



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Transit  
Administration**

**ORAL  
STATEMENT OF  
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
BEFORE THE  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING  
UNITED STATES SENATE  
November 6, 2013**

Chairman Nelson, Ranking Member Collins, and  
Members of the Committee:

I'm Therese McMillan, deputy administrator for the  
Federal Transit Administration.

Thank you for the opportunity to highlight the  
Administration's efforts to address transportation and mobility  
needs of America's seniors.

Our nation is undergoing a significant demographic shift  
that will profoundly affect our policies and priorities for years  
to come. By 2050, the number of Americans aged 65 and older

is projected to more than double. The number of men and women 85 and older could increase fivefold during that period. This population can face significant challenges, including increased poverty, isolation, and the struggle to access medical care.

The Department of Transportation is committed to helping older Americans to age in place and live with dignity, in urban and rural communities alike. A key point of collaboration is the Federal Interagency Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility – or C-CAM – chaired by the Transportation Secretary.

In recent years, working with several federal C-CAM partners, the FTA awarded competitive grants in more than three dozen states and territories to help install one-call, one-click access to transportation, with a special focus on military veterans and their families. Through this program, patients at the VA clinic in Lee County, Florida, to cite one example, will be able to arrange for rides on the spot, using a computer kiosk installed on-site. Many of these veterans are seniors.

My agency, the FTA, has entered into many innovative cooperative agreements to improve locally coordinated access to public transportation for older individuals. For example, working with Easter Seals and other industry partners, we've launched a new National Center for Mobility Management. The center will, among other things, develop a database to identify best practices for delivering transportation to seniors as efficiently as possible.

Mobility management is a responsible and innovative use of taxpayer dollars that will extend FTA's assistance into communities. This approach improves customer service to individuals by encouraging partnerships among transportation providers—both public and private—at the local level. Those who know their communities best, serve them best.

In FY2012, FTA provided over \$40 million for mobility management projects—a 4 percent increase over FY2011. Thanks to ongoing investments in this area, today there are over 400 mobility managers nationwide, and over half the states are planning one-call centers.

The funding picture is decidedly mixed, however. On the one hand, MAP-21, our current authorization, enhances funding and services for seniors and others. For example, our program to enhance mobility for seniors and people with disabilities is authorized to receive \$28 million more in Fiscal 2012 than under the prior authorization. This includes, for example, providing rides on accessible taxicabs, which is working well in Houston, Texas; Madison, Wisconsin; and elsewhere.

MAP-21 also increases spending by 25 percent for rural transportation. Rural states are home to many of the nation's lowest-income, and most transit-dependent, seniors.

And importantly, MAP-21 enables FTA to leverage its own investments in coordinated transportation activities with matching funds drawn from a variety of federal programs, ranging from Medicaid to Head Start.

But the FY2013 appropriations, the sequester, and continuing resolutions have left FTA unable to fund even modest technical assistance to help grantees strengthen service

delivery and innovation. This reduces FTA's ability to invest in transportation coordination at a time when it is needed most.

Despite these and other challenges, we must continue helping communities to identify and fill gaps in transportation for seniors and others. Oftentimes, seniors simply may not know what services and transportation options are available to them, or how to connect with them.

Therefore, we need to support mobility managers and similar initiatives across the country to foster even greater connectivity.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions.