



ONE Community Working Together

Transportation: An Unfulfilled Need

What Does the Council Do?

“One Community Working Together”

- Advocates alongside persons with developmental disabilities and their families
- Works toward achieving system(s) change
- Endeavors to increase community capacity for persons with disabilities
- Provides funding for innovative and new projects that are sustainable



For Persons with Disabilities, Some Options Haven't Changed Dramatically Over Generations

- Walking
- Use of bicycles
- Wheelchairs
- Public transportation

Why is Transportation Important?

Employment – National Trends

- In 2012, only 32% of persons with a disability were employed
- Persons with a cognitive disability represented the highest number of the unemployed with only 22.2 percent employed

Why is Transportation Important?

Employment – Arizona

- The unemployment rate for Arizonians in 2012 was 9%
- In 2012 unemployment rate for persons with any type of disability was 66%
- Persons with cognitive disabilities had the highest unemployment rate of any group in the state at 74%

Why is Transportation Important?

Under-Employment Equals Poverty

- Many persons with disabilities subsist on benefit programs such as Social Security Disability Income and/or Supplemental Security Income
- For a single adult, benefits average \$700-\$900 per month
- Poverty diminishes the ability to fully engage in the community



Because
my boss
encourages
me...

What can
YOU do?
The Campaign for
Disability Employment
WhatCanYouDoCampaign.org

I am a valuable
employee.



JAN
The Accommodation Network



Why is Transportation Important?

Reliance on Community Resources

- Possessing a driver's license or having an accessible personal vehicle is often difficult
- Community resources (shopping, health care, employment, leisure activities) are best utilized if within close proximity
- Limited transportation restricts opportunities for work, education and social interactions



Nogales Arizona Transportation Project

- “Building Accessible and Sustainable Transportation for Increased Independence Arizona”
- Project BASTIA – 2011-2013

Missing Lifelines

Small Communities

“Smaller cities and towns across Arizona continue to struggle with the challenge of increasing the availability of accessible transportation that allows persons with developmental and other disabilities to travel to work, school or access healthcare or recreation.”

- *Sonoran University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, University of Arizona*



Isolation Leads to Inequality

Why Nogales?

- Underserved community
- High poverty rate
- High percentage of mono-lingual Spanish speakers
- Large percent of persons with developmental disabilities relative to overall community population
- Community interest/infrastructure

Project Design

Intensive involvement of community stakeholders:

- Town Hall Meetings, Focused Work Groups
- Establish relationships with City of Nogales (previous operator of city operated shuttles)
- Create relationships with community non-profits to support & sustain project

Project Model

- Existing use of shuttles under-utilized by City of Nogales
- Considered but discarded concept of volunteer drivers (due to community impoverishment)
- Sought other under-used vehicles



Vehicles That Offer Accommodations are Limited

- Scheduling difficulties
- Lack of reliability when centrally operated due to special needs
- Limited availability, often during daylight hours and during the week

Obstacles

- Political issues within City Hall – Mayor/Council Members v. City Manager
- Developing a supplemental transit schedule to augment current city operations – nights, weekends & holidays
- Identifying qualified vehicle operators
- Funding: revenue from consumers and managing funds
- Satisfying consumers during the development process

Lessons Learned

Developing sustainable, supplemental transportation services in small community settings is doable if the following conditions are met:

- Adequate start-up capitalization for a period of no less than 5 years
- A supply of diversely qualified volunteers who can support various functions (scheduling, fund management, drivers, trainers, etc.)

Lessons Learned - Continued

- Locating a reliable source for insurance
- Finding a source of accessible and reliable existing vehicles that are under-utilized and available for use during alternate hours
- Cooperative and engaged community leadership both in government and within the business community