

## **JESSICA RINKS**

Jessica Rinks is a Planner with Vlecides-Schroeder Associates, Inc. (VSA). She completed her Master's of Public Administration at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) in 2006, specializing in Transportation Management. While earning her graduate degree, Jessica also conducted transportation policy research for the Urban Transportation Center at UIC, studying the needs of disabled passengers on fixed-route transit systems.

### **Education**

B.A., Political Science and Spanish, University of Southern Indiana  
Master's of Public Administration, University of Illinois at Chicago

### **Affiliations**

Transportation Research Board Accessible Transportation and Mobility Committee Member

### **Related Work Experience**

- City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development (Chicago IL) *Intern, Finance and Development*- Worked on a variety of project tasks for DPD's Tax Incremental Financing (TIF), the Small Business TIF, and Special Service Area programs
- University of Illinois at Chicago (Chicago, IL) *Research Assistant, Urban Transportation Center*- Designed and implemented qualitative research study investigating challenges faced by visually impaired and blind customers using the Chicago Transit Authority's (CTA) fixed-route transit system. Conducted focus groups and interviews with transit users. Presented project at Transport Chicago Conference 2005. The goal of this project was to produce recommendations for CTA on how to better serve passengers with visual disabilities
- Chicago Transit Authority (Chicago, IL) *Intern: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance*- Worked with ADA Compliance Officer to monitor CTA facilities and services for customers with disabilities. Performed Key Station ADA compliance inspections

### **SELECTED REPRESENTATIVE TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS (VSA)**

#### **Alternatives Analyses**

- CTA Circle Line Land Use Analysis
- CTA Financing for the Red, Orange and Yellow Line extensions: annotated bibliography of recent articles and papers
- UPNW Alternative Analysis

#### **Market Research/Analysis Projects**

- Metra 2006 Origin Destination Survey Methodology

#### **Strategic Plans and Transit Development Projects**

- Assessment of Access and Egress Options for Suburban-To-Suburban and Reverse-Commute Travel on Metra Commuter Rail

#### **Policy Studies**

- Future Funding Options for the Highway Trust Fund (motor fuel tax replacement)