Accessible Transportation: View of Accessible Samples of Design in Urban/ Small Towns from Selected Countries

UN DSPD Forum- Ecuador, Quito
October 16, 2016
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Examples of Accessible Transport and Pathways in Urban Areas

From:

US

Europe

Mexico

India
Accessibility Into Transport Modes

Requires

- Accessible entry into & exit from all forms of public transport modes:

In general

*Level entryway/ exit* – feasible in modes such as light rail /subways/ boarding a vehicle from a platform

*Ramped entry / exit* allows all passengers to easily access and exit
Accessibility into Buildings/Transport Mode Requires:

- *Entry into and exit from buildings via a ramp*

- *Ability to maneuver without endangering self and others (width of walkway)*

- *Accessible space for wheel chair/ mobility device to park inside a public transport mode and/or transfer into a regular seat (Aircraft/Rail)*

- *Ability to use wash rooms /toilets in long distance transport modes*
Some Examples of Various levels of Accessible Pathways - Europe
Historic Area, Esslingen, Germany
Designed by Architects

Accessible Moveable ramp from the Garage

Inaccessible Shopping Area
Road and Pavement Design

Esslingen: Smooth transition from Pavement to road

Central Stuttgart: Historic Area
Safety & Accessibility in US

Achieved through

• *Civil rights Legislations and Financial Incentives*

• *Enforcements through penalties for non compliance or through law suites ( by organizations /individuals )*

• *American with Disabilities Act 1990*

• *ISTEA (1991)*

• *Executive Order 12898 (Clinton) on Environmental Justice (1994)*
US: Examples of Accessible Design

Ramp into Restaurant in the Historic District

Retrofitting Lift to ADA requirements
Accessible Walkway: The Aquarium
Moody Gardens, Galveston
Transportation Terminals’ Compliance with ADA

- **Airports appear to have the most advanced design features for the disabled/Seniors/Children**

- **However there is limited accessibility for the visually impaired (no guide tracks are installed or planned)**

- **Although most transportation terminals are subsidized there is significant variation in accessible designs between them**
Accessibility in Major Air Terminals in Houston

Hobby Airport Curbside Checking

Hobby-Storage of Wheel Chairs
Water Fountain adjusted for height (children/ wheel chair user)

Visual Pager (hearing impaired)
Intercontinental Airport, Houston-
Electric Cart for Mobility Assistance
Level Curbside for Passenger Pickup
Accessibility Elsewhere: The Example of local and tourist sites in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico
Local Transport in Yucatan Peninsula: Typical in small town
Ramped Entry ways into Tulum - Yucatan Peninsula
India-Examples of compliance/ non compliance with the PWD Act of 1995
Accessible Crossing-Delhi
New National Highway with high curb– outskirts of Delhi
Walking in a small town, South India
Public Transport Vehicles
Train Station Overhead Bridge Crossing
Commuter Trains
Accessible Bus
New Low Floor Buses in Mumbai
Trip Chain-Access to a Transportation Mode-Delhi
Accessible Bus in New Delhi-2012
Delhi Metro
Scooter/ Autorickshaw
The Value of Accessible Design for Urban and Transport Infrastructure

• Accessible/ Universal design reflects items that can be used by any one from a child to an adult with or without disability with ease

• This allows for ease of production, and benefits the entire society without requiring any major adjustments to the production unit

• This also allows for readjustment of infra structure to enable uses under altered situations i.e. an accident or the need to move large commodities or a change in environmental conditions etc

• Universal design also allows innovation for reuse of material, commodities allowing reuse, cost savings, and minimize waste
Essential Challenges Remain

Although the UNCRPD passed on December 16, 2006, accepted by many countries –

• Actions show vary depending on the size of the country, region, city and population density

• Most countries have chosen to improve capital cities, government offices, key tourist sites, and public buildings.

• Most countries have addressed accessibility at airports, bus stations, metro station, and in some cases major train stations

• Some subways and metros if they have been build more recently or expanded, have some accessible stations allowing disabled passengers to independently maneuver without problems- one such example is the DuPont Circle subway station in Washington, DC, in the US
Why is Accessibility Important?

• In most countries laws have been adopted to provide inclusive transportation / education and opportunities for everyone including those with disabilities.

• In every society, every adult is expected to attend training (in schools/colleges) and engage in productive work.

• Even individuals with disabilities are expected to be gainfully employed in some type of work for monetary compensation.

• People are living longer, and could develop disability any time in life.

• Hence the need for “Accessible Transport” is imperative for a productive society.