



2025 Tentative Conference Schedule

TUESDAY, JULY 29

7:30-9:00am	Breakfast & Registration
9:00-9:30am	Welcome/Kickoff/Sponsors
9:30-10:30am	Keynote Address
10:30-10:45am	Morning Break
10:45-11:45am	Breakout session
11:45-1:00pm	Lunch
1:00-2:00pm	Engaging Transition Students
2:00-2:45pm	National RTAP
2:00-3:00pm	Intersection Analysis 201
2:45-3:00pm	Afternoon Break
3:00-4:30pm	Strengthening the Travel Trainer: Emotional Intelligence for Confident and Compassionate Support
4:30-5:00pm	Crafting Narratives
5:30-7:00pm	Networking Event Membership Benefits & Showcase

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

7:30-8:45am	Breakfast
8:00-8:45am	Registration
8:45-9:00am	The Day Ahead
9:00am-12:15pm	Immersive Activity (Off site)
9:15-10:15	Intersection Analysis 201
12:30-1:45pm	ATI Luncheon/Awards Ceremony/Annual Meeting
2:00-3:00	Breakout Session
3:00-3:15	Afternoon Break
3:15-4:15	Breakout Session
4:15-5:15	Breakout Session

THURSDAY, July 31

7:30-9:00am	Breakfast
8:15-8:45am	Idea Cafe
9:00-9:15	The Day Ahead
9:15-10:15am	Breakout Session
10:15-10:30am	Morning Break
10:30-11:30am	Journey to Independence
11:30-1:00pm	Lunch and Learn (Lunch Provided)
1:00-2:00pm	Breakout Session
2:00-3:00pm	Breakout Session
3:00-3:30pm	Closing Remarks

Session Descriptions

Intersection Analysis 201 David Abrahams, NYC Dept. of Education District 75 Office of Travel Training Director *Session is limited to 8 participants per session. Sign up will be available at the registration table.

Deciding on which specific street crossing presents the least risk for an individual with a significant cognitive disability/multiple disabilities at any given intersection is an essential element in teaching safe and independent travel. While individual differences exist based on a person's experience, abilities and the environment, there are common factors to be considered at all street crossings/intersections. Trainer body position is a critical component when teaching street crossings and will be discussed regarding safety for both trainee and trainer. During this session, participants will go for a walk to local intersections around the conference hotel to look at the streets from the perspective of determining "least risk crossing" when designing a travel plan or explaining potential barriers to travel in the built environment.

National RTAP 101 Enjoli Dixon, National RTAP

Our overarching mission is to address the training and technical assistance needs of rural and tribal transit operators across the nation, and to support the state RTAP programs. Our comprehensive set of free technical assistance programs and resources includes training materials, webinars, newsletters and technical briefs, peer resources, research, and innovative technology initiatives.

Engaging Transition Students Katie Garrity & Daphine Phillips, Regional Transportation Authority (Chicago)

Overview of RTA Mobility Outreach program with an emphasis on Travel Training and program's new initiatives (VI workshops, including dial-a-ride/local transit options, etc.) and gamification of information including interactive Jeopardy and Transit Etiquette presentations. We will encourage participants to engage in some sections of the games, so they get an opportunity to see how we will interact with students when the games are presented.

Strengthening the Travel Trainer: Emotional Intelligence for Confident and Compassionate Support Stephanie Rozanski- YAI

This training is designed to help Travel Trainers deepen their self-awareness, manage stress, and build emotional resilience to navigate the unique challenges of community-based instruction. Travel Trainers often work in unpredictable environments where flexibility, patience, and empathy are essential. By developing emotional intelligence, trainers can improve their ability to remain calm under pressure, make sound decisions on the go, and maintain positive, respectful interactions with learners, caregivers, and community members. This session emphasizes the Travel Trainer's internal emotional landscape as a foundation for safe, empowering, and person-centered travel instruction.

Crafting Narratives Andrew Herndon Whatcom Transportation Authority

In this session we would talk about the power of narratives, show samples of successful narratives from my past presentations and spend time sharing stories from our experiences.

Navigating NYC: Empowering Accessible Travel & Exploring the OMNY Fare System Lisa Kornegay, Kaila Kamlet and Matthew Rella, YAI

In this interactive training session, we will explore two key topics related to accessible travel. Life on Wheels is designed to empower individuals who use powered wheelchairs, enhancing their travel experience and promoting greater independence. This session is ideal for anyone seeking to deepen their understanding of accessible travel options in New York City. In addition, we will provide an overview of the OMNY Card system, the newest tap-to-pay fare method in NYC. We will cover the system's key features and benefits, making this training

perfect for new users or anyone interested in learning about the future of fare payment in the city.

Travel Training for English Language Learners: What We're Learning RideWise Travel Training Program

This presentation will give provide an overview of considerations when training someone who is an English Language Learner. The content includes the perspectives of an English-speaking trainer as well as a bilingual Spanish-speaking trainer. We hope to dialogue with conference participants as this is a relatively new program for Ride Connection.

Troubleshooting with Travel Trainees: Ideas and Tactics Jeffrey Dennis and Melody Bundy, NJTIP at Rutgers

This session aims to equip travel trainers with practical strategies to prepare their trainees for unexpected challenges during public transit use. The session will delve into methods to build confidence, problem-solving skills, and resilience in trainees, ensuring they are better prepared for real-world scenarios. It will also address unique challenges faced by trainees based on their disabilities, accessibility needs, geographic location, and socioeconomic background.

Idea Café Raven Alexander and Meagan Greathouse, Association of Travel Instruction

*Attendance to this session is optional

The Idea Café, where creativity meets strategy! We are hosting special session with the Association of Travel Instruction President and President Elect to discuss the association's future goals. Join us for stimulating conversations and innovative ideas over breakfast. Let's shape the future of our association together.

Collaboration Examined and Expanded: The ethical, cultural, and outreach benefits of partnering with Project Search for travel training Cass Reid, MTM Transit

Community partnership is a must for any travel training program. Finding reliable organizations can prove difficult. One fruitful partnership MTM Transit has established in Denver is with Project Search, a nationwide transition program which places young adults with disabilities into a variety of roles in an established business. Connections from this partnership extend far beyond the program itself into local school districts, community organizations, and the transit system itself.

This presentation would provide an overview of the year-long program, present results including trainees referred from contacts in the program, and the cultural impact for transit in Denver.

Connecting Communities: The Role of Mobility Managers, Liaisons, Navigators, and Managers Enjoli Dixon National RTAP

This training explores the key roles of mobility professionals in the transportation ecosystem. Whether referred to as Mobility Managers, Liaisons, Navigators, or simply Managers, these individuals play a crucial role in bridging gaps between community members and transportation services. Participants will gain an understanding of the core responsibilities, collaborative efforts, and problem-solving approaches used to meet diverse mobility needs.

Strengthening Travel Training: Best Practices in Program & Staff Development

G. Michael Beigay, Consortium for the Educational Advancement of Travel Instruction (CEATI)

This panel discussion or workshop is tailored for professionals in the field of travel training who manage, or support programs delivered through a range of instructional methods—including one-on-one, groups: school programs, community organizations, older adult communities, virtual training. Panelists will share best practices in both program administration and service delivery, with a focus on building inclusive, adaptable, and person-centered programs that reflect the diversity of the individuals and communities served. The conversation will explore strategies for training clients with varying needs and abilities, while also emphasizing professional development approaches that support staff growth, consistency, and quality of instruction across all modes. Topics will include administrative tools for managing multi-modal training programs, staff training frameworks, and methods for evaluating client progress and program outcomes.