

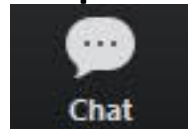
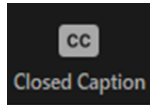


Office Hours – Using Assistive Technology in Transportation
June 28, 2023



Instructions for Zoom Office Hours Participation

- All participants please stay muted during the presentation.
- The session is being recorded. Attendees' voices, likeness and/or images will not be posted to the NADTC website.
- All materials including the recording will be sent to participants.
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- If possible, please keep your cameras on to add to the interactive nature of this meeting.
- We encourage you to provide your experience through the chat or by raising your hand and unmuting yourself.



NADTC Overview

- *Dave Somers, Senior Research Associate, USAging, NADTC*

Today's Presenters

- *Robert Groenendaal, Assistive Technology Act Programs, Administration for Community Living*
- *Tobias Orr, Director, Nebraska Dept. of Education, Assistive Technology Partnership*

Group Discussion

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
- Training
- Communication and Outreach
- Coordination and partnership
- Investment in community solutions

USAging



Photo Credit: ButterFLi, Los Angeles, CA

National Aging & Disability Transportation Center

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Assistive Technology in Transportation

Presented by: Tobias Orr and Rob Groenendaal



What is Assistive Technology (AT)?

- AT is equipment used by a person to perform functions that might otherwise be difficult or impossible.
- AT can be low-tech (checklist or crutches) to mid-tech (audio book or calculator) to high-tech (electric wheelchair or computer).
- AT that works for one person may not be a good solution for someone else. It is very individualized and can take trial and error to find a good match.

Transportation AT – Low Tech.

- Spinner Knobs
- Allows driver to turn a steering wheel without changing hand position
- Various types/styles to accommodate the driver's dexterity and hand strength



Transportation AT – Low Tech. slide 2

Hand Controls

- Allows a driver to operate gas and brake pedals by hand



Transportation AT – Low Tech. slide 3

Pedal Risers/Pedal Extensions

- Brings the surface of the gas/brake pedal closer to the driver



Transportation AT – Low Tech. slide 4

Gear Shifter Modifications

- Allows a driver with limited hand strength/dexterity to operate a gear selector



Transportation AT – Medium Tech.

Ramp system

- Side or rear entry
- Manual or automatic
- Some vehicles require lowering of the floor or raising of the roof



Transportation AT – Medium Tech. slide 2

Valet Seat/Turney Seat

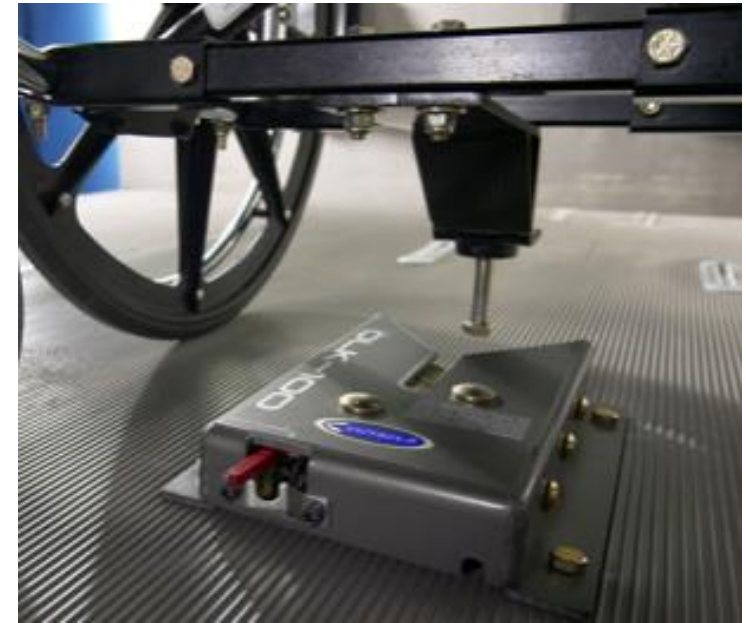
- Allows driver to transfer from a seated position in the vehicle to a wheelchair or a supported standing position



Transportation AT – Medium Tech. slide 3

Wheelchair Lock System

- Secures wheelchair in vehicle
- Occupant restraints require assistance
- EZ Lock/Q-Straint type systems are specific to one wheelchair
 - Allows individual using the wheelchair to independently secure themselves in the vehicle



Transportation AT – Medium Tech. slide 4

Wheelchair/Scooter Transport systems

- Platform lifts
 - Internal and External
 - Manual and hydraulic
- Crane type lifts
- Chair Topper



Transportation AT – High Tech.

High Tech Driving Controls

- Allows driver to operate entire vehicle with minimal effort
 - Single handed controls
 - Touch screen
 - Sip and puff
 - Voice controls
- Limited to newer vehicles



Public Transportation - Accessibility

Bus System

- Wheelchair lifts
- Wheelchair ramps
- Tie down systems
 - Generic to accommodate all types of wheelchairs
 - Bus driver is responsible to secure the riders wheelchair

Public Transportation – Accessibility slide 2

Para-Transit Program (Handivan)

- For riders that can't use the fixed route bus system
- These rides are scheduled by the rider in advance
- Eligibility varies by program
- Programs vary by city/county
 - Sometimes there is a small fee to use the service



Public Transportation – Accessibility

Ridesharing

Uber

- Uber WAV wheelchair transportation
 - Pilot program – not in all cities
 - Requires driver to have a vehicle capable of transporting a wheelchair as well as certification to secure wheelchairs in vehicle
- Uber Assist program
 - Drivers assist people with accessibility needs
 - Can be selected on the app

Lyft

- Access Mode/WAV rides
 - App allows riders to request an accessible vehicle
 - Wheelchair access can be selected in the app
 - Only available in select larger cities

Funding for Vehicle Modifications - Nebraska

State AT Program (ATP)

- Provides resource coordination
 - Does not directly fund, but manages other funding sources
 - If individual doesn't qualify for one of ATP's funding sources, a resource letter is sent detailing other funding the individual can apply for.
- Equipment Reuse
 - Used equipment donated to ATP and then given out to individuals that need it.
 - Wheelchair lifts, wheelchair trailers, hand controls etc.
 - Individual is responsible for installation of equipment

Funding for Vehicle Modifications – Nebraska slide 2

Funding sources in Nebraska that pay for vehicle modifications:

- Aged and Disabled Waiver
 - Nursing home level of care
 - State AT Program assesses, finds vendor, and oversees project
- Developmental Disability Waiver
 - State AT Program assesses, finds vendor, and oversees project
 - \$10,000 cap over 5 years

Funding for Vehicle Modifications – Nebraska slide 3

Funding sources in Nebraska that pay for vehicle modifications:

- Nebraska VR (Vocational Rehabilitation)
 - Must be needed to find, obtain, or maintain work
 - State AT Program assesses, finds vendor, and oversees project
- Private Foundations (Enrichment Grant)
 - Only for residents of Douglas and Sarpy Counties (Omaha)
 - \$10,000 cap per year
 - State AT Program assesses, finds vendor, and oversees project

Vehicle Modifications – Nebraska Fiscal Year 22

- Vehicle Modifications Assessed= 138
- Vehicle Modification Repairs Assessed= 38

- Funding Spent on Vehicle Modifications= \$874,882.76
- Funding Spent on Vehicle Modification Repairs= \$27,163.67

Quote from Judy Heumann

“For most of us, technology makes things easier. For a person with a disability, it makes things possible.”

-Judy Heumann, American Disability Rights Activist and Former Assistance Secretary US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs

Questions?



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Rob Groenendaal – robert.groenendaal@acl.hhs.gov

Assistive Technology Act Programs



Find the AT Act Program in your state or territory:

<https://www.at3center.net/stateprogram>



Program Directory - Find Your State Program

Connect with AT Act Programs

ACL Rob Groenendaal: robert.groenendaal@acl.hhs.gov

AT3 AT3 Center: <https://www.at3center.net>

AT Data Center for Assistive Technology Act Data Assistance:
<https://catada.info>

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