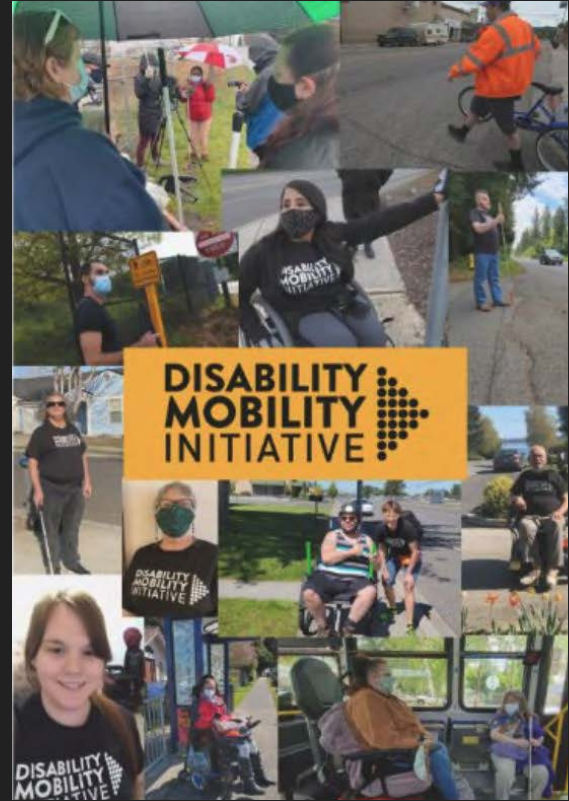


# When Driving Isn't An Option

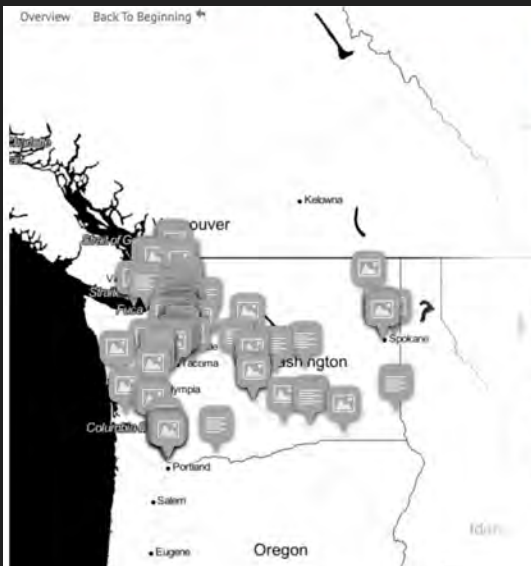
#WeekWithoutDriving 2022

Abby Griffith



and not in the area where they forget to put any transportation because they forget people, poor

# Organizing Nondrivers



## 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 communities. We've interviewed people from every legislative district in our state who rely on transit, paratransit, walking, biking, rolling or community rides to get where we need to go.

Questions or press inquiries? Contact Anna  
737-444-9146 • 914c 794 1233 • 347

**DISABILITY  
MOBILITY  
INITIATIVE**

**HARRY**  
Vancouver, Legislative District 17

"What I discovered when I quit driving is that the world is not going to see. When I get behind a wheel to cross streets, I'd hope there was a sidewalk — sometimes there wasn't. But just because you don't drive, your life isn't over. You still have a lot to give your community."

"My family is all around the state but it's hard to get there to see them, and it's hard to get around when I am here. I'd like the freedom to visit."

Harry lives in Vancouver, where he works with regional and national organizations to bring shuttle-type transit services to rural Washington. Harry is the board chair of the Human Services Council, and serves on the board of the Citizens' Advisory Committee for C-Trans. Harry has had a website

**AMANDEEP**  
Lynden, Legislative District 21

"Some bus stops don't have shelters and it's hard for people to be waiting for over half an hour in the winter, especially for people with a disability or a blind person. Sometimes if you miss one bus, you have to wait two hours for the next one. It's not a good service for people who rely on public transportation."

Amandeep is a blind student who lives in Lynden and attends Everett Community College. She gets around using the bus. One challenge is that the buses she needs don't stop very close to campus. Another is that bus announcements aren't loud enough, so at busy and loud stops, it's difficult to hear. If the bus is five or six stops away, Amandeep finds the TransitApp to be the most accurate app and has the best voice function. She's missed buses and had long waits using other apps. In Amandeep's ideal community, transit stops would have audible stoppage consistently posted, with some numbers, direction of travel, and schedule details. Going to downtown Seattle would be much easier, so she could meet friends, go to meetings, and go out to eat more often.

## *What if you couldn't drive?*

*What if taking the bus, riding your bike or walking to work, carpooling, or paying for ride-hail weren't a choice you could make, but a necessity?*

*What would it be like getting around without driving yourself?*

If you can drive, and can afford a car, this isn't something you think about. But for nearly a quarter of the people in our country – people with disabilities, young people, seniors and people who can't afford cars or gas, this is our every day.

## How does the Week Without Driving work?

You can get around however you want, **but you can't drive yourself in any car.** This applies to all your activities — not just your work commute. And if you normally transport other family members or friends, it applies to those trips too. 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 use ride-hail or taxis, but note how much it costs you.

Throughout the week, we will encourage you to post about your experience on social media using #WeekWithoutDriving.

We are thrilled to share that our first annual #WeekWithoutDriving was a great success! More than 100 elected leaders and transportation professionals joined us, and we are loving reading about their experiences and what they've learned. Here are some of our favorite stories about the week!

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## #WeekWithoutDriving

### On the Bus with Tammy Morales

Councilmember Morales's commute informs her transit proposals.  
by Hannah Krieg • Nov 4, 2021 at 3:00 pm

Like 41 Share Tweet



"The biggest take-away for me was that it takes so much more time and planning to get where you want to go."

- Senator June Robinson, 38th LD



**Governor Jay Inslee** @Govinslee · Oct 22  
Oct. 22-29 is Week Without Driving. Thanks to @disrightswa and @disability for creating this experience to understand the barriers non-drivers encounter when accessing communities.



kiro7.com  
WSDOT working to improve state's sidewalk network, a...  
According to the University of Washington's School of Public Policy, nearly 46 percent of Seattle's 2,300 mile...



Hi, everyone.

The State of Washington



Proclamation

*WHEREAS*, access to mobility is a fundamental part of health and community connection, allowing Washingtonians to reach education and employment opportunities, medical services, shopping, recreation, and visit friends and family, and is one of the state's six transportation system policy goals, including investing public dollars to improve the movement of people throughout Washington state; and

*WHEREAS*, as the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates the cost of owning a car is approximately 60 cents a mile, with average household spending on transportation reaching \$9,465 a year in 2020, many Washingtonians cannot afford the cost of a car, and nearly a quarter of the people residing in Washington state do not have a driver's license, either because of their age or a condition that does not allow them to drive; and

*WHEREAS*, transportation represents the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Washington, and in order to meet our state's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, we must reduce emissions in our transportation sector; and

*WHEREAS*, in addition to greenhouse gas emissions, cars also create tire dust that can enter watersheds; have necessitated freeway expansions that have been detrimental to neighborhoods historically home to communities of color; and require impervious surfaces for parking, with an estimated 3.4 parking spaces for every car in the United States, all of which have contributed to transportation being an important environmental justice concern; and

*WHEREAS*, the recently passed transformative transportation package, Move Ahead Washington, invests over \$5.0 billion to support reliable, safe, and clean energy mobility options throughout the state; and

*WHEREAS*, going a week without driving is great way to understand how we can improve our current transportation system to better meet the needs of Washingtonians and improve and enhance transportation options such as transit, light rail, biking, and walking pathways as key strategies in our decarbonization efforts;

*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim September 19-25, 2022, as

*Week Without Driving*

in Washington, and I encourage all people in our state to join me in this special observance.



Signed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2022

  
Governor Jay Inslee



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.

We want you to have this experience so you can start to understand the barriers non-drivers experience in accessing your (and our) communities. To get ready, read our stories collected in the [Transportation Access for Everyone Storymap](#).

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**#WeekWithoutDriving**

The

#WeekWithoutDriving is  
September 19-25, 2022

Sign up to participate using this QR code  
or visit [weekwithoutdriving.org](https://weekwithoutdriving.org)

