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By [Martin Schiefelbusch](#) / Updated: 09 Aug 2016

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Picture:



**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
DEMAND-RESPONSIVE TRANSPORTATION**

*Paratransit from Dial-a-Ride
to Tech-Enabled Services*

*This is a conference in preparation of the
DRT Conference in Beckenridge, Colorado,
Sept. 26-28, 2016, though participation in
each conferences is independent from the
other.*

*A conference to explore, in an
intimate setting with
transportation professionals
from around world, cutting edge
demand responsive transportation
concepts and systems, to discuss
and debate policy and performance,
to understand convergence and to
make person-to-person connections
for future collaboration.*

Topic:

Urban mobility planning

Policy and research

Collective passenger transport

Transport for people with reduced mobility

Link:

[TRB conference website](#)

Body:

Public transport comes in different forms and sizes, including demand-responsive (or 'flexible')

services that have been part of the public transport systems for quite some time now.

In most western societies, Demand-Responsive Transport (DRT) is mainly used in areas of low demand or for special needs while elsewhere it may be the backbone of public transport.

Today DRT is increasingly challenged by new forms of competition. This situation raises questions about the very essence of how things should be done. The following key topics were identified at an international conference in Stuttgart (Germany) on 1 May 2016.

1. Standardisation of terms and definitions across countries;
2. Centralised control centres for dispatching the services and coordinating with other transportation agencies;
3. The need to create 'platforms' to connect users and providers;
4. Changes in the institutional framework such as arrival of the so-called transportation network companies (such as Uber);
5. Developments in the area of autonomous (minibus) vehicles and other issues related to vehicle concepts;
6. Integration of different DRT services across authorities and sectors (e.g. public transport, health, human services).

Interesting case studies were presented during the two-day session, such as that of Flexdanmark, where a systematic approach to performance monitoring and aggregation of different service and market segments under one roof was achieved.

The debate is expected to be continued at the TRB Paratransit conference in Breckenridge (USA) in late September 2016.

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