

"Building Accessible and Sustainable Transportation for Increased Independence"

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AZ DD PLANNING COUNCIL GOAL (LAST 5 YEAR PLAN)

(1) to increase accessible transportation capacity for persons with developmental disabilities, their families and caregivers living in cities and towns smaller than 82,000, and

(2) to help people with developmental disabilities achieve greater independence via accessible and sustainable transportation systems.



“Transportation is a lifeline.”



Rehab Act – prohibits discrimination/federal programs

IDEA – transportation is a related service for students

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA)

- Accessible transportation for persons with disabilities becomes a federal, state, and local priority



Identified Challenges

- Limited Financial Resources
- High Cost of Transportation
- Limited Days and Hours of Service
- Lack of Long Distance Transportation
- Limited Trip Purposes

- Building Trust
- Turf (jurisdiction issues)
- Working Effectively with New Partners
- Nurturing Strong Coalitions
- Understanding Cost Allocation in Coordinated Systems

- Limited Use of Advanced Technologies
- Lack of Driver Training
- Want of Accessible Vehicles
- Client-Only Transportation
- Lack of Information

MISSING LIFELINES



Smaller cities and towns across Arizona
continue to **struggle**
with the challenge of increasing the availability of
accessible transportation modalities
that allow **persons with developmental and other disabilities**
to travel to **work** or **school**
or access **healthcare** or **recreation**.

Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council Funded Project

- B --building
- A --accessible
- S --sustainable
- T --transportation
- I -- increased
- I --independence
- A --Arizona



THE BASTIA GOAL

**Develop and implement
a transportation pilot model
that responds to the needs
of persons with developmental disabilities
living in smaller Arizona communities.**



What we aren't going to do

- Ask the Legislature for money for transportation
- Look to federal government to solve our problems (unless a community wants to apply together for a grant)
- Look to state agencies (except for better coordination/working smarter)

What we are going to do



- Find out what the community need is
- Find out what the community wants to do about that need
- Work with communities to identify strengths, existing resources, collaborations

Working together as a Community

“People who work together will win, whether it be against complex football defenses, or the problems of modern society.”

Vince Lombardi





BASTIIA

**STEPS COMPLETED : *IDENTIFY COMMUNITY (less than 82,000)
THAT WANTS TO WORK ON A TRANSPORTATION SOLUTION
FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES***

➤ Performed Community Needs Assessment

--Casa Grande

--Nogales

--Flagstaff

--Goodyear



Community Needs Assessment

<http://sonoranucedd.fcm.arizona.edu/BASTIIAA>

- Looked at:
 - existing transportation options in community
 - community resources (people, advocacy groups, infrastructure)
 - potential challenges in developing a model transportation program

Nogales, AZ

- Underserved Community (high poverty rate, high % of mono-lingual Spanish speakers)
- High Transportation Needs (little public transportation)
- Larger % of DD individuals relative to population
- Community:
\interest/enthusiasm/infrastructure for transportation improvement

BASTIA –NOGALES, AZ-MEETINGS

- **Town Hall Meeting** (May 14th, 2012) attended by 37 community members representing Nogales City Government, service providers, non familial caregivers, families, and individuals with DD.
- **Focused Working Group #1** (June 6th, 2012) – decides to work on how to increase access/hours of existing van system “Nogales Rides”– getting more vans on the street (currently City has 3 and only one is in use).
- **Focused Working Group #2** (June 20th,2012) – reports on accomplished tasks, feedback from local City meetings; public meetings; outreach to providers and to plan next steps.

Nogales, Arizona Town Hall Meeting

- Hosted by SEAHEC, the meeting was held to discuss transportation issues and options for people with developmental disabilities in Nogales.
- After a power point presentation, there was an open forum to express concerns, raise issues, note unmet needs, mention resources and brainstorm potential strategies. Some of the things mentioned were the need for expanded paratransit hours, the possibility of volunteer drivers from the community and need for driver training. Mayor Garino mentioned that 2 of 3 of the city's paratransit vehicles are currently not being used because of lack of funds.
- Twenty people indicated interest in participating in a focused working group to plan next steps to develop a community-based transportation model.
- **Power point presentation** shown at the meeting and the **Town Hall Meeting Summary** (outlining resources, unmet needs, suggested strategies and challenges) is available at the Project BASTIIA website: <http://sonoranucedd.fcm.arizona.edu/BASTIIA>

Nogales, Arizona Focused Working Group

- Identified goal: to focus on and facilitate the mobilization of transportation services by using existing resources, such as the 2 unused paratransit vans owned by the City of Nogales.
- Participants took on tasks to carry the project forward including:
 - identifying the number of community members with developmental disabilities who have unmet transportation needs;
 - arranging a meeting with people from “Nogales Rides” and other city officials and community members to discuss the 2 vans the city has that are currently unused;
 - looking into issues to help get vans up and running, such as funding and driver training;
 - and representing Project BASTIIA at the SEAGO public meetings, June 12th” *Regional Mobility Management Study and Recommendations* held for 4 counties, one which is Santa Cruz, where Nogales Arizona is located.

Nogales, Arizona Workgroup Meeting 6/20

- Our 2nd FWG met on June 20th 4:30-6:30 p.m. at SEAHEC to report back on tasks completed, feedback received and to plan next steps.



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Sonoran UCEDD works in partnership with people with developmental disabilities to increase opportunities for community inclusion.