

ATI Membership/Registration

Membership consists of Individual practitioners, Agencies, Parents, Citizen Groups, Consumers, and Private Advocates. Anyone interested in becoming a member of ATI, or if you just want to know more about ATI simply go to our web site at

www.travelinstruction.org

In becoming a member of ATI you affirm that Travel Instruction is short-term, intensive instruction in teaching persons with disabilities and seniors how to travel safely and independently within the community, using public transportation, where appropriate.

ATI provides current information on Travel Instruction to all interested parties. Allows opportunities for professional development through information sharing, creating newsletters, providing an annual conference, drawing information from ATI's developing knowledge base on Travel Instruction, educating the public on this emerging field, promoting the essential competencies for those engaged in the practice of travel instruction, and developing and maintaining a Code of Ethics for travel instructors and trainers.

If you have questions about ATI or other general information on membership/registration please e-mail one of our Board of Directors serving on the Membership and Public Information Committee.

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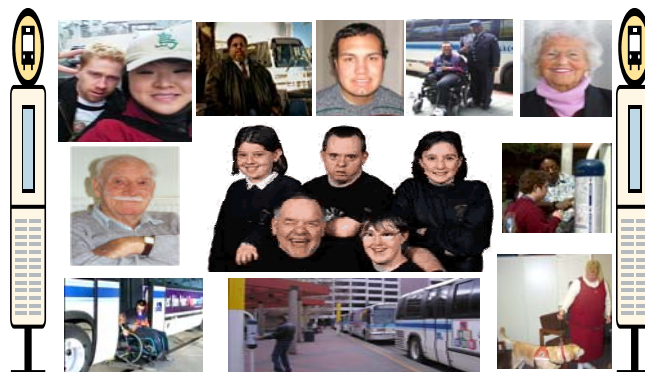
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History of ATI

The Association of Travel Instruction (ATI) is a nonprofit corporation that serves as a professional association for those persons who teach people with disabilities and seniors to travel independently. This field is known as travel instruction.

ATI's purpose is to increase public awareness of travel instruction as a profession, and to provide a forum where members can interact and share ideas.

Many persons have been teaching people to travel independently, cited as far back as 1949. However, due to recent legislation such as the American with Disabilities Act, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and the Rehabilitation Act, there is an increased need for qualified persons who can provide this service. Through funding by Project ACTION a task force representing a number of organizations and private citizens, including educational institutions, transportation agencies, public school systems, parent advocates, and agencies that provide services to persons with disabilities and seniors came together and developed a list of essential competencies for travel instructors.



ASSOCIATION OF TRAVEL INSTRUCTION

P.O. Box 2042
Madison Square Station
New York, NY 10159



ASSOCIATION OF TRAVEL INSTRUCTION



“Our mission is to support providers of travel instruction for the purpose of teaching people with disabilities and seniors to travel safely and independently.”

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Many people have learned

In Tacoma, Washington, a young man with a cognitive disability receives travel training



services from his local transit agency to learn how to use fixed-route buses safely and on his own. As a result, he is able to commute daily across town to his new job at the YMCA.

In New York City, a young woman with cerebral palsy and a speech impairment approaches high school graduation with the promise of a job, but with no way to get there. After an assessment by professional travel instructors, this young woman receives intensive training to use both a primary and alternate subway route independently to her worksite.

In Kalamazoo, Michigan, an older woman who has a spinal cord injury and uses a power chair, wants to visit a friend across town but does not have the skills to take public transportation. With the help of a travel-training instructor at the Center for Independent Living, she learns to make the trip.



Success stories like these occur each day in communities across the nation. Persons with a variety of physical and mental disabilities and seniors are empowered to use fixed-route public transportation by dedicated professional travel training instructors and travel trainers who are part of the Association of Travel Instruction (ATI).

What is Travel Instruction?

Travel instruction (also known as travel training) is short-term, one-to-one, intensive instruction designed to teach people with disabilities and seniors** to travel safely and independently on fixed-route public transportation in their community.

****Note: Persons who are blind or legally blind require specialized assessments and training from certified Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Specialists. "Travel Training" is not a replacement for O&M Training.**

ATI recommends that all travel training done with people who are blind or legally blind only be conducted by a certified O&M specialist after a full O&M assessment. Additionally, once an O&M assessment and/or training has been fully addressed/successfully completed, the O&M specialist can work in consultation with the appropriate Travel Instruction/Travel Training professionals to develop strategies designed to meet individual travel training needs.

People who participate in travel training learn travel skills that are designed to meet their individual needs while following a specific route, typically to a school, a job site, or a desired community location. Travel instruction professionals are skilled to determine how different disabilities and age can affect a person's ability to travel safely and independently, and they develop appropriate methods to teach each person the travel skills they require dependent upon individual need, age, and disability factors.

What is the Association of Travel Instruction?

ATI was founded in 1999 and incorporated in Michigan early in 2001. It is a national association of travel instruction professionals and advocates for travel instruction programs. ATI came into being to establish standards and develop the relatively new professions of travel training instructor and travel trainer for persons with disabilities and seniors**. The goal of ATI is to serve the practitioners who teach people to use public transit safely and independently. ATI members include travel training instructors/travel trainers who work for transit agencies, school districts, community rehabilitation agencies, independent living centers, and other social/human service agencies providing a wide array of community programs and services. Members of the association also include parents of children with disabilities, orientation and mobility specialists for persons with blindness and low vision, and persons with disabilities who are transportation advocates. Membership in ATI is open to anyone interested in the accessible transportation field.

How Does ATI Help

ATI is a professional organization that helps to serve its members in the following ways:

- To facilitate sharing of information through publications.
- To educate the public about the mobility needs of people with disabilities and seniors.
- To develop an infrastructure for the profession of Travel Instruction.
- To develop and maintain a registry of Travel Instructors and Trainers.
- To provide a forum for continuing education.
- To establish a competency based standard to assure quality service in Travel Instruction for people with disabilities and seniors.
- To maintain a Code of Ethics.
- To maintain the listing of competencies for



those engaged in the practice of Travel Instruction.

- To promote appropriate academic and competency-based preparation of Individuals entering the field of Travel Instruction.
- To promote the maintenance of current knowledge and skills of those within the field.
- To help establish an approved and published body of knowledge for the profession.
- To establish professional standards for future adoption by public certifying and licensing bodies.
- To proactively advocate for the rights and interests of persons with disabilities and seniors as it relates to community access, self determination in travel, and the use of public transportation.

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