

UTC Project Information	
Project Title	An Investigation of Innovative Approaches to Transportation Service Provision for Aging Populations Residing in Areas Lacking Fixed-Route Public Transportation Service
University	Florida State University (FSU)
Principal Investigator	Jeffrey Brown, Ph.D.
PI Contact Information	Department of Urban & Regional Planning Phone: 850.644.8519 Email: jrbrown3@fsu.edu
Funding Source(s) and Amounts Provided (by each agency or organization)	USDOT: \$66,900 Florida State University: \$33,400
Total Project Cost	\$100,300
Agency ID or Contract Number	DTRT13-G-UTC42-03317-036530
Start and End Dates	3/20/2015 – 12/31/2015
Brief Description of Research Project	<p>Many older Americans wish to remain in their current homes and communities as they age, and access to safe, reliable, and convenient transportation is critical for enabling them to do so. The availability of transportation options is particularly important to older Americans who for reasons of disability, income, or choice are not able to drive themselves. While older Americans living in metropolitan areas that provide fixed-route transit have access to public transportation to help them meet their mobility needs, nearly one out of five older adults live outside metropolitan areas and lack easy access to such transportation services. Many communities rely on paratransit services to help meet this critical transportation need; however, such services have serious limitations related to the high cost associated with providing these services, the need for users to schedule rides in advance of their actual travel, and service quality and reliability issues. In several states, individuals and organizations have begun to experiment with innovative transportation services that seek to address the limitations of the paratransit model in communities that lack fixed-route transit services. These services range from publicly funded, quasi-formal service networks to volunteer-led organizations that rely on private donations and informal operating approaches. Other informal approaches include volunteer-led transportation linkages that operate using personal vehicles, on-call scheduling, and existing social networks to provide rides to older adults who need one. However, these services are understudied. There is a need for more information about the types of services that are provided, and there is a need for assessment about the effectiveness of their organizational, structures and service delivery strategies for providing critical mobility services for the older population, the sustainability of their funding models, and the applicability of such approaches for other communities. This study seeks to provide best practices guidance through a multiple case study national investigation of innovative transportation services in communities that lack traditional fixed-route transit.</p>
Describe Implementation of Research Outcomes (or why not implemented)	
Place Any Photos Here	
Impacts/Benefits of Implementation (actual, not anticipated)	
Web Links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports • Project website