

PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPTIONS FOR YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES: A REVIEW OF NEEDS, CHALLENGES, AND IMPACTS

Rashi Saxena, Marie-Christine Desharnais
Members, Executive Committee | Youth for Public Transport (Y4PT)
Address: Rue Sainte-Marie 6, 1080 Brussels, Belgium | Phone: +32 475702676
Email : y4pt@hotmail.com

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Purpose of the Study

Despite the importance of ensuring mobility options and public transport access to all, relatively little is known about the provision of public transport options for young people with disabilities. Youth for Public Transport (Y4PT) is a non-government organization acting collectively with the youth of the world to educate, disseminate, innovate and improve the urban world through the development of public transport, sustainable mobility and related issues. As such, Y4PT is interested by accessibility and mobility contexts experienced by all young people. This paper acts as a synthesis, a state of the art on what is currently achieved to strengthen the connection between offering sustainable public transport options and meeting the travel needs of disabled youth.

Approach and/or Methodology

This study conducts a thorough review of existing researches and practices that have previously investigated travel needs of young people with disabilities. Through that review, the paper documents existing public transport options for youth with disabilities and identifies best practices worldwide. It summarizes known advantages and opportunities of public transport access for disabled youth. Gaps, obstacles and barriers that challenge youth with disabilities and restrict their mobility and their access to public transport are also reviewed. Finally, the paper identifies leading organizations and actors working towards facilitating the access to public transport options for youth with disabilities.

Results or Expected Results

This paper is expected to enhance the general knowledge regarding needs, challenges, and impacts of public transport options for young disabled. It is hoped that it could act as a guideline to lead the way on what the next steps should be to improve public transport access for youth with disabilities.

Conclusion

Youth, with disabilities or not, have a whole life ahead. More attention should be given to the transportation needs of young people with disabilities as transportation enables freedom of movement, independence and active participation in the society. As a first way to implement more targeted solutions and orient actions, youth with disabilities should definitely be listened to and involved in the planning process of public transport. Actors should also coordinate their efforts and exchange on best successes.

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