

#WEEK WITHOUT DRIVING

WHAT IF YOU COULDN'T DRIVE?

OCTOBER 2-8, 2023

WHAT IF TAKING THE BUS, RIDING YOUR BIKE, WALKING TO WORK OR ASKING FOR RIDES WEREN'T A CHOICE YOU COULD MAKE, BUT A NECESSITY?

If you can drive, and can afford a car, this isn't something you think about. But for nearly a quarter of 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 CHALLENGE WORK?

Participants can get around however they want, but can't drive themselves. This applies to *all* activities. You can ask someone else to drive you or pay for rides, but note how much this costs you, both financially or in favors. We know that it is far easier and a privilege to give up your keys if you can afford to live in a walkable area well served by transit, or can outsource your driving to other people.

Having to drive during the challenge does not signify failure, the goal is to consider how someone without that option would have coped, and what choices they might have made.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS YEAR?

In 2021, the Disability Mobility Initiative launched the #WeekWithoutDriving to challenge our leaders and decision makers to better understand the barriers non-drivers experience in accessing our communities. After two successful years of hosting the challenge in Washington State, including an official proclamation from Governor Jay Inslee, #WeekWithoutDriving is going national in partnership with America Walks.

So far, more than 50 advocacy groups from across the US are planning to join the challenge. For more information, contact Ruth Rosas at ruth@americawalks.org.

"This week is a reminder that mobility is a human right. And it's also a reminder that so many people in our region are excluded from this right, simply because driving for them is not an option." - King County Councilmember Girmay Zahilay

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