



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES**

## **Transportation Task Force Annual Report 2008**

### Task Force Actions Taken This Year

This year, the Task Force began preparing for the reauthorization of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) in 2009. SAFETEA-LU is the legislation that authorizes all highway and transit funding in the United States and it includes a new program for people with disabilities, Section 5317 (the New Freedom Program). SAFETEA-LU also created a new planning process and other changes that will affect people with disabilities. We also provided comment on the proposed passenger vessel regulations. CCD supported passage of P.L. 110-291 to ensure that curbside carriers and other “over-the-road” buses (OTRBs) are accessible to people with disabilities. Finally, the Task Force provided language to key staff on the Amtrak reauthorization. With the passage of P.L.110-432, Amtrak is now required to report to Congress on their progress for making all stations accessible by the ADA deadline of 2010. Funding has also been authorized to help Amtrak improve their accessibility.

### Task Force Agenda for 2009:

- Increase investment in public transportation options for all Americans. Because people with disabilities are disproportionately dependent on public transportation, expanding the public transportation system will lessen demand for specialized services. This is particularly true in rural areas where public transportation options are not available, leaving many people with disabilities isolated and unable to participate in work and social activities.
- Expand the Program for the Elderly and People with Disabilities (Section 5310), the Job Access Reverse Commute Program, and the New Freedom Program to better meet transportation demands.
- Work with human service and transportation providers to make regulatory and legislative changes that will make federal transportation programs easier to access. This includes allowing for Section 5310 dollars to be used for operating expenses.
- Support increased access to mobility management and travel training services that work directly with people with disabilities and transportation

providers to maximize the success of both riders with disabilities and the transportation systems that serve them.

- Hold Amtrak accountable for meeting the legislatively mandated deadline of 2010 for full station accessibility under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and provide funding for accessibility initiatives.
- Support legislation that expands volunteer driver programs by increasing the allowable mileage reimbursement and deduction rates to be more consistent with the business rate.
- Promote tax policy that encourages greater mobility for people with disabilities.
- Promote the expansion of accessible taxis and other public and private transportation vehicles.
- Improve enforcement of the civil rights laws that promote access to transportation (the ADA, Air Carrier Access Act) and fully fund the agencies that are charged with the enforcement of these important laws.
- Adopt livable community principles that ensure that the mobility of people with disabilities is included in community planning including transportation and pedestrian environments.
- Monitor implementation of the over-the-road bus accessibility changes.

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