

Transportation Fact Sheet

According to a 2016 study on the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, only 11% of study participants with disabilities used public transit and 38% relied on paratransit service. Nearly 64% of respondents indicated they had no access to a personal vehicle and 7% said there was limited or no public or paratransit service operating in their area.

For those individuals who do rely on public, paratransit or transportation provided by a care provider, their experience is anything but convenient. Half of all respondents to the study reported they waited a minimum of 15 minutes or longer for their scheduled rides and more than half reported arriving to their location more than 15 minutes late. These delays can have serious consequences for individuals with disabilities who are reporting for work. In fact, 23% of the study's participants with disabilities reported they could rarely, or never, get to work, 29% said they could rarely or never get to a worship service, and 22% said they could rarely or never get out just to enjoy the community.

According to MOVE Ohio (Mobility and Opportunity for a Vibrant Economy), Ohio ranks 45th in the nation for public transportation funding, but we are the seventh largest populated state in the nation.

Ohio has relied almost entirely on federal funds to pay for the public transit needs of its citizens. While some argue that Ohio's Constitution limits the use of motor fuel taxes and registration fees specifically to construction of roads and highways, others believe the constitution would permit investment in alternative transportation modes that increase the lifespan and decrease congestion on highways ("other statutory highway purpose").

The Ohio Department of Transportation's Mobility Manager project is a great example of a resource for individuals with disabilities and others without disabilities who need access to varying transportation resources. The Mobility Manager program provides coordination to individuals with disabilities that seek help with identifying and paying for transportation services. However, the Mobility Manager program is not statewide, providing some areas of the state with service while others have nothing. Because the program is supported through the use of federal funds, only areas of the state that can generate and dedicate local dollars are able to support this program. This program should be supported at the state level because it leverages existing transportation resources at the local level to benefit people with disabilities.

Any consideration to increasing revenue for transportation purposes should not be confined solely to infrastructure spending. Ohio needs a real plan for addressing the transportation needs of its citizens with disabilities.



Person First Talking Points:

More and more people with disabilities are living in the community. Getting a ride to work, or to the doctor's office, or to the grocery store takes a lot of planning. People with disabilities have to do what the driver says or they might lose their ride. People with disabilities can't always go to places they want because they don't have a ride. We spend a lot of time waiting for drivers and are late a lot. Ohio doesn't spend enough money on transportation to make sure that everyone can get a ride if they need it.

Listed below are examples of what you can say to your legislator about this issue:

Hi, my name is _____.

I live in _____.

Ohio is ranked number 45 in states for money for public transportation. We are almost in last place.

Many people with disabilities cannot drive. We need help from others to get to other places.

We spend a lot of time waiting on others so we can get a ride. If we are 1 minute late, we will lose our ride.

We have to plan ahead for a ride. We are not free to just go where we want.

Ohio needs to offer more options to people with disabilities.

Everyone should have access to a Mobility Manager in their area.

(You can give them a copy of the fact sheet if you'd like.)