

# **SENIOR TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES: WHY THEY ARE IMPORTANT AND WHAT MAKES THEM WORK**

## **PROBLEM STATEMENT**

As baby boomers move into retirement age, the United States is realizing a growing number of automobile drivers over the age of 65. In response to this phenomenon, many communities are implementing or are considering implementing various strategies to improve transportation alternatives for seniors who want to drive less or not at all. Much can be learned from the successes and struggles of alternative transportation programs, and particularly from seniors themselves.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The purpose of this research was to explore the topic of driving cessation for senior citizens, viz. to identify and evaluate the current state of transportation alternatives for older adults. The goal is to understand the transportation needs of seniors, personal plans for their driving future, the transportation options that are available, and the best practices of available alternative programs.

## **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

The primary concern expressed by seniors is that when they are no longer able to drive, whether by their own decision or some other determination, their quality of life may be greatly diminished due to the lack of transportation options. Such a realization awakens a variety of emotions among older adults, including fear, anger, and depression. The results of the written survey completed by senior transportation providers suggest that most providers are aware of and are addressing the concerns that today's seniors have regarding their independence and mobility. Despite the efforts and successes of these programs, today's seniors, and likely those in the future, do not have adequate and affordable options to driving.

## **BENEFITS**

This report provides current information about the state of transportation alternatives for senior citizens to municipalities, senior transportation providers and new starts, transit agencies, senior centers, senior support programs, or other person or agency interested in improving transportation options for seniors. This study raises awareness regarding existing programs and current and future senior citizen mobility needs, and it should be useful to transportation providers as they continue to improve by making services for senior citizens more effective and more attractive.

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