



Accessible Transportation (Paratransit)

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Who is working on this issue?

Self Advocates in Leadership; Pierce County Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board

Advocacy areas

Civil rights; transportation

What is the problem you are trying to solve?

Using paratransit services is challenging.

If you live with disability, 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. Many people with disabilities don't have cars and cannot drive, and some cannot use regular buses. They rely on paratransit. But using paratransit services is challenging, with late pick up and drop off times that make it unreliable for people who need to get to somewhere by a specific time.



Paratransit is also only available to those that live within .75-mile distance from a fixed bus route, and many communities lack any bus routes at all.

Where available, paratransit provides specialized transportation and is a comparable service created to supplement public fixed-route services. But many don't have access to it, and others find it unreliable.



What is your proposed solution?

1 - Make a small change to the definition of "municipal transit vehicle" in RCW 46.04.355, so paratransit buses can use the carpool lane. Currently, only transit that runs on a regular schedule is included in the definition. (SAIL)

2- SURPASS the federal rule and offer transportation options to Developmental Disability Administration participants who live in communities without public transportation options. (Pierce DD Advisory Board)

Why is this a good solution?



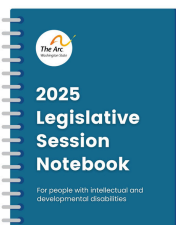
Access to reliable, safe and accessible transportation is necessary for everyone to be equally included.

By changing the definition of “municipal transit vehicle” in the Revised Code of Washington, paratransit buses will be better able to navigate crowded highways, reducing delays in pick-up and unpredictable arrival times.

By creating new transportation options in under- and unserved communities, the state will ensure people with disabilities have better access to work, medical appointments, education, recreation, and family and community activities.

Paratransit and other types of public transportation help to make and keep us independent. By addressing gaps, we will ensure we don’t leave people isolated and unable to care for their essential needs.

What is the fiscal impact?	Is there a bill number?	Is there a legislator working on this issue?
For the RCW change – none. Costs are unknown for new transit options in under- and unserved areas.	Not yet	Not known



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