

# Getting in Charge of Getting Around

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Heading out the door as an active traveler.

# Goals

- Recognize the many decisions in managing adult responsibilities and travel needs.
- Identify specific skills needed to manage transportation safely and efficiently
- Describe practical suggestions for family involvement in active traveler readiness



**“I’m waiting for the Google car.”**



**It’s our future!**

1957 ad (H. Miller artist)  
for America Independent  
Electric Light and Power  
Co.

# Questions to Ask



- Where do you want to live?  
(size of community)
- What are your interests and activities to participate in outside of school/work?
- What skills do you need to work on for traveling independently?
- How do these decisions affect your travel needs and budget?

# Independence – Yes!

- Feeling positive about my active traveler status
  - Environmentally friendly choice
  - Community connections at ground level
  - More funds, less stress
- Few role models for building this skill set
- Redefining spontaneity, convenience
- A century of auto ownership is what's familiar

# Active Traveler Readiness

- Practice eye lead (looking ahead and predicting route) and eye scan (checking periphery)
- Practice following a 3-step route, reversing a route and mental mapping a route
- Check out a range of intersections and talk about traffic flow
- Make a game of traffic sign identification
- Ride bikes (other wheels) together to practice turns, navigating

# Developing Active Traveler Skills

- Start with active passenger role
- Gauge student interest
- Practice travel together
- Work out an exchange rate (not favors) on rides
- Estimate & keep a record of costs (time, \$\$)
- Make a plan for that 1<sup>st</sup> solo trip
- Support a travel account





# School Hallway vs. Highway

## Driver's Ed Defensive Driving Strategy

- I—Identify—Locate what's ahead and spot potential hazards in your path of travel
- P—Predict—Judge what could be possible obstacles, hazards to avoid
- D—Decide—Decide what action to take, when and where to adjust your planned path
- E—Execute—Act by moving to avoid hazard

Compare to school hallway navigation

# How is life different when you are not at the wheel?

- My responsibility in ride planning and paying
- The expense decision: time or money?
- Flexibility with change in the schedule
- My preferred back-up plan
- Good use of wait time

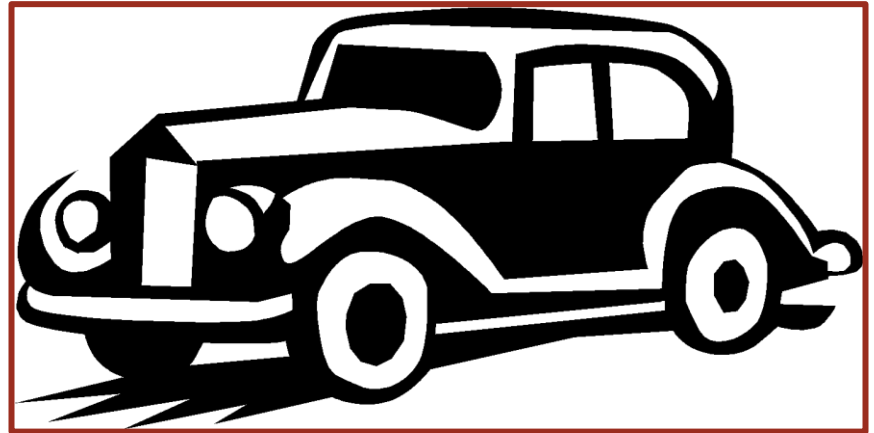


# Cost of Operating a Vehicle

Driver expenses:

- Car payment= \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Gas = \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Insurance = \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Tag(taxes)=\$\_\_\_\_\_
- Tolls/parking=\$\_\_\_\_\_
- Maintenance = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Monthly cost \$\_\_\_\_\_



# Travel Skills for Students



- Using travel tools: GPS, apps, maps, compass, timetables
- Using optical devices
- Obtaining pertinent travel information (phone, internet)
- Building interpersonal skills
- Practicing critical thinking
- Choosing appropriate times for self-advocacy, assertiveness

# Be Prepared!

“There is no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing.”

Alfred Wainwright

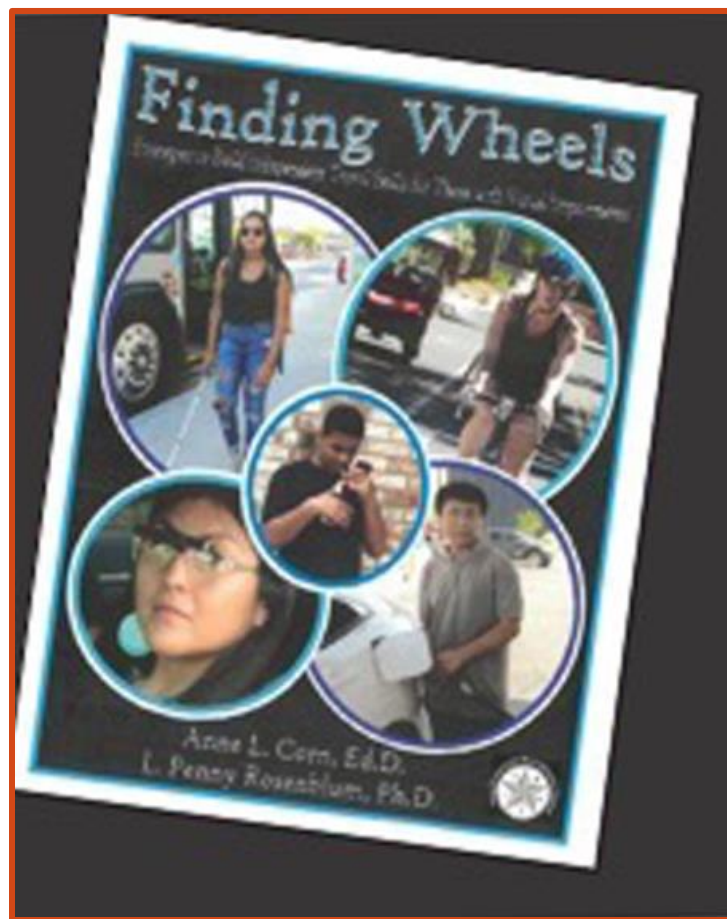


# Questions for Learning My Route

- What major intersections, landmarks can I map along the route to check my location?
- Is there a traffic light within 2 blocks of my destination?
- Is the business on the left or right side of the street?
- What is the color and size of the building, the business sign? (Google street view)
- If I've gone past the address, what landmark will I see that lets me know I've gone too far?

Presley, I. (Dec. 2011). Independent Travel Issues, *Access World*

# A Guide for Active Traveler Lessons



- **Finding Wheels:**  
Strategies to Build Independent Travel Skills for Those with Visual Impairments (2020)
- **Dr. Anne Corn and**
- **Dr. Penny Rosenblum**

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- State activities that can be practiced with a young adult to develop practical independent travel options.
- Identify progression of skills needed for a young adult to become an independent traveler when a non-driver.
- Recognize ways for a young adult non-driver to share in the responsibility as an active passenger and co-navigator.



# Transportation Options for Active Travelers

- Personal (non-vehicle) travel: walking, cycling
- Rides from family, friends
- Hired drivers (contract)
- Taxi
- Paratransit (door to door shared ride)
- Rideshare request apps (e.g., Lyft, Uber)
- Mass transit-bus, train, subway

Most likely option as Plan A & Plan B?

# Walking and Cycling (personal travel)

## Pros

- Freedom to not rely on others
- Set own schedule, spontaneous trips
- Minimal cost
- Health benefits
- Outpace traffic

## Cons

- Time consuming
- Safety issues in certain areas
- Subject to bad weather
- Restriction on residence, employment
- Dealing with “breakdowns”

# Rides from Family & Friends

## Pros

- Feeling of safety
- Ability to negotiate schedules
- Familiarity in spending time during travel
- Benefit of assistance during errands
- Space to store purchases

## Cons

- Sense of being a burden—subtle or direct
- Equality in deciding on a travel plan?
- Limitations of travel as a favor vs. payment
- Travel subject to “getting along”
- Tension if ride late, cancelled, change of plan

# Types of Reciprocation



- “Trade Negotiations”
  - Family
  - Friends
  - Neighbors, co-workers
- “Will work for Rides”
  - Yard work
  - Tutoring
- Pay as You Go
  - Fill the tank
  - Lunch on-the-road

# Hired Driver

## Pros

- Door-to-door efficient service
- Individual attention available for explanation of travel route
- Flexible schedule regarding stops requested, length of stay
- Route changes possible during travel

## Cons

- Challenge of finding and hiring a reliable driver
- Higher cost for service
- Limitations of driver's personal schedule, health
- Plan B if driver is delayed, does not show

# Factors in Writing a Driver Contract

- Payment rate (by the hour or the mile, gas costs)
- Agreement on available hours for driving
- Minimum time to request or cancel a trip
- Stipulations on condition of vehicle
- Responsibility of choosing route, providing directions
- One-way vs. round-trip (pay for wait time?)
- Additional considerations (e.g., limit on hauling bulky, heavy items)



# Hey Taxi!

## Pros

- Available beyond business hours (24/7?)
- Choice of company, driver
- Discount fares or travel vouchers
- No obligation for small talk during ride

## Cons

- Wait time for ride
- Higher cost (base fee + fare)
- Issues of honesty, safety
- Driver unfamiliar with area, address
- High turnover in drivers

# Rideshare

## There's an app for that!

It's a Brave New World  
(travel & technology)

- App shows driver/ vehicle info, arrival time
- Able to contact driver
- Rating system (both driver and passenger)
- Affordable & **FAST**

It's a Brave New World  
(being safe)

- Confirm driver's name before getting in
- Monitor route on phone map app (give directions)
- Let someone you trust know
- In busy pick up locations (e.g., airport) ask driver to blink lights when arriving

# Paratransit

## Pros

- Door to door with a driver
- Minimal cost
- Ability to schedule a subscription for frequent rides
- Storage space for suitcases, groceries, packages, etc.

## Cons

- Wait time for ride
- Shared ride
- Advanced scheduling required
- No route changes or added stops
- Inability to predict route

# Taking the Bus

## Pros

- Sense of community in traveling with familiar passengers
- Fixed schedule helpful in trip planning
- Affordable (option for disability card)
- Paying passenger receiving a service
- Environmentally friendly

## Cons

- Additional travel to and from bus stop
- Passenger fatigue from walking between stops, carrying bags, waiting
- Frustration with schedules, delays
- Weather check (prepare!)
- Interaction with strangers often necessary

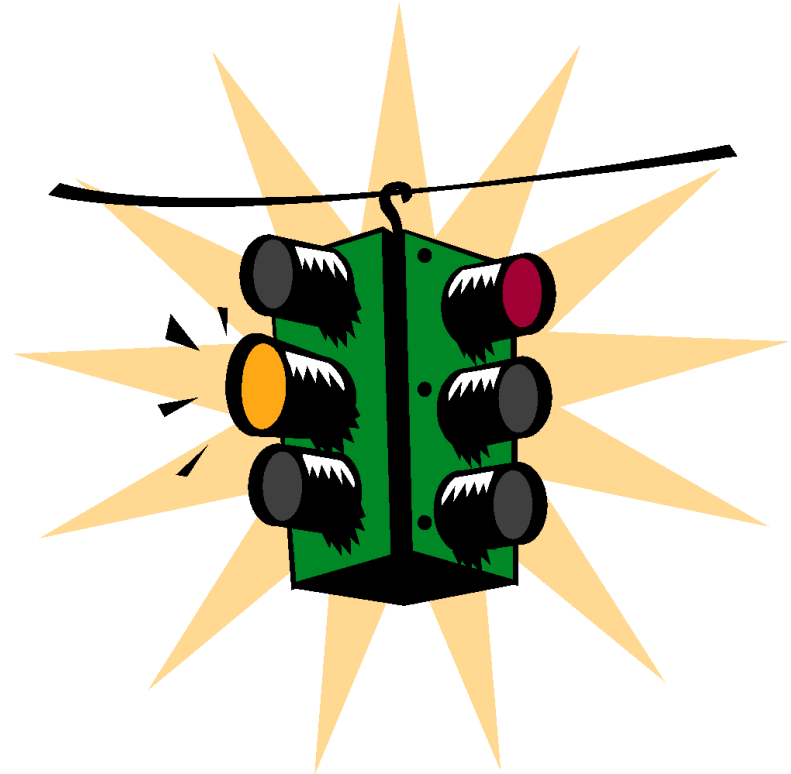
# Commercial Bus Lines Info

- Travels to *lots* of towns and cities
- More affordable for distance vs. airline, Amtrak
- Experience of seeing the U.S. from a big window view
- Services for passengers with disabilities
- Small trips can lead to big trips...



# Getting in Charge of Getting Around

- Goal setting for trip plans, transportation needs
- Awareness of traveler skill set, confidence
- Familiarity with transportation options
- Responsibilities as an active traveler



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