New Jersey Age-Friendly Advisory Council: November 1, 2022

Topic: Transportation & Mobility Policy

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<u>Janet Sharma's notes</u>

Presentations:

<u>Scott Bogren: Executive Director, Community Transportation Association of America</u>

- **Biggest issue:** Population of older adults is growing, needs are changing, and public transit operators are playing catchup. Need to meet customers where they are. **Technologies for on-demand mobility are the future.** How to bring on-demand model to areas and people who don't, won't, or can't use traditional public transit.
- **Important insight:** If the post-pandemic goal is to get back to what you were doing in 2019, you are not facing reality.
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<u>Jenelle Rivera: NJ Transit</u>

- Presentation about local programs and community transportation
- NJ Transit is the largest statewide transportation system in the US

<u>Cheryl Kastrenakes: Greater Mercer TMA Age-Friendly Programs (Transportation Management Association)</u>

- RideProvide ([rideprovide.org](#)) - Membership service for seniors & visually impaired adults
- Charge per zone for rides in Mercer County; free rides to local hospitals
- Training and in use of public transit and various options (Uber, Lyft)
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<u>Report Out/Work Groups recommendations regarding transportation:</u>

- De-stigmatize inability to drive.
- Develop a statewide dispatch system for local transportation.
- Market transportation programs more successfully to older adults.
- Use technology to meet transportation needs of senior population across disparities in age, ability, race, income, mobility.
- Encourage municipalities to share capital and human resources so senior buses and drivers serve multiple towns and clients.
- Allocate funding to transport home care workers who don't drive to their clients and from client to client.
- Assure equity in salaries for home care workers. Medicaid pays $24/hour, but private providers can't afford that rate and thus can't hire workers.