

National Association of Regional Councils



2006 NARC Policy Brief

NARC policies are developed yearly from consultations with and information provided by the association's working groups, committees and its membership. The policies provide a context for NARC's national agenda on significant national and legislative issues. Each policy brief includes a rationale for NARC's position on topics relevant and important to America's regional councils and metropolitan planning organizations, metro and rural, large and small.

Transportation for the Aging

Issue: Aging and Transportation

Background: The United States' population is rapidly aging. The 76 million people born during the "baby boom" between 1948 and 1964 are driving trends that have major public policy implications. NARC recognizes that the 'graying of America' has impacts beyond health care and entitlement programs. The decline in personal mobility—including driving ability—will infringe on the elderly's ability to lead productive lives. Solutions to this mobility problem include a more robust land-use mix, public transit accessibility and paratransit provision.

NARC will advocate for increased federal funding for public transit and paratransit that target the elderly. Further, NARC will include aging-related discussion into all of its transportation topics, as appropriate.

Policy Recommendations:

- Pursue partnerships with AARP and related groups on transportation for the elderly.
- Continue to work on safety programs to ensure older driver protections.
- Work with Transit partners to guarantee mobility options for older Americans.

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