

When Driving Is Not An Option



Steering Away from Car Dependency

Anna Letitia Zivarts

FOREWORD BY DANI SIMONS





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TRANSPORTATION ACCESS FOR EVERYONE: WASHINGTON STATE

A quarter of our population doesn't have a driver's license, and we know that with the current economic crisis, there are even more people in our communities who can't afford to own or drive a vehicle.

Who are we, and how do we get around? Disability Mobility Initiative wants to raise awareness about how people without access to cars navigate to essential services in our

[Rapid Call](#)



Disabled Nondrivers

- People with disabilities are 4x more likely to not drive than nondisabled people.
- We use buses, subways, and commuter rail for a higher share of trips than people without disabilities (BTS, 2022).
- Adults with disabilities who work walk for a greater share of trips than workers without disabilities (BTS, 2022).



Older Nondrivers

- 18% of people older than 65 don't drive, 35% of women over 75.
- On average, Americans will spend the last seven to ten years of their life unable to safely drive (AARP, 2022).



Children and Youth Need to Go Places Too!

- In 2020, 25% of 16-year-olds had driver's licenses compared to 43% in 1997.
- In 2020, 80% of 20–25-year-olds have licenses, compared to 90% in 1997 (FHWA, 2021).

Nondrivers Can't Afford to Drive

- Households that make less than \$25,000 are 9x more likely to not have a car than households who earn more than \$25,000 (BTS, 2001).
- Black households are 3x more likely to lack access to a car than White households (Molloy et al, 2024)





One of Three Americans

- 31 out of every 100 residents in the US lack a driver license (USDOT, 2020).
- Washington State: 30% of the population are nondrivers (JTC, 2023).
- Wisconsin DOT 31% of the population are nondrivers (WisDOT, 2021).



Sidewalks and Transit Together

“We need to start thinking about public transportation and sidewalks as going together instead of as two separate things. You can’t use the bus if you can’t get yourself to the bus stop.”

- Krystal, Monteros



E-Mobility Designed for Us

"Oftentimes, people's lifestyles are shaped by the equipment that they have. People could do so much more, and the equipment is determining the direction of their life. A family should be able to go spend the day at Disneyland and not run out of batteries."

- Ian Mackay (Ian's Ride)



Reducing the Distances We Need to Travel

"More affordability means moving further out. Moving further out means more limited transportation."

- Vaughn Brown




Emotional Burden of Asking for Rides

"Whenever I call or text somebody asking for a ride I start to wonder, are they going to get back to me or not? Should I call a second person? There are times I would rather walk, even several miles, than deal with the anxiety of finding a ride."

- Amanda Sutherland

Nondrivers In Agency and Leadership Roles

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So if you're the transit agency hiring for this position, does using your bus system count as getting places "in a timely manner"?

Necessary Special Requirements

- A valid Washington State driver's license within thirty days after hire, or the ability to travel throughout the County in a timely manner, is also required.

ALT

Licenses & Certification

Required

ADA Coordinator Cert
Driver's License

Equal Opportunity Employer/Protects
Veterans/Individuals with Disabilities



WEEK WITHOUT DRIVING

“Legislators don't understand the pain and agony standing in the rain at a bus stop. Or having to be stuck at a crosswalk and missing your bus. Can you imagine waiting in the rain another hour, waiting for the next bus? ”

— Ivanova, People First

HOW DOES THE CHALLENGE WORK?



Every Trip Counts

You can get around however you want, but the challenge is not to drive yourself in any car. This applies to all your activities — not just your work commute. If you normally transport other family members or friends, it applies to those trips too.



Asking or Paying for Rides

You can ask someone else to drive you, but make a note of how much you “owe” this person in their time, and if you felt obligated to support them in other ways (ie, doing all the dishes). You can ride hail or taxis if they exist where you need to go, but again, think about how the cost could impact your decision to take this trip if this was regularly your only option.



Who Has Choices, What Are Your Choices?

This isn’t a disability simulation or a test of how easily you can find alternatives. We know that it is far easier to give up your keys if you can afford to live in a walkable area well served by transit, or can outsource your driving and other transport and delivery needs to other people.



It's Okay to Drive – But Reflect Why That Means for Nondrivers

Having to drive during the challenge does not signify failure. Sometimes the best reflection comes when someone participating in the challenge has to drive. The point is to consider how someone without that option would have coped, and what choices they might have made.



WEEKWITHOUTDRIVING

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WEEKWITHOUTDRIVING

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