

Section 2. Promoting social participation by women, seniors and others

[Promoting barrier-free facilities to improve the lives of all]

So that everyone, including seniors, can move around smoothly, we are promoting the introduction of barrier free facilities, including elevators and escalators in stations, as well as non-step buses and LRT (Low-floor Road Tram) vehicles.

58. station barrier free



59. Large barrier free non-step bus (experimental vehicle)



[Target for barrier-free]

Passenger facilities

Concerning railway stations, bus terminals, passenger ship terminals, air terminals where the average number of passengers per day is over 5,000, the following barrier-free conditions are to be put into practice by 2010 as a rule:

- 1 eliminating differences of level,
- 2 maintaining blocks for guidance of the visually-handicapped, and
- 3 providing toilets for the physically handicapped.

Vehicles

The following barrier-free conditions are to be achieved by 2010.

Kind of Vehicle	Total Number	Number of Vehicles Made Barrier-Free
Railway cars	approx. 51,000	approx. 15,000(approx. 30%)
Buses	approx. 60,000	to be altered to lower floor cars in 10 ~ 15years in principle
Passenger ships	approx. 1,100	(including non-step buses) approx. 12,000 ~ 15,000(20% ~ 25%) approx. 550(approx. 50%)
Airplanes	approx. 420	approx 180(approx. 40%)

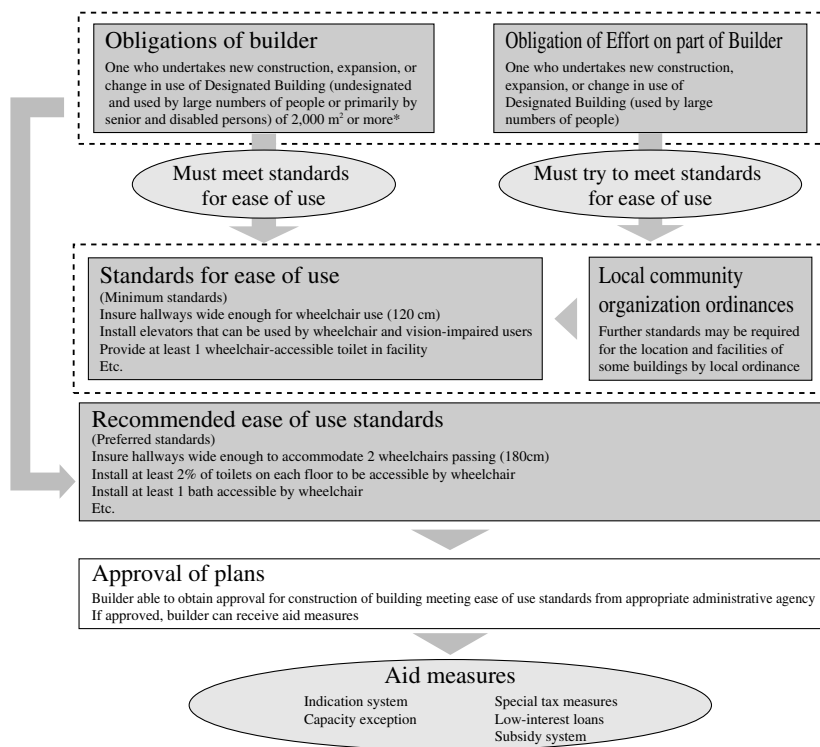
Facilities for general traffic

Basically, barrier-free conditions are to be put into practice by 2010 with roads, station squares, passageways comprising main specific routes in selectively developed areas.

Basically, barrier-free conditions such as installation of sound signals and response signals for the elderly, road traffic signs for roads for pedestrians and road indicators for cross-walks are to be put into practice on all roads comprising specific routes by 2010.

Also, we are promoting barrier free home and living environments in parks, administrative facilities, passageways through buildings, etc.

60. Laws pertaining to the promotion of construction of buildings designated for ease of use by senior and disabled persons



*Local ordinances may cover use of designated buildings other than the above (such as schools, public housing, etc.) or buildings smaller than the 2000 m² standard.

[Constructing barrier free child-rearing environments]

We are promoting barrier free public transportation and buildings that offer easy access to all, including pregnant women and those with children, at the same time that we are promoting acquisition of comfortable housing adapted to individual household composition, in order to support child rearing and contribute to building environments that will facilitate the participation of women in society. We are also promoting the construction of housing, train stations, etc. with childcare facilities attached, in order to improve access to childcare.

61. Baby rest area in station (JR Ueno St.)



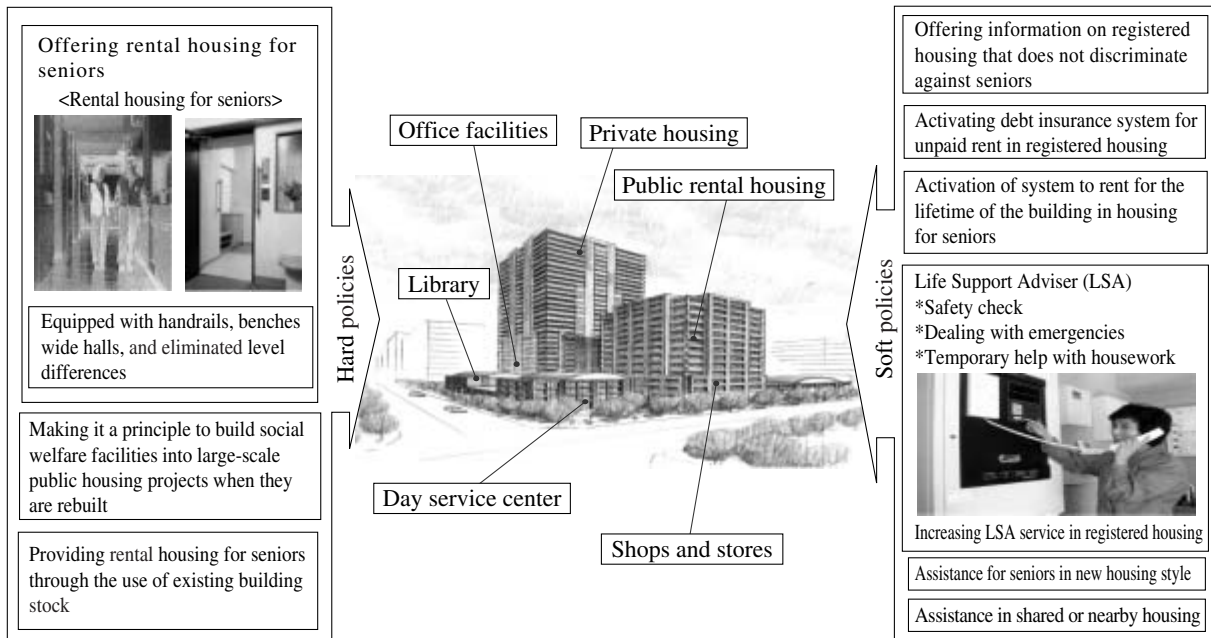
62. Nursery school in public rental housing



[The development of living environment that offers peace of mind to seniors]

We will insure mobility to support welfare and care as we provide living environments that offer peace of mind to seniors through housing market environment projects and cooperation with welfare facilities.

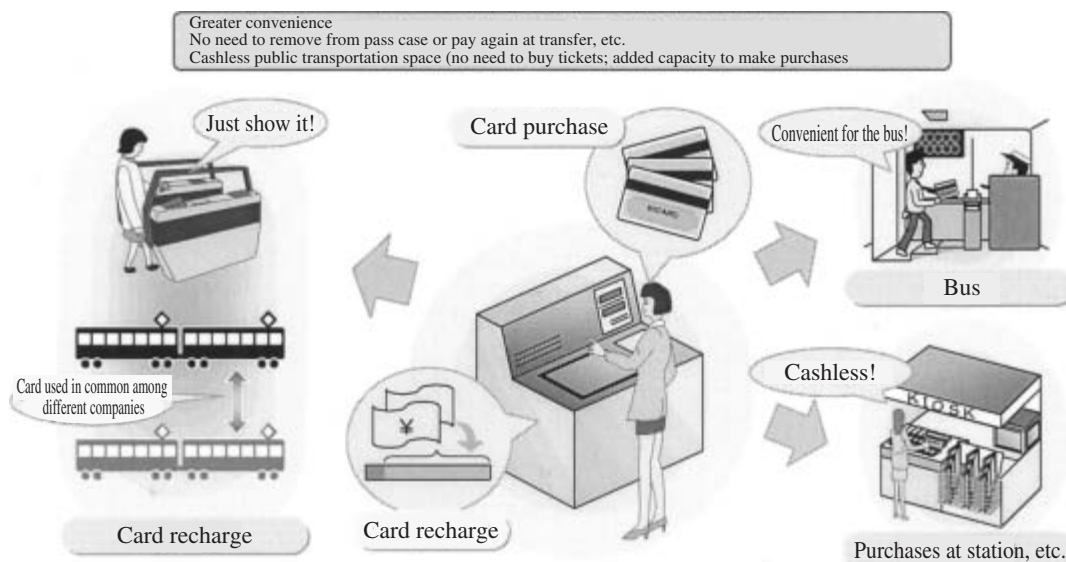
63. Various housing policies supporting seniors



[Offering new transport services for more comfortable living]

Through the introduction of the IC card, which we are promoting, for public transportation tickets and the like, various possibilities arise for better service through cooperation among multiple transportation means, fixing flexible and diverse fare discounts, etc.

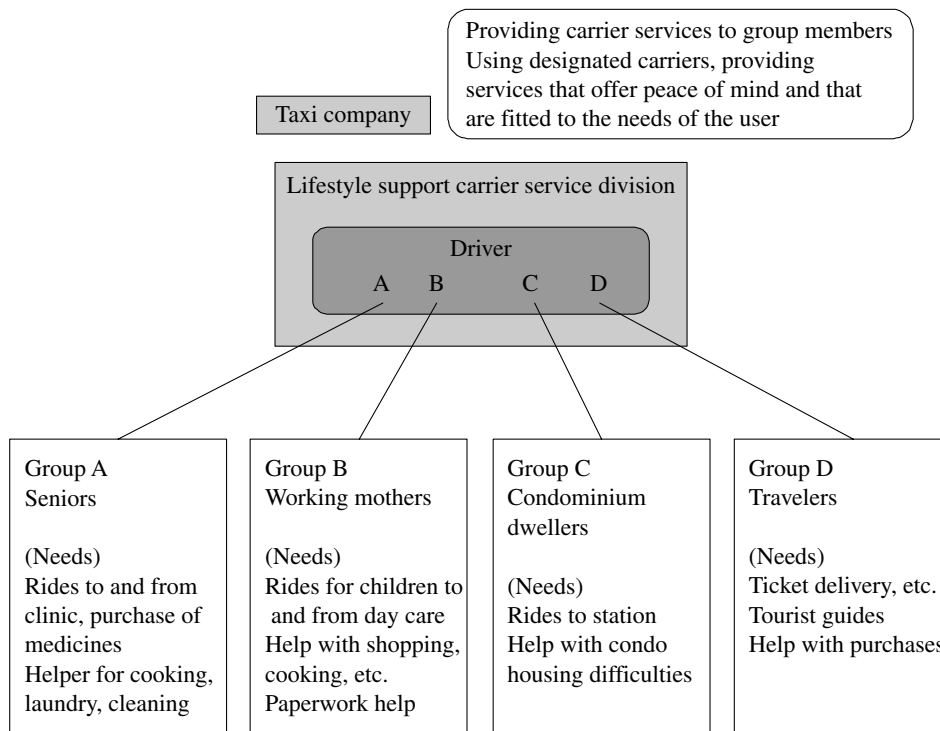
64. (Introduction of IC Card in Public Transportation)



In addition, we support the establishment and spread of new transport services, such as conducting “ demonstration test of daily support transport services, ” which provide daily support by taxi drivers, a route development model survey of female-only vehicles, etc.

65. (Lifestyle support carrier services)

~ Carrier service as a part of concierge service (Gofer service) ~



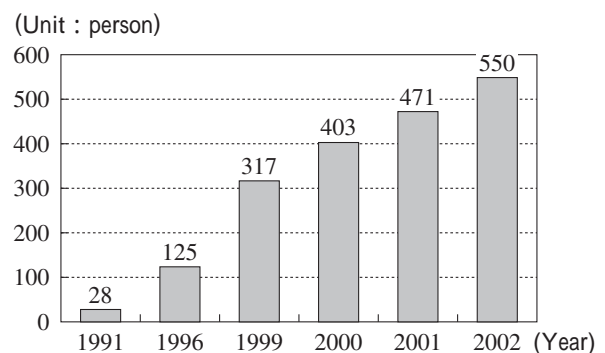
[Supporting the active participation of seniors and women and vitality in the national transportation industry]

Amidst fears of a labor shortage as a result of the graying of society, it is vital to activate the senior and female labor force in the national transportation industry, as well. To this end, it will be necessary to promote employment aggressively, through construction of an environment that is work-friendly for seniors and women.

66. Female Station Attendant



67. Changes in number of female bus drivers



Note: Figures shown are for July 31.
Source: Japan Bus Association, "Bus Business in Japan "

Also, in order to maintain Japan's national vitality as population declines and graying continues, it is important to activate the economy and production and to strengthen our international competitiveness. In order to achieve this, we must promote deregulation in the transportation industry and the IT revolution, as well as strengthen the competitiveness of operators through distribution efficiencies.