**Community Efforts to Increase Mobility**

Research data from 2015 shows:

\* Top areas of Cache Valley in which people suffer the highest rate of disability are also some of the same areas where high numbers of people are living below the poverty line.

\* These cities also include many households with no personal vehicles.

Highlighted cities include: Trenton, Paradise, Mendon, Newton, Benson and Wellsville. **NO PUBLIC TRANSPOTATION EXITS IN THESE AREAS.**

Non-driving seniors and disabled need to get to appointments and run errands.

Possible transportation alternatives not being well utilized include:

1. Car-pooling 2. Working from home 3. Biking 4. Walking

**How can our community pull together to enhance mobility?**

**Employers:**

Work-from-home opportunities increases number of workers and income level. Employers can be encouraged to offer 4 ten hour days and close the 5th day lessening traffic on the road and freeing up parking.

* Employers encouraged to create or offer more work opportunities from home and online, even just one or two days of the week.
* Carpooling can lighten traffic on all roadways, saves money on fuel, puts out less particulates to pollute the air and decreases the number of cars in parking lots.

INCENTIVES for Carpooling:

* Encourage area agencies and businesses to create car-pooling options, offering incentives for employees who utilize the program. ***Limited Parking employers include: USU and near-campus businesses, BATC, GE Medical, IHC hospital and clinics, DI, Conservice, CV Hospital, Marriott hotel, beauty schools, Thermofisher, Logan Acquatic Center, GE Healthcare, Café Sabor and Herm’s Inn and Common Ground.***
* Fast food businesses, grocery stores or entertainment venues could gift discount coupons to businesses with car-pooling programs. Businesses can then offer these coupons as incentives to workers willing to share rides and be involved in carpooling. Example: Wendy’s provides coupons for a free frosty to carpooling businesses, who present these weekly to drivers and riders willing to carpool to work at least 3 days each week, or Logan Rec. Center offers free pass for one month of car-pooling.
* Macey’s and Smiths offer a free corn dog or donut, or fast food restaurants offer a free small fry or cookie.

CARPOOLING PROGRAMS/APS

* [www.groupcarpool.com](http://www.groupcarpool.com)
* <https://travelwise.utah.gov/strategies/carpooling-vanpooling>
* Google docs

**Businesses:**

* Businesses can be encouraged to offer delivery services or free/low-cost shipping on orders mailed or delivered.
* Businesses can advertise discounts or freebies to customers who carpool, ride bikes or show a bus pass.
* Businesses can create a safe destination for shoppers who bike by providing a bike rack or indoor bicycle parking. Providing a bench and drinking fountain or water bottles encourages active travelers to do business.

**Cities/Towns:**

* Small towns provide incentives for businesses to open in the town offering basic groceries and essential items.
* Cities can be encouraged to create more rideable paths accessible to bicycles, strollers, wheelchairs and electric power chairs.
* Encourage all cities to enhance continual sidewalks and paths throughout their boundaries, and coordinate with nearby towns for pathways beyond and between towns.
* Paradise and Hyrum could coordinate to create a paved walking/bike path between the two cities enhancing accessibility to stores and resources in Hyrum and access to public transit.
* Paved walking/biking trail from Mendon to 1000 W. Logan along Valley View Hwy could enhance accessibility to resources in Logan and public transit, as well as enjoying the wetland areas.
* Paved pathways from Collge Ward, Benson, Richmond, Trenton and other rural areas increase access to transit stops and suburban opportunities.
* Make a priority those repairs needed to ensure accessible walkways and sidewalks in town.

Small towns could be encouraged to create programs with incentives for available drivers to carpool and get workers to bus stops or employment centers. Volunteers could be encouraged to provide transportation to appointments and shopping certain days. If one person volunteers daily it can work like a public transit shuttle. City could reimburse drivers for mileage when hauling others.

* Example: Retired couple in Clarkston who are willing to drive into Logan on Mondays and Fridays to take people to bank, grocery store and medical appointments could turn in miles to city and be reimbursed. This could be a low cost alternative since no public transit is available to their rural town.
* Example 2: Town clerk takes time each day to take mail to post office then provides rides for town citizens who need to get to nearby area where bus can be caught. Riders could congregate at town hall at noon for a ride.
* Example 3: Folks who return home from Logan after work may be willing to give rides to those from their town who are in the city but need to get back to their home town. Towns could set up a coordination program to connect riders and drivers. (see TRAVELWISE.UTAH.GOV/STRATEGIES/CARPOOLING-VANPOOLING)
* Paradise and Avon residents could be taken to Mt. Crest High school to catch CVTD bus.
* Wellsville residents could catch bus near Hwy 89 and 2300 So. By Thomas Edison School
* Towns East or West of North Logan, Smithfield or Richmond not served by the bus could catch CVTD anywhere along Hwy up North to Lewiston or Preston (limited).
* Rural areas could reimburse folks to shuttle townspeople to Park N Ride lots at Sardine Canyon base and Valley View Highway/ Mendon Lot early morning and evening.

Town Taxes might not need to be increased if a committee could be organized to raise money for a reimbursement fund taking care of their town’s volunteer drivers and needy riders.

**Individuals:**

* Find “a buddy” or neighbors to carpool with.
* Commit to take the bus, carpool, walk or ride a bike even once per week.
* Condense trips by planning to get multiple things done in one trip.
* Don’t idle car longer than a few seconds.