

Accessible Transportation Around the World



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Not just Bus Rapid Transit: *All buses are becoming accessible*

Curitiba and Uberlândia: Two Brazilian cities point the way toward fully inclusive mobility for all passengers



Left: Juan Carlos Pineda of Medellín, Colombia, checks out the ramp at one of Curitiba's well-known "bus tube" stations. Right: Passenger with cane benefits from level alighting in Curitiba.

– Photo left courtesy of Juan Pineda, photo right courtesy of URBS, Gov't of Curitiba

We would be the first to underline the potential of Bus Rapid Transit systems being built around the world to improve mobility for millions of persons with disabilities and all others who benefit from "universal design." However, two major issues must be addressed:

1. Some BRT trunk lines in some regions of the world lack key access features.
2. Many BRT feeder bus lines lack inclusive design, as do the sidewalks leading to them.

The World Bank responded to this concern by commissioning Tom Rickert of AEI to prepare *Technical and operational challenges to inclusive Bus Rapid Transit: A guide for practitioners* (see report on next page). And, increasingly, many cities around the world are now providing good examples of inclusion to all their buses, including their BRT systems. Brazil, for example, reports measured steps to address

these issues in response to overall accessibility legislation passed in 2004 and covering a broad spectrum of disability issues, as presented in an update provided to AEI this past June by Angela Carneiro da Cunha, a Brazilian official playing a leading role in this field. One goal of this major legislation is that transit systems in Brazil must achieve full accessibility nationwide by 2014. Curitiba and Uberlândia are leading the way.

Curitiba, Brazil's seventh-largest city with a population of 1.8 million, is (*continued on page 2*)

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