

Cambridge in Motion

Type: Senior/Transportation Accessibility Study

Size: n/a

Status: Ongoing

The Street Plans Collaborative is pleased to be taking the lead on Cambridge in Motion (CIM), an innovative, Cambridge-based program to improve access to transportation for senior citizens and persons with disabilities. In recognition of the isolation and other barriers experienced by seniors and people with disabilities, CIM seeks to develop and provide a user-friendly system that would connect all of those who live, work, visit, or worship in Cambridge to safe, reliable, accessible and cost-effective community-based transportation. To help meet our objectives, Street Plans has assembled a workgroup comprised of an array of community partners and regional transportation agencies including representatives from SCM Community Transportation, the Cambridge Health Alliance, the Cambridge Council on Aging, the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), and the Charles River Transportation Management Association (TMA).



The Initial CIM mobility management program was first conceived in 2009 and is funded by the University of Massachusetts Medical School's Work Without Limits initiative. The Proof of Concept phase, which will be completed in March, 2011 will reduce transportation barriers for persons with disabilities seeking access to employment. It also delivers a pilot platform for mobility management across constituencies. Street Plans is fully engrossed in conducting a community needs assessment and a complete inventory of transportation options within Cambridge, and the greater Boston region. The resulting pilot, reflected through a Google Voice call center platform and potentially a web-based application, will assist customers with identifying their optimal transportation solution based on their priorities (funding, accessibility, time). Longer term, our framework could also be leveraged by multiple agencies to coordinate transportation resources.

The CIM initiative has also submitted a request for additional funding from the Massachusetts Area Planning Council (MAPC) as part of the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) New Freedom Program (5317). The New Freedom formula grant program aims to provide additional tools to overcome existing barriers facing Americans with disabilities seeking integration into the work force and full participation in society. The New Freedom formula grant program seeks to reduce barriers to transportation services and expand the transportation mobility options available to people with disabilities beyond the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. New Freedom funding will assist the CIM initiative in stabilizing our Cambridge-based platform and grow it to a more regional demonstration project. Over the next two years, we will proactively identify coordination challenges and convene stakeholders to create solutions using mobility management principles.