



Accessible transportation

If you live with disability, finding accessible transportation can be a challenge. Even a trip to the grocery store can feel like planning a vacation as you try to find a practical way from point A to point B. As much as we wish every state, city and town had the same accessibility accommodations, our world isn't there yet. We ask for funding to make all transportation options accessible for all types of disabilities.

Problem:

People with disabilities still need to get around during this pandemic. Many of us don't have cars and cannot drive. With social distancing measures, fewer people can take the bus at the same time. Additionally, even with a reduced need to travel, some people with disabilities do not have the luxury of being able to do everything from home. Solid transportation services are vital as we start to recover from this pandemic. We will get through this period and need to invest in our recovery. High risk populations, the main beneficiaries of the services do not want to go out.

Solution:

An investment in transportation now will be beneficial in the future. The pandemic will not last forever. When this ends, people with disabilities will have just as much of a desire to go places as the anyone. We cannot switch transportation services on and off easily since revenue and service are loosely associated with one another. If we don't act now, we will not have transportation services when we need them the most.

As every decision is intertwined with other factors we must assist those who have sacrificed their livelihood during this pandemic. This starts by maintaining funding for accessible transportation so we can use them when the time comes for us to go places again.

Ask:

Maintain funding for accessible services. Support the policy change to include paratransit in the RCW for buses so paratransit can use the carpool lane. This is a simple adjustment to RCW 46.04.355 and will allow for paratransit vehicles to be considered municipal transit vehicles.

Fiscal Impact: None known.

For more information, contact SAIL at SAIL@arcwa.org
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