EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - *updated FEBRUARY 2019*

USDOT Tier-1 University Transportation Center

CM² Cooperative Mobility for Competitive Megaregions

SENIOR MOBILITY & ACCESSIBILITY THROUGH TECH INNOVATION

Using Technological Innovations Across the Megaregion to Enhance the Mobility and Access of Seniors (#CM2-9)

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Project Information Form: http://sites.utexas.edu/cm2/files/2018/03/Year-1-Sandra-Rosenbloom-Using-Technological-Innovations-Across-the-Megaregion.pdf

TEXAS The University of Texas at Austin

America is aging rapidly; by 2025 almost 80 million Americans will be over 65. Seniors will constitute more than 20% of the population, outnumbering children for the first time in history. Many will remain in the paid labor force long after the traditional age of retirement; 40% will likely work full time until the age of 75. Seniors will also account for almost one out of four drivers on US highways because most will live in inherently low density places with few alternatives to the car. Yet many seniors will want or need to curtail or cease driving with few practical alternatives, forcing many into driving when they should not or doing without crucial human, social, and medical services.

The rapid aging of a population living at low density who have built a life around the mobility offered by the private car is a policy and planning challenge which may be addressed by two additional societal trends: the growth of e-commerce and local delivery of a variety of goods and services, and, the rapid rise in the shared economy, particularly in the transportation sector. Do societal trends offer a way to address some of the needs of the silver tsunami, a wave of aging seniors living in suburbs and even rural areas who may face terrible problems meeting their needs when they need to reduce or cease driving? Will new technology and key aspects of the shared economy meet some senior mobility needs across a megaregion?

This is a qualitative research effort, assessing how much seniors from diverse backgrounds know about, use, or would consider using a range of technological innovations and various services offered by the private firms, and the extent to which they knew about such services, used them, or would consider using them in the future if they had mobility needs.

Do you now, or have you ever used...	Yes	% of respondents who answered yes (79 total)
Local home grocery delivery	4	5.1%
Local delivery of other products	2	2.5%
Meal kit services	2	2.5%
Local restaurant delivery services	2	2.5%
Local Transportation Network Services	3	3.8%
On-line purchase of groceries and supplies	6	7.6%
On-line purchase of clothing	4	5.1%
Local chore/task services	0	0.0%

Senior Mobility Survey Responses

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