



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

**CCD Transportation Task Force
Annual Report for 2015**

2015 ACTIVITIES

Over 2015, the Task Force met monthly to discuss topics of interest and actions the Task Force should take.

The Task Force Advocated for:

- Accessible Amtrak services & stations.
- Innovative use of funds & new models for high quality paratransit through Transit Accessibility Innovation Funding (TAIF) Program bill.
- Retention of a provision in the Coast Guard Reauthorization bill that would require that survival craft on passenger vessels keep all parts of the passenger's body out of the water.
- Reauthorization of a surface transportation bill that benefits people with disabilities.
- Necessary funding for public transit and needed programs, including: Section 5310, bicycle and pedestrian programs that contribute to accessible sidewalks and curb cuts, and complete streets, to ensure transportation for people with disabilities in urban, suburban and rural areas.

The Task Force drafted letters and comments, including:

- Letters to Coast Guard Admiral Zukunft and Senate Commerce Committee leadership regarding supporting for retention of survival craft requirements.
- Letters sent to the House and Senate supporting reauthorization of a surface transportation bill.
- A letter to Representative Larsen thanking him for his inclusion of language in the FAA Reauthorization urging USDOT to issue final Air Carrier Access Act accessibility rulemaking.
- Outside Witness Testimony to Senate Subcommittee with the Housing Task Force regarding FY16 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations.
- A letter to the House and Senate regarding FY16 Transportation Appropriations.
- Comments submitted to USDOT opposing an exemption and increase in paratransit fare rates.
- A letter to USDOT urging swift promulgation of ACAA Rulemaking.

The Task Force conducted USDOT and agency visits, and:

- Members of the Task Force met with U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Officials, including the Federal Transit Administration and Aviation Consumer Protection.
- Met once with the Amtrak Board, and met with Amtrak officials several times throughout the year to discuss ADA compliance and solutions.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- Advocate for issues related to:
 - FAST Act (the new surface transportation bill) implementation
 - Air Carrier Access Act and air travel improvements
 - Funding and Appropriations
- Continue to monitor and support, or challenge when necessary, legislation and issues related to transit and safe, accessible transportation for people with disabilities.
- Continue to educate staff on Capitol Hill about the importance of safe, accessible transportation for all.

CO-CHAIRS IN 2015: Carol Tyson, United Spinal Association * Dara Baldwin, National Disability Rights Network