



STRANDED WITHOUT OPTIONS: TRANSPORTATION'S GROWING CHALLENGE

PLANNING FOR HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION



An increasing number of people need basic, but hard-to-find transportation for them to maintain independence and age in place. Many of us have family, friends, and neighbors who are older adults, persons with disabilities, or people with low incomes. Many of these people need transportation that addresses their individual needs, such as curb-to-curb or door-through-door assistance.

The community transportation resources we have are not enough to serve the growing number of people with limited access to transportation that's suitable for them. The gaps are there and they're growing wider.

We all hope to build a thriving, inclusive, and livable community let's help meet the transportation needs of our more vulnerable citizens.



Everyone needs reliable, affordable, convenient, and safe transportation for every aspect of life.

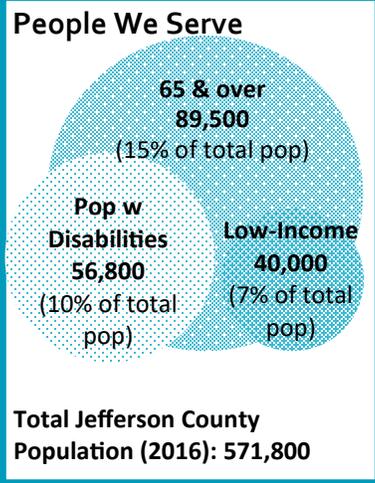
We seek a sustainable, countywide, coordinated transportation network for all residents.

PHOTOS FROM SENIORS RESOURCE CENTER

Understanding Human Services and Transportation Needs

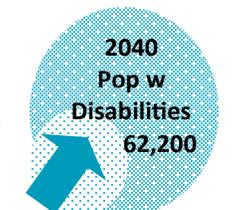
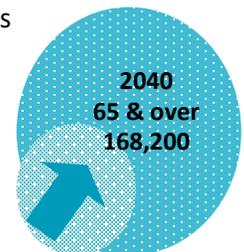
Transportation options are critical for older adults and people with disabilities. Meeting basic transportation needs becomes a priority. People need options for getting around.

There are roughly 89,500 older adults in Jefferson County (65 and over), close to 15 percent of the county's 571,800 population. Many need help with transportation. Between now (2018) and 2040, the older adult population grows rapidly to nearly a quarter of Jefferson County's 168,000+ residents.



People with disabilities can also have trouble finding basic transportation. There are approximately 56,800 county residents of all ages with disabilities (2016). There will be 62,200 people with disabilities by 2040—growing numbers of people who need transportation.

Also, the number of people with disabilities increases with age. For example, only 18 percent of people live with a disability when they're 65–74, but more than doubles to 46 percent in their mid-70's. Many more of these people don't drive, which increases the number of people with basic transportation needs. Capacity and funding is stretched thin now. We also know that Senior's Resource Center and Lakewood Rides, the primary human service transportation providers serving Jefferson County have waiting lists. Funding often fluctuates. Addressing these growing unmet needs is the challenge before us.



(Source Colorado Health Institute and the American Community Survey.)

Funding Transportation Needs

Covering the overall cost is one of the core issues the LCC is focused on. Much funding comes through the public sector, including local government. Traditional federal and state funding is highly competitive and inadequate. A local cash match is required.

Person-centered services, such as curb-to-curb, door-to-door, and door-through-door are critical services for many. But these services are expensive. Current funding is not enough to sustain or grow the service.

A Word About Fares. Fares do not cover the costs of providing the transportation. There's an important difference between FARES and COSTS. More funds are needed to meet costs.

A FARE is the amount the rider pays for a ride, often no more than a few dollars. The COST is the expense of operating the transportation service (e.g., fuel, maintenance, wages, vehicles, insurance, etc.).

Fares and donations don't cover costs; we need to make up the difference.



PHOTOS FROM DRMAC & SENIORS RESOURCE CNTR

Focusing on Current and Future Transportation Needs

The Local Coordinating Council Serving Jeffco (LCC) functions under the Jefferson County Aging Well Project and focuses on the transportation needs of older adults, people with disabilities, and those with low incomes. These populations are the most vulnerable to lack of transportation. People need options that meet their needs.

Our members, partners, and affiliates include Jefferson County (e.g., Public Health, Human Services, Planning), AARP, A Little Help, American Cancer Society, CDOT, Citizens, DRMAC, DDRC, DriveSmart, Lakewood Rides, RTD, Seniors' Resource Center, the Arc Jefferson, Clear Creek & Gilpin Counties, and private citizens.

Projects and activities we've been working on:

- ◆ Assessing transportation needs and gaps;
- ◆ Promoting working agreement examples with partner agencies (such as SRC and Lakewood Rides) that minimizes service duplication, using available assets to stretch dollars;
- ◆ Identifying barriers and best practices;
- ◆ Informing the community about universal and smart design strategies that support independence and self-reliance; and
- ◆ Educating the community about transportation modes, options, services, and advocating for policies that support coordination.

We believe solutions can be found by coordinating and collaborating with everyone involved, riders, public and private transportation providers, funders, family, and friends.



Participating and Solving Problems

Help us promote affordable, fully coordinated, and accessible community-based transportation systems. Help meet basic transportation needs so people can remain in their homes and live engaged, independent lives:

- ◆ Join the LCC if you're a transportation service agency or your clients use public systems.
- ◆ Work with decision makers for increased funding.
- ◆ Promote safe, affordable options for those who don't drive themselves.
- ◆ Support or join a volunteer driver program.

CONTACT US!

Aging Well in Jefferson County, AgingWell@Jeffco.us and www.Jeffco.us/AgingWell.