

DRISI

CALTRANS DIVISION OF RESEARCH,
INNOVATION AND SYSTEM INFORMATION

TRANSFORMING IDEAS INTO SOLUTIONS

Research

Notes

Planning, Policy
and
Programming

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Project Title:
Studying the Effects of Disability on
Choices and Desires for Travel and
Neighborhood Location

Task Number: 3471

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Studying the Effects of Disability on Choices and Desires for Travel and Neighborhood Location

Improve understanding of transportation needs of people with disability with respect to race, geography, and disability type.

WHAT IS THE NEED?

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) currently lags behind in understanding the mobility needs of the disabled population. By not understanding their mobility needs, Caltrans will not be able to pursue a policy to meet Caltrans missions of provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment.

This will likely be especially important in the context of California, where suburbanization of poverty in large coastal metropolitan areas, aging of the population as a whole, and high levels of dependence on private automobility (including driving oneself as well as depending on family or friends for rides) may together contribute to greater rates of social exclusion among people with disabilities.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

This is a continuation of the previous research Task 3451 Cross-Sectional Study of the Effects of Disability on the Mismatch of Desires versus Choices for Transportation Modes and Residential Location. This project builds on an ongoing study centered on a survey about the choices and desires that adults in California have for transportation, activity participation, and residential location. The research team will analyze data using the survey conducted from the previous study. The analysis will involve techniques including factor or cluster analysis along with discrete choice modeling. It will answer questions about the choices and desires that people have for transportation, activity frequency, and residential location, and the disparities in these quantities based on disability.



DRISI provides solutions and knowledge that improves California's transportation system

WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

The goal of the research is to improve understanding of how individuals' choices and desires for local transportation and neighborhood location in California differ based on disability along with other characteristics, namely income, race, gender, geographic location, and age.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

This research will help policymakers understand the most pressing transportation and housing needs for people with disabilities. Relevant products of this project will include an important source of data that could be used in future data analyses. In addition, the final report with the results from the analysis of survey data as well as the follow-up interviews will be distributed as appropriate to Caltrans as well as disability advocacy organizations.

These deliverables can inform policy makers to develop policies that better serve people with disabilities empowering them to make optimal transportation decisions to meet their needs. This will likely be especially important in the context of California, where suburbanization of poverty in large coastal metropolitan areas, aging of the population, and high levels of dependence on private automobility (including driving oneself as well as depending on family or friends for rides) may together contribute to greater rates of social exclusion among people with disabilities.

WHAT IS THE PROGRESS TO DATE?

The research team applied discrete choice modeling techniques to the survey data to understand how disability, race, gender, income, age, and location can affect activity performance and mode usage frequencies.

The following are planned for the next quarter:

The research team will continue to apply discrete choice modeling techniques to the survey data to understand how disability and other sociodemographic variables can affect the desires to perform different activities and use different modes.