



Mobility and Accessible Transportation

May 10, 2023

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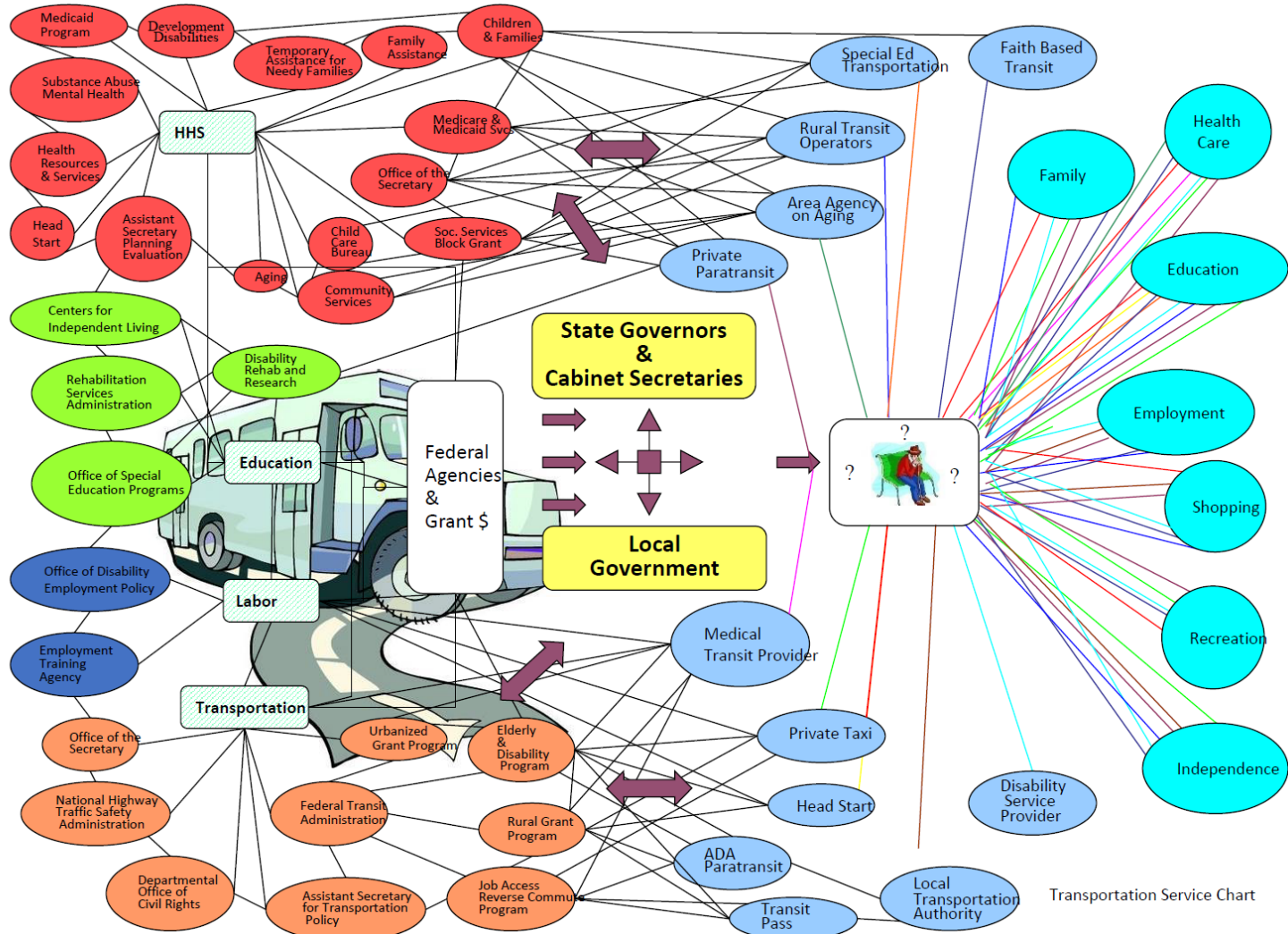
The Accessible Transportation and Mobility Act of 2020

“What can the legislature do for the disability community?”

In March 2020, this legislation passed **unanimously**, creating the new Office and requiring:

- A mission statement,
- A five-year strategic plan, and
- An annual report about accessible transportation in Tennessee.

Mobility and Accessible Transportation



Mobility and Accessible Transportation

Mission

Provide resources and expertise for expanding and improving accessible transportation and mobility across the state.



Shrinking Gaps in Access to Appropriate Transportation



Establishing a Pathway to Integrated Policies and Cooperative Actions



Strengthening Transportation Independence for Tennesseans

Mobility and Accessible Transportation

The screenshot shows the TDOT website header with the logo and a search bar. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for 'Traveler how do I...', 'Business how do I...', 'Government how do I...', 'Find Local Information', 'Sitemap', and 'Index of Services'. A red banner below the navigation menu reads 'TENNESSEANS 16+: NOW ELIGIBLE FOR A COVID-19 VACCINE'. The main content area features a sidebar on the left with a 'Multimodal Transportation Resources Division' section containing links for 'Office of Public Transportation', 'Office of Mobility and Accessible Transportation', 'Bicycle and Pedestrian Program', 'Multimodal Access Grant', 'Annual and Final Report', and 'Staff'. The main content area is titled 'Office of Mobility and Accessible Transportation' and contains a paragraph explaining the importance of accessible transportation and a paragraph describing the creation of the office in 2020.

The strategic and annual reports can be found here:

[TDOT Mobility and Accessible Transportation Annual Report and Strategic Plan 2023](#)

[TDOT Mobility and Accessible Transportation Annual Report and Strategic Plan 2022](#)

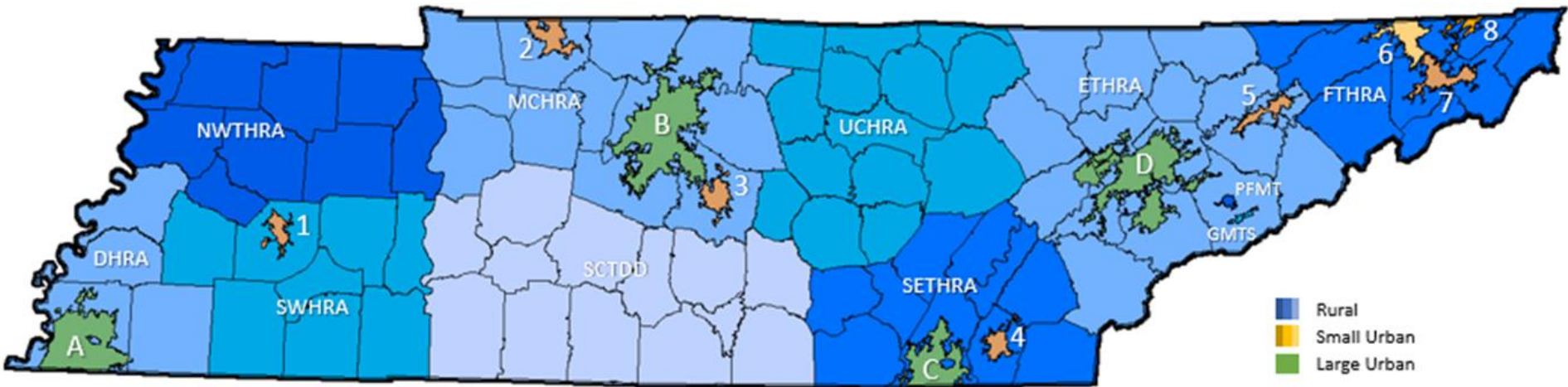
[TDOT Mobility and Accessible Transportation Annual Report and Strategic Plan 2021](#)



Accessible Transportation in Tennessee

Accessible Transportation

Public Transit Providers



Accessible Transportation

Transportation Needs and Gaps

- **Independence:** Sometimes people need to reserve trips weeks in advance or use multiple transportation providers to get to their destination.
- **Limited Weekend or Nighttime Options:** People who need to travel at night or over the weekend may not be able to find a ride.
- **Affordable Fares:** Transportation costs are not always affordable, especially for on-demand transportation options such as taxis.

Accessible Transportation

Transportation Needs and Gaps

- **First Mile/Last Mile:** It can be difficult to get to and from a bus stop, especially in the outskirts of an urban area, where bus routes may be far away and options for transportation are limited.
- **Infrastructure:** Sidewalks, curb cuts, and even roadside shoulders are often missing or in poor condition, preventing people from safely walking or using a wheelchair, or even from getting to a bus stop.

Accessible Transportation

Transportation Needs and Gaps

- **Personal Assistance:** Some people need personal assistance to travel, such as help getting in and out of their house or assistance at their destination, but this is not always available.
- **Specialized Services:** There aren't always specialized services available for the full range of travel needs, such as accessible vehicles that exceed ADA requirements, or safe transportation for individuals with cognitive or behavioral disabilities.

Accessible Transportation

Transportation Needs and Gaps

- **Misperceptions:** People don't always understand what transportation options are available, or how to schedule a ride.
- **Limited Funding:** The costs of providing transportation service, especially on-demand transportation service, prevents transportation providers from expanding service using available funding.
- **Volunteer Transportation:** Volunteer transportation services are available for older adults in many counties, but volunteer transportation services for individuals with disabilities are not widely available.

Accessible Transportation

Strategic Plan

Expanded Access

Support local solutions for expanding and improving access to transportation services

Service Solutions

Identify where barriers to transportation overlap and develop quality solutions to meet travelers' needs

Collaboration

Establish a structure and collaborative culture that maximizes financial resources for transportation across multiple programs and departments

Technology Solutions

Prioritize user-focused public information systems and transit technology to diversify access to services

Communication

Facilitate communication and coordination between transportation providers and users for a more seamless mobility network

Accessible Transportation

Current Initiatives

- Transit Technology: Scheduling & Dispatch Software
- Tennessee Disability Pathfinder: Connecting to Resources
- Statewide Job Access Plan: Getting to Work

Key Partners: State Agencies, Local Transportation Providers, Human Resource Agencies and AAADs, Planning Organizations, Local Non-Profits, community advocates, users of accessible transportation, and more.

Accessible Transportation

Employment Transportation

“Transportation to and from work on a regular and reliable basis is one of **the most significant** transportation challenges”

Accessible Transportation

Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC)

- Statewide plan for employment access, with a special focus on Persistent Poverty Areas and encouraging regional economic health
- Job-related transportation includes travel to and from work, childcare, and job-related training
- <https://tnjobaccessplan.com>

FTA HOPE Program “Helping Obtain Prosperity for Everyone”

Accessible Transportation

Get Involved

- **Public Meetings:** Public transit providers hold public meetings to discuss funding and service availability
- **Coordinated Plans:** Participate in regional coordinated planning processes as a stakeholder
- **Office of Mobility & Accessible Transportation:** Reach out to TDOT to discuss accessible transportation needs

Accessible Transportation



TENNESSEE DISABILITY PATHFINDER

<https://www.tnpathfinder.org/>

1-800-640-4636

Get Involved

Contact Us Comments & Questions

TDOT.OMAT@tn.gov

Contact Me
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Find the Strategic Plan and Annual Report on our website at:
<https://www.tn.gov/tdot/multimodal-transportation-resources/omat.html>