

Exhibit D

Research Project Requirement Template

Addressing Mobility-Related Challenges for AAPI Older Adults

Recipient/Grant (Contract) Number: The University of Texas at Austin/Grant # 69A3552344815 and 69A3552348320

Center Name: Center for Understanding Future Travel Behavior and Demand (TBD)

Research Priority: Improving Mobility of People and Goods

Principal Investigator(s): Yongping Zhang

Project Partners: N/A

Research Project Funding: \$117,813 (Federal funding)

Project Start and End Date: 6/1/2024 - 5/31/2025

Project Description: This project will use qualitative and quantitative research methods to better understand mobility-related challenges for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) older adults in order to provide government agencies and organizations such as National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA) with recommendations for policy and program changes to pursue. Older adults are typically defined as people aged 55 or older. Programs and policies aimed at encouraging and keeping people healthy, independent, and mobile as they age are based on research and real-life experiences. While the real-life experiences of each person differ, the aging process affects hearing, eyesight, reaction times, balance, and overall ability to engage with and be mobile in their environment. Mobility is typically dependent on transportation options available, including walking, public transportation, various motor vehicles, and cycling. Each option comes with a set of 'providers' including oneself (in the case of walking), family members, public agencies, and private providers. One of the goals of ensuring an older adult continues to have transportation options and mobility is to maintain their life-space mobility, the ability of an older adult to navigate within their community for daily needs. Many factors, such as the built environment and transportation options available and accessible, affect an older adult's life-space mobility. Further, race, ethnicity, economic status, locale, and family composition affect a person's mobility. A few life-space mobility studies go beyond the typical assessment of an older adult's physical ability, determining how the built environment affects mobility, and even suggest transportation policies for older adults. While some AAPI older adults may be included in the research, there is a lack of studies specifically focusing on older AAPI adults, especially factoring in the added safety risk related to Asian hate, which creates additional barriers to transportation and mobility. AAPIs have been the fastest-growing ethnic group in California since 2000, accounting for a significant portion of the state's labor force. Nationwide, the AAPI community will increase to 11 percent of people 65 years and older in the United States by 2050. The transportation and mobility of older AAPI adults is hindered by a range of challenges. These include, but are not limited to, issues such as Asian hate, limited access to private vehicles and public transit, traffic safety and public security concerns, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as language, cultural, and technology barriers.

Since transportation and mobility can be limited for older adults, this project will focus on those 55 and older, recognizing the need to identify subgroups of older adults for whom the difference may be significant. We will study transportation and mobility for AAPI older adults in the Greater Los Angeles Metropolitan Area in California. The research will fill an existing gap within the academic community on the travel behavior of AAPI older adults. The project will include a literature review and a survey with

selected follow-up interviews to develop a report with recommendations for government agencies and organizations such as NAPCA to address the transportation and mobility needs of older AAPI people. The project will develop a survey to gain much-needed details on the daily experiences of AAPI older adults in Southern California. Survey research is a well-respected and much-used method to reach many people, especially when offered online effectively. We plan to use a mixed-methods approach, i.e., obtain both quantitative and qualitative information from respondents. The team will carefully design the survey to be understandable in multiple languages and reduce the likelihood of bias.

Work Plan:

1. **Problem Definition:** Clearly define the mobility-related challenges facing AAPI older adults.
2. **Survey Design:** Create an effective survey to capture the necessary data in multiple languages.
3. **Survey Data Collection:** Collaborate with various AAPI organizations and reach out to disadvantaged communities to collect responses.
4. **Data Analysis:** Analyze data from the survey and existing services and gaps to derive actionable insights.
5. **Evaluation:** Assess the findings and create useful recommendations.

US DOT Priorities: This project specially addresses the following USDOT Research, Development and Technology (RD&T) Strategic Plan goals. The transformation research priority focuses on data-driven insights, with research objectives centered around strategic foresight to assess, anticipate, and plan for changes in the transportation system. The equity research priorities and objectives emphasize equity and accessibility assessment, aiming to develop data, tools, and research to evaluate and advance the fairness and accessibility of transportation systems, projects, jobs, and policies.

Outputs: This project will be disseminated to the academic community, government agencies, organizations, and the general public. Specifically, the following channels will be adopted: 1) for the academic community, the research results will be shared by journal/report publications and conference presentations. They will also be incorporated in the pertinent course curricula that introduce the latest project results to graduate and undergraduate students in the Civil Engineering Department and Urban & Regional Planning Department at Cal Poly Pomona and other universities across California; 2) For government agencies, a series of presentations can also be arranged to be made for the external adviser and in various technical committee meetings at Caltrans, SCAG, and other interested agencies, 3) For the general public, a dedicated website will be developed which allows the public to understand the importance of convenient active transportation networks for older adults to remain physically active, particularly for AAPI communities.

Outcomes/Impacts: Anticipated outcomes of this project include increased understanding and awareness of the mobility-related challenges facing AAPI older adults (language barriers, technology barriers, mobility barriers, cultural hate, etc.); increases in the body of knowledge; the adoption of new practices and passage of new policies can help address these issues.

The expected outcomes of this project encompass heightened comprehension and recognition of the mobility-related obstacles encountered by AAPI older adults, encompassing language, technology, and cultural barriers, among others. Additionally, it aims to contribute to the expansion of existing knowledge, advocate for the adoption of novel practices, and influence the enactment of pertinent policies to mitigate these challenges. Ultimately, these efforts seek to enhance the provision of transit services to older adults by empowering transit agencies with valuable insights.

Final Research Report: A URL link to the final report will be provided upon completion of the project.