

Connie L. Soper

Principal

Over 23 years experience in accessible transportation program oversight, policy direction and provider supervision.

Masters in Public Administration (MPA),
Lewis and Clark College,
Portland, Oregon

B.A., English,
Lewis and Clark College,
Portland, Oregon

Experience

Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates Inc.

Ms. Soper has recently been hired to expand the firm's expertise in the areas of: transit service planning and coordination, accessible services and paratransit program service design and delivery, and social service transportation coordination.

Transit Service Planning and Coordination

- Led regional efforts to implement California State legislation (SB 1474) intended to promote transit coordination efforts within the region.
- Project manager for Transit Connectivity Study currently underway, which identifies opportunities to improve the ways customers use public transit.
- Project Manager for I-80 HOV Lane Report.
- Project Manager for Santa Rosa Transit Center Improvement Study.

Accessible Services and Paratransit Programs

- Developed and facilitated agreement of regional ADA Eligibility Program used by 20 different transit agencies, including establishment of a regional ADA eligibility database
- Project Manager for Regional Paratransit Plan.
- Project Manager for Older Adults Transportation Study and follow-up Toolkit.
- Developed and Implemented Paratransit Technical Assistance Program (PTAP).
- Designed special transportation service networks including route and schedule formation.
- Conducted analysis and reported on paratransit performance measures
- Supervised subcontracted paratransit programs.

Transportation Programs and Planning for Low-Income Communities

- Primary author for Lifeline Transportation Network Report, which conducted map-based (GIS) analysis of the ability of the public transit network to meet the needs of low-income communities.
- Developed and managed program oversight for Low Income Flexible Transportation Program (LIFT), which provides grants for the provision of employment related transportation services.
- Conducted program evaluation of LIFT Program activities.
- Supervised completion of the Regional Welfare-to-Work Plan and other county-based planning activities.

Public Outreach and Stakeholder Collaboration

- Developed service improvements and new programs in coordination with citizen advisory committees, local governments and subcontractors.
- Staffed regional Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee
- Conducted public meetings, facilitated workshops, convened various stakeholder groups to inform and participate in developing regional programs and policies.

Ms. Soper's work experience includes tenure with:

Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Oakland, CA.

MTC is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the San Francisco Bay Area.

Tri-Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon (Tri-Met).

Tri-Met is the public transit service provider for the Portland, OR Metropolitan area

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Presentations

- TRB (co-authored and presented paper “Survey Methodology and Vehicle Replacement Schedule of Specialized Transportation Providers in the San Francisco Bay Area”)
- CalACT (California Association for Coordinated Transportation) Conferences: efforts to identify unmet paratransit needs in the Bay Area; The effects of the ADA on Bay Area transit operators; ADA paratransit eligibility; successful legislative efforts in Oregon for paratransit funding, and others.
- California Taxi Association
- National Conference on Specialized Transportation
- APTA Annual Meetings and other various APTA conferences and meetings.

Memberships and Community Involvement

- Chair, APTA Access Committee. During her three-year tenure, APTA adopted a policy position with respect to funding the ADA, increased the availability of technical assistance to operators responsible for the ADA, and responded, on behalf of the association, to proposed legislation.
- Member, Board of Directors, California Association of Coordinated Transportation (CalACT)
- Member, Project ACTION National Steering Committee
- Member, International Transit Training Program to Scandinavia