

Dialogue Summary

From November 20, 2023, to January 12, 2024, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Office of Disability Employment Policy's (ODEP) ePolicyWorks initiative, hosted the Exploring the Future of Public Transportation Research National Online Dialogue to gather insights, experiences, and suggestions from a broad group of subject matter experts and stakeholders, including people with disabilities. This input will contribute to a five-year FTA strategic research plan designed to address the most pressing public transportation challenges and advance the highest impact transformations.

Key Themes and Takeaways from the Dialogue

- **Accelerate** the adoption of new transit technologies
- **Address** transportation challenges in underserved communities
- **Adopt** a disability-forward approach to create a more inclusive and accessible transportation system
- **Conduct** research to understand and address transit demand
- **Encourage** standardization, simplification, and user-centric design
- **Ensure** safety in public transit
- **Explore** the potential of autonomous electric vehicles (AEVs)
- **Investigate** zero emission busses and other ways to lower emissions
- **Involve** diverse perspectives in transit innovation
- **Leverage** emerging technologies and sustainability efforts
- **Optimize** existing railroad infrastructure
- **Prioritize** accessibility and safety in transportation design and implementation
- **Support** collaboration among agencies and innovative funding approaches
- **Utilize** data to inform future research and innovation

Dialogue Participation Summary



6,001

Dialogue Visits



262

Registrants



147

Participants

Dialogue Contributions



150

Ideas



216

Comments



701

Likes

Outreach Overview



28,032

Emails delivered



9,052

Emails opened



948

Email clicks

ePolicyWorks conducted 13 distinct email campaigns to promote the online dialogue. In total, 28,032 emails were delivered to ePolicyWorks stakeholders promoting the dialogue, with an open rate of more than 32%, which is more than nine percentage points better than recent ePolicyWorks dialogue outreach campaigns and 15 percentage points higher than the industry average of 17%. In addition, 10% of individuals who opened an outreach email clicked on at least one link in the email.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), ePolicyWorks leverages crowdsourcing to inform inclusive workforce policymaking by engaging citizens and stakeholders around advancing employment for people with disabilities. This innovative approach reflects a change in how stakeholders connect and collaborate with the Federal Government and each other, thereby increasing the efficiency of a participatory policymaking process.

Thank you to all who participated in this important conversation.

ePolicyWorks, DOL, and FTA actively promoted the dialogue to subject matter experts and stakeholders through listservs, email delivery services, social media platforms, and newsletters. Other public and private organizations and news outlets also promoted the online dialogue through Facebook, LinkedIn, X, emails, blogs, newsletters, and action alerts. Below is a sampling of the independent organizations that disseminated details about the online dialogue:

Employer Assistance and Resource Network on Disability Inclusion
Council of State Governments
Advancing States
National Center for Mobility Management
National Conference of State Legislatures
National Disability Institute
nTide
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Southeast ADA Center
Tennessee Disability Pathfinder
White House Disability Community Engagement Newsletter

[View All Ideas in the Dialogue](#)
[\(Link\)](#)

Connect with ePolicyWorks to learn more about policies, programs, and upcoming dialogues.



ePolicyWorks.IdeaScale.com



@ePolicyWorks



@ePolicyWorks