EQUITY
GRAND CHALLENGE

EQUITABLE MOBILITY FOR ALL

Create an equitable transportation system that provides safe, affordable, accessible, and convenient mobility options for all users.

U.S. Department of Transportation

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CRITICAL RESEARCH TOPICS:

- Assistive and accessible mobility innovations
- Equity, affordability, and accessibility analysis
- Environmental justice
- Mobility justice and resilience
- Transportation planning and land use
- Alternative traffic safety enforcement strategies

VISION: Imagine a world where no matter where you live, how much money you have, or who you are, you have access to safe, frequent, affordable, seamless transportation options that serve your needs. This is the vision of equitable transportation access for all. In this world, transportation is no longer a barrier to accessing job or educational opportunities, medical appointments, recreation, or childcare. This world is made possible by the emergence of new forms of mobility and mobility services coupled with policies and investments in multimodal transportation systems that address decades of underinvestment, systemic racism, and entrenched disparities.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- Transportation infrastructure and mobility services are accessible to people with disabilities and low-income households.
- Policies are in place that support multimodal transportation services, including transit, ride sharing, bikes, and scooters, so that people who do not own a car can have a similar level of mobility as people who do.
- Extensive bus lane, bike lane, and sidewalk networks support equitable access and convenient and safe use of efficient and sustainable modes.
- Public transit provides a family of interoperable services and multimodal mobility hubs to connect travelers across modes and enhance access to goods and services.
- New shared mobility technologies are available to safely support a diversity of users and use cases.
- Housing and land-use policy is coordinated with transportation investments to ensure affordable housing is available near transit lines and frequent, reliable, and sustainable mobility services are available in communities with sufficient density.
- Communities have equitable access to sustainable transportation and electric vehicle options and charging infrastructure.
- Data and data analysis methodologies are available to assist transportation planners in assessing equity, job quality, and accessibility issues when making decisions.
- Disparities in the safety, health, job quality, and environmental impacts of transportation activities are eliminated.
- Traffic and transit safety enforcement focuses on risky behaviors and is conducted equitably, justly, consistently, and impartially to eliminate racial disparities in enforcement outcomes.
- Housing and mobility services are in place to allow aging Americans in both urban and rural communities continued access to healthcare and a high quality of life.
- Transportation systems incorporate connected technologies to optimize operations, reduce congestion, and enable convenient multimodal trips.