How to address inequalities in mobility?

Ann Frye
Ann Frye Ltd
What impact can transport have on...?

- Ageing populations;
- Disability;
- Poverty;
- Unemployment;
- Personal security;
- Gender;
- Young people.
Who are we talking about?
Key Issues

Personal mobility is the key to independence. Without it, many people cannot:
- Be self sufficient in daily living;
- Find or keep employment;
- Access health, education and other facilities.

The high cost of dependence falls on the individual but also on local and national health and welfare services which provide services in the home.
Challenges: The Urban Legacy

Many countries still have a legacy of old and inaccessible vehicles and infrastructure;

Urban transport systems are overcrowded;

Streets and pavements are often a major barrier.
Challenges: Traffic and Car Dependency

Traffic impacts on health and road safety (particularly of children and older people);

Traffic can divide communities – physically and socially – and hits poorest areas hardest;

Increasing car dependency increases exclusion for those without cars;

The legacy of out of town shopping etc reduces choice and opportunity for non-car owners.
Challenges: Demographic Trends

The growing imbalance between working age and older people will have profound economic as well as social implications;

The working age population will be too small to support an older population who are not self sufficient;

Transport and mobility are key to maintaining self sufficiency and independence.
Challenges: Disability

- There are over 50 million people with disabilities in Europe;
- 25% of Europeans have a family member with a disability;
- 42% of people with disabilities are employed, compared with almost 65% of non-disabled people.
The link between Age and Mobility

There is a strong correlation between age and mobility;

Two thirds of disabled people are over retirement age.
Challenges: Health and Wellbeing

- Older people walk more (up to 30-40% of travelling time is spent on walking);
- Older pedestrians are more exposed to specific risks than any other age group;
- Trips and slips are not recorded in accident data;
- Children are also at high risk as pedestrians.
Challenges: Health & Wellbeing

Many older people lose confidence to go out alone.

The costs to society and to the individual are enormous.

Loss of confidence triggers a major decline in physical and mental health.
Same issues, same needs

Everybody wants:

- Transport that is:
  - Accessible;
  - Available;
  - Affordable; and
  - Safe
- These are Europe-wide problems needing local solutions.
Solutions: Promoting Sustainability

- Many of the measures now being considered in the context of sustainable transport in European cities also promote accessibility, mobility and safety:
  - more use of alternatives to the car;
  - lower traffic speeds;
  - better urban design;
  - more facilities within walking distances.
Solutions: Universal Design

- Low floor buses - a prime example of design for equitable use;
  - Easier for everyone;
  - Faster boarding and alighting;
  - Increased patronage;
  - Biggest increases from people with small children!
Solutions: Planning routes and services around community needs

Transport providers need to be more focussed on individual and community needs;

They need to recognise changing patterns and priorities (different ethnic neighbourhoods etc);

They need to work in partnership with highway authorities to match pedestrian access to vehicle access.

The health and wellbeing of local communities should always carry more weight than the speed and convenience of traffic.
Solutions: Focussing on Neighbourhoods

- A neighbourhood approach means:
  - Greater emphasis on recreating and sustaining local communities and neighbourhoods;
  - Removing barriers to walking and local mobility (more emphasis on well maintained pavements);
  - Public transport that is flexible (not fixed route).
Summary

Addressing inequalities in mobility means:

1. Partnership between transport providers, planners and highway authorities;
2. Development of urban communities in which amenities and housing are close together;
3. Priority for pedestrians over motorists;
4. A focus on systems and services that are user-friendly and intuitive;
5. Creating sustainable cities for the whole community is both an economic and a social imperative.
ann@annfrye.co.uk

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