rail, and transit facilities
- Accessible pathways
  - Signage
  - Bus stops
  - Trip planning and overall navigability
  - Universal design around transit hubs/stations
  - “Complete Streets” [www.completestreets.org](http://www.completestreets.org)
- Accessible rides
  - Stop announcements (visual/auditory)
  - Operator sensitivity
  - Consumer awareness/sensitivity (respecting designated seats, service animals)

## One Tool of Many - Environmental Barrier Analysis Activity

Environmental\_Barrier\_Analysis Activity.doc - Microsoft Word

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Cambridge 12

Accessible Community Transportation In Our Nation

Easter Seals Project ACTION

www.PROJECTION.ORG

**Getting There Together:**  
*Supporting Accessible Sustainable Transportation in our Community*

**Environmental Barrier Analysis and Options for Remedy**

Going to the Stop/Station	Yes	No
1. Were sidewalks free of construction and impassable barriers (e.g. trash cans, post boxes, telephone poles, signs)?		
2. Were sidewalks flat and free of impassable cracks?		
3. Were curb cuts available, accessible, free from debris, etc.?		
4. Were buttons at the crosswalk and were they easy to find, reach and use?		
5. Was there adequate time to cross the street?		
6. Were there auditory crossing/warning signals?		
7. Were braille signs or mapping available?		

At the Stop/Station	Yes	No
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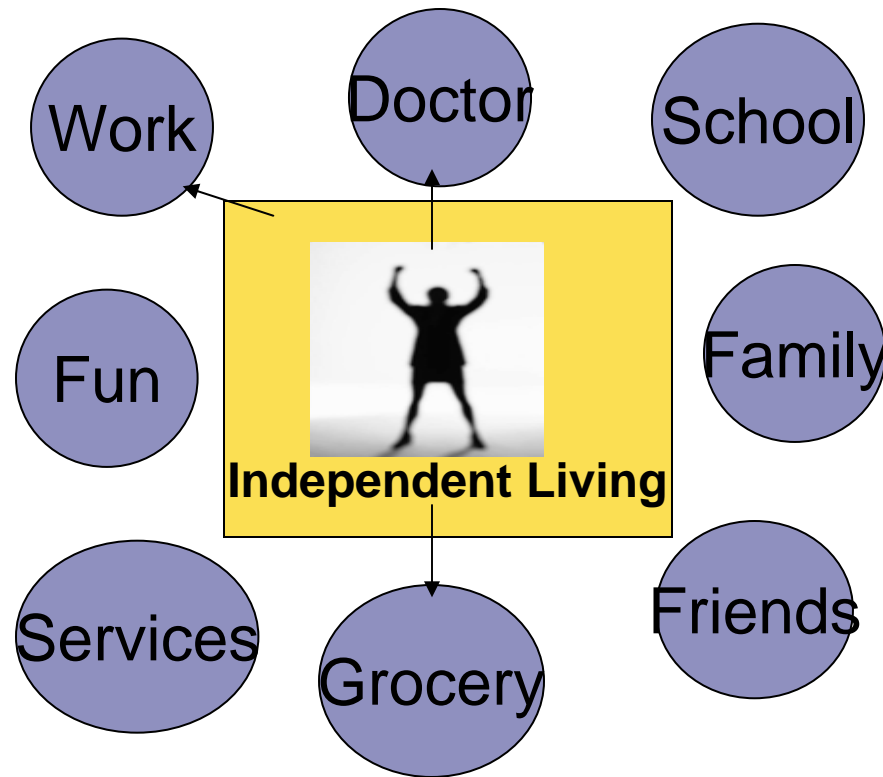
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Other tools from ESPA – free resources on accessible pathways  
Universal design, Bus rapid transit, stop announcements  
developed by partnerships and research projects

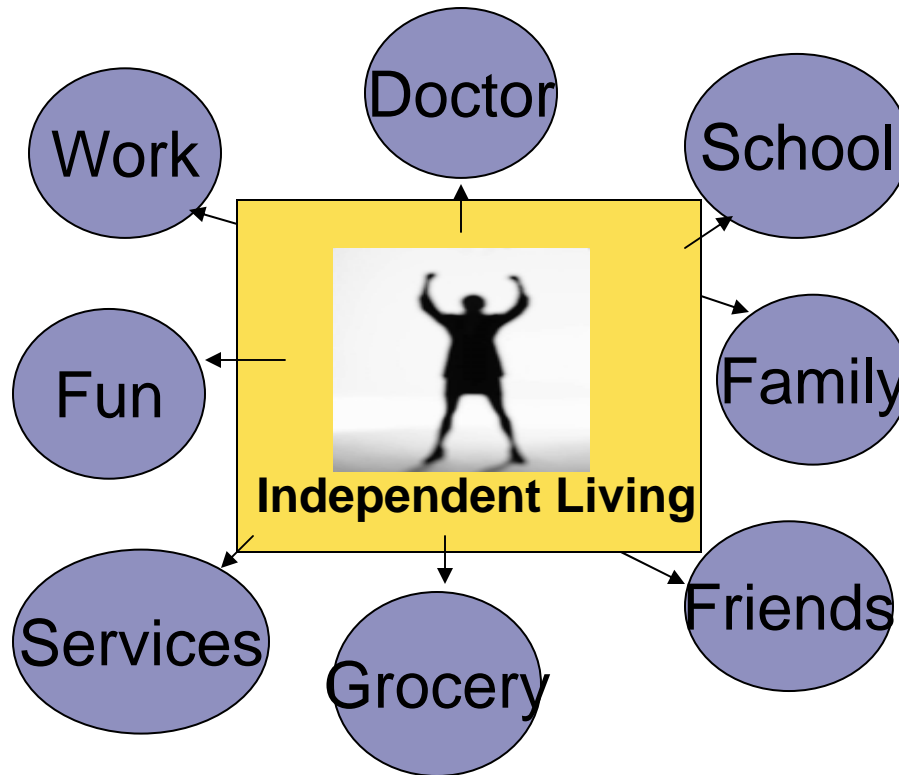
- Accessible Taxis
- Volunteer driver & shared ride programs
- Public/private partnership transportation programs
- Caregiver transportation programs
- Vanpools
- Motor-coach/recreation & leisure transportation
- Accessible fixed route & paratransit services
- Other human services transportation
- Schools and university transportation

## Key Indicators – Enhance Personal Networks



3 of 8 – 38% Access to Life Satisfying Activities  
Lack of full engagement with their community

## Key Indicators – Enhance Personal Networks



8 of 8 – > 62% for 100% Access to Life Satisfying Activities  
Everyone deserves to be able to live spontaneous lives

# Living a Spontaneous Life

- Creates jobs
- Gives people greater life satisfaction
- Reduces unnecessary institutionalization
- Builds social capital in a community
- Builds economic capital in a community
- Supports intergenerational and cultural diversity and inclusion
- Helps people stay healthier
- Sustains our environment

*If planning activities outreach to the diversity of the community the result will be a system all can use and be proud of.....*

# Thank You

## Easter Seals Project ACTION

Mary Leary

Questions? Please feel free to email:

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