



Orientation & Mobility Specialist Association

The Barlow Initiative Traffic Engineering and Orientation and Mobility: Cultivating Collaboration

The Orientation and Mobility Specialist Association (OMSA) is proud to support the following in person interactive workshop which is appended to the Penn-Del AER Conference in Harrisburg, PA.

Details:

When: Friday, April 26, 2024, 8:15 AM - 4:30 PM Eastern

Where: Best Western Premier Central Hotel, 800 E Park Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17111-2807

Registration: Workshop is limited to 45 participants. Register by April 15, 2024, deadline using [Registration Link](#)

Cost: \$55.00 You will receive a PayPal invoice via email, due by Monday, April 15, 2024. Your spot will not be held until payment has been received.

Attire: Dress for the weather

Sleeping Room: The Penn-Del AER Conference room rate at the Best Western Premier is \$125.95 plus taxes. Rooms can be booked online by visiting the [Best Western Premier Reservation](#) or call (717)-5612800.

Penn-Del AER Conference Information: Visit the [Penn-Del AER website](#) for conference details.

For More Information: Contact Jennifer Graham at jgraham@accessforblind.org

Presenters:

Jennifer Graham, Bonnie Dodson-Burk, Lukas Franck, Dona Sauerburger, Patricia Kerns

Description:

This workshop is held in honor of Janet Barlow, COMS. When Janet died in 2021 the Barlow Initiative and Barlow Legacy Fund was established to continue her mission to have orientation and mobility specialists collaborating with traffic engineers to explore, discuss, and learn together. Janet believed in active learning and pioneered the concept of “feet in the street”. So, no workshop would be complete without time spent physically on the streets and sidewalks. This workshop is a day dedicated to deeper understanding between orientation and mobility specialists and traffic engineers, with a goal of improving safe access to the streets and sidewalks of our cities for pedestrians who are blind or who have low vision.



Transportation Professionals and O&M Specialists will visit intersections in small groups to discuss strategies used by pedestrians with visual disabilities. Participants will have an opportunity to cross streets while blindfolded or using a low-vision simulator. During a follow-up discussion, participants will identify modifications that could make wayfinding easier and/or crossing safer at a few of the targeted intersections. Transportation professionals will share experiences and

possible hurdles of meeting access needs of pedestrians with visual disabilities, including time frame and funding options.

Objectives:

- O&M Specialists will learn about traffic signalization and actuation, tips for working with transportation professionals, and the complexity involved in changes to make public rights-of-way more accessible.
- Transportation professionals will learn about urban travel for pedestrians with visual disabilities, including street crossing strategies.
- Participants will identify access issues and modifications at signalized intersections.
- Participants will learn about new wayfinding solutions, including beaconing APS and new uses for raised bar tactile direction indicators and implications of PROWAG for pedestrians with vision disabilities.

Intended Audience:

- Orientation & Mobility (O&M) Specialists including Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS), National Orientation & Mobility Certification (NOMC), and Guide Dog Mobility Instructors (GDMI)
- Transportation Professionals (Traffic Engineers, Signal Techs, Planners & more)

Continuing Education Units (CEUs):

7.25 CEUs will be provided for attendees. The CEUs are awarded by ACVREP and approved by ACVREP and NBPCB. The CEUs are independent of the Penn-Del AER Conference.

Speaker Information:

Lukas Franck, COMS, GDMI

Lukas Franck has recently retired from his role as a Senior Consultant for Special Projects with the Seeing Eye, USA. He graduated from the State University of New York at New Paltz with a BA in Speech Pathology and Audiology. He began working at the Seeing Eye as an apprentice in 1978.

Eight years after joining the Seeing Eye, he left to attend Western Michigan University and earned a Masters in Orientation and Mobility in 1987. He re-joined the Seeing Eye's staff shortly after completing his degree. In 1993 he became a 'community instructor', traveling full time across the United States and Canada working to enhance the working relationships between Seeing Eye graduates and their dogs. As a result of his experiences in this capacity he became interested in Environmental Access for people who are visually impaired.

Lukas served as Chair of the Environmental Access Committee of Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) and is still active on that committee. He has worked with the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices to create language leading towards a United States Standard Accessible Pedestrian Signal and has worked to create and enhance communication and understanding between Orientation and Mobility Specialists, people who are blind or visually impaired, and traffic engineers.

Lukas is a past winner of the Orientation and Mobility Division's Sandy Kronick Distinguished Service Award; the American Foundation for the Blind's Access Award and most recently, the IGDF's Ken Lord award. He is proudest however, of having twice received the Ethel Bender award from Guide Dog Users, Inc.

Jennifer Graham, COMS, Independent Contractor/Consultant/Research Associate

Jennifer Graham is a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist with twenty-seven years of experience teaching individuals with low vision or blindness how to independently navigate in various environments in Michigan. With Accessible Design for the Blind, Jennifer has collaborated and

participated in research projects structured to address accessibility issues for pedestrians with visual disabilities, including accessible pedestrian signals and tactile walking surface indicators.

Bonnie Dodson-Burk, COMS, TVI, Independent Contractor/Consultant

Bonnie received her Bachelor's degree in special education from Kutztown University and her Masters Degree in Orientation and Mobility from Western Michigan University. Bonnie has been an O&M instructor for almost 40 years, working mostly with children, many of whom have multiple disabilities. She co-authored the online Self Study Guide: Crossing at Modern Signals and has taught O&M graduate level courses at 4 universities. Bonnie has enjoyed developing working relationships with her local traffic engineers. She has recently retired from Pittsburgh Public Schools.

Dona Sauerburger, COMS, Private Contractor

Dona provides O&M services in Maryland, and has a special passion for teaching street crossings. She co-authored the online Self-Study Guide: Crossing at Modern Signals and a chapter on street-crossing in Foundations of O&M, and has done dozens of workshops on street crossing. Dona is looking forward to having fun doing one at the Barlow Initiative workshop.

Patricia Kerns, P.E.

Patty is a Professional Engineer who is a Project Manager with the Department of Mobility of Infrastructure for the city of Pittsburgh.

OMSA Membership:

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