

Research in Progress

Environmental Scan of Community Transit Needs Among Older Adults in Massachusetts

Research Need

The COVID-19 pandemic reshaped community transit, emphasizing the need for flexibility, health safety measures, and alternative transit models, especially for vulnerable populations.

Goals/Objectives

This project aims to support MassDOT in advancing its community transit programs by systematically identifying and addressing the needs of older adults. Through detailed analysis and stakeholder engagement, the project will provide actionable recommendations for improving transit options and enhancing the quality of life for Massachusetts's aging population. It includes:

1. A comprehensive environmental scan of community transit needs for community dwelling older adults in Massachusetts.
2. A secondary-data analysis of existing individual-level data from residents in selected cities and towns to recommend priority areas for community transit.
3. Develop evaluation questions for community transit grantees.
4. A final report and slide deck summarizing key findings and recommendations.

Project Information

This project is being conducted as part of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Research Program with funding from Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) State Planning and Research (SPR) funds.

Principal Investigators:

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Performing Organization:

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Project Champion:

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Project Start Date:

Expected Project Completion Date:

6/30/2025

Methodology

This study includes the following methodology:

1. Literature review to identify trends, patterns, and key needs and challenges, providing a comprehensive picture of the current community transit needs;
2. Secondary-data analysis of individual-level data from residents in selected cities and towns to highlight nuanced differences by age, and by disability or economic status and across regions and demographic groups.
3. Individual interview to learn about the most impactful dimensions of measurement and approaches.

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