

Cornell University's Yang Tan Institute wins DDPC Grant to Develop Transit Accessibility Evaluation Program

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Albany, NY, March 16, 2017 – The New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council has awarded \$200,000 to the Yang Tan Institute (YTI) at Cornell University, for the development of a Transit Research and Accessibility Center (TRAC). YTI will develop and pilot the transit accessibility evaluation program in the 18 New York Counties comprising OPWDD Region 3.

Over a two-year period, YTI will:

- Develop a Regional Accessibility Transit Evaluation (RATE) Training for Evaluators in the form of an online toolkit-based curriculum designed to educate advocates on the essential elements of accessible fixed-route transportation and how to conduct accessibility reviews.
- Create a regional public transit rating database and app which allows users of accessible fixed-route public transportation to evaluate the service.
- Using data collected from evaluator reviews, inform public transportation providers how they can improve accessibility and usability.

YTI will develop and pilot the RATE Evaluator Training curriculum and the TRAC online interface. In addition, evaluation teams will be trained to use the TRAC app to perform transit accessibility evaluations.

“Dependable and accessible public transportation is a vital component of living independently and participating fully the community,” said DDPC Executive Director, Sheila Carey. “While transportation providers have been working to address accessibility for many years, people with disabilities continue to experience significant barriers with respect to the reliability and accessibility of the public transportation services in their communities. More needs to be done, and this grant will give New Yorkers with disabilities the ability to share their experiences about how well their local transportation providers are doing.”