



## ***Increasing Transportation Options in Rural America For Older Adults & People with Disabilities***

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# Purpose and Format

- Purpose: To share good practices & learn from each other
- Agenda
  - Presentations and Discussion
  - Small Group Activity
- Sticky Notes for Questions and Comments
- Who is in the room?



**MISSION:** To promote the availability of accessible transportation options that serve the needs of **Older Adults, People with Disabilities, Caregivers and Communities.**

**MAJOR OBJECTIVES:**

- Person-centered technical assistance and information & referral
- Training: webinars, online courses/forums
- Interactive communication and outreach strategy
- Coordination and partnership strategy, including stakeholder engagement
- Investment in community solutions
- Independent program evaluation



# The 'Family' of Transportation Options



- Driving
- Walking/Biking
- Public Transit: Fixed Route, Dial-a-Ride
- Paratransit
- Private Options: Taxi, Uber, Lyft
- Volunteer Driver Programs
- Information and Referral/Assistance ~ “Transportation Options Counseling”
- One-Call/One-Click Transportation Resource Centers
- Travel Training
- Mobility Management

# Transportation Challenges for Older Adults & People with Disabilities

- Older adults who stop driving take 15% fewer trips to the doctor, 59% fewer shopping trips and 65% fewer social, family, religious and other life-enhancing trips.
- Half of older non-drivers do not leave their homes on any given day
- 3.6 million medical appointments missed in any given year due to lack of transportation
- Transportation is the #1 reason older adults contact the Eldercare Locator: more than 31,000 transportation calls last year

# Transportation Challenges in Rural and Tribal Areas

- Lack of options
- Long distances/spread out areas
- Lack of infrastructure: bad roads, not enough vehicles
- Rising operational costs
- Lack of drivers
- Difficulty filling seats
- Multi-week trips to the same destination
- Few volunteers
- Lack of coordination
- Increased isolation of elders without transportation

# Resources

- **Crossing Great Divides:**

[http://www.nadtc.org/wp-content/uploads/Crossing\\_Great\\_Divides-Cover.pdf](http://www.nadtc.org/wp-content/uploads/Crossing_Great_Divides-Cover.pdf)

- **Rural Transit Fact Book 2016:**

<http://www.surtc.org/transitfactbook/downloads/2016-rural-transit-fact-book.pdf>

- **Rural Health Information Hub**

<https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/>

# Federal Transit Administration's Technical Assistance Centers

- National Aging & Disability Transportation Center - NADTC  
[www.nadtc.org](http://www.nadtc.org)
- National Rural Transit Assistance Program – NRTAP  
[www.nationalrtap.org](http://www.nationalrtap.org)
- National Center for Mobility Management - NCMM  
[www.nationalcenterformobilitymanagement.org](http://www.nationalcenterformobilitymanagement.org)



# Our Speakers

- **Joy Shirley**, Director of Three Rivers Area Agency on Aging, Franklin , GA
- **Mitch Elliott**, Transit Director, Mountain Empire Older Citizens, Big Stone Gap, VA