



Public Transportation Systems Position Statement

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities supports the position that a public transportation system must meet the needs of citizens in a safe, reliable, affordable and accessible manner. Transportation is essential to any effort to enable all citizens to live as independently as they choose, and be fully integrated in their communities. A transportation system should be one system with walkways linked to all modes of transportation.

People with disabilities cannot enjoy the basic right to freedom of movement when they must depend on transportation systems that are limited, do not exist, or the transportation and walkways are not connected and accessible.

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities supports the position that publicly funded and/or regulated transportation service systems must:

- combine all transportation services and funding into one system to be universally accessible and effective;
- coordinate and computerize dispatch at state, federal and local levels among all modes of transportation;
- expand capacity in suburban, urban, rural and unincorporated areas to connect places people live with places they work, shop, socialize, worship, attend school, access health care, etc.;
- include alternative routes for people with disabilities and specifically in wheelchairs, during construction; and
- be fully accessible to all people with disabilities.

The Council advocates for people with disabilities to be actively represented on boards and advisory groups for both public and private entities that oversee or provide transportation services.

For the promise of full integration into the community to be real for people with disabilities they must have access to safe, reliable, affordable, and accessible transportation to connect them where they live with where they need to go.

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