



MetroWest RTA

Social Isolation, Transportation & COVID-19

National HCBS Conference – 2020

Virginia Dize
**National Aging and Disability
Transportation Center/n4a**





MISSION: To promote the availability of accessible transportation options that serve the needs of **Older Adults, People with Disabilities, Caregivers and Communities.**

MAJOR OBJECTIVES:

- Person-centered technical assistance and information & referral
- Training: webinars, online courses/forums
- Interactive communication and outreach strategy
- Coordination and partnership strategy, including stakeholder engagement
- Investment in community solutions
- Independent program evaluation



Neighbor Ride Columbia, MD

www.nadtc.org
866-983-3222

Social Isolation & Transportation

Video: Social Isolation & Transportation
(Pre-COVID)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ynoyhx4dNj0>

The impact of not having access to transportation

- Older people often outlive their ability to drive: women by 10 years, men by 7 years
- Older adults who stop driving take 15% fewer trips to the doctor, 59% fewer shopping trips and 65% fewer social, family, religious and other life-enhancing trips
- Half of older non-drivers do not leave their homes on any given day
- 5.8 million Americans missed or delayed non-emergency medical care because of lack of transportation in 2017 (AJPH)
- Only 10% of the Medicaid population uses NEMT (nonemergency medical transportation), representing @ 1% of total Medicaid spending
- 78% of family caregivers provide or arrange transportation

COVID-19 Impact on Community Transportation

- Closure of senior centers/office and other closures
- Change from providing rides to delivery
- Telehealth
- Rides to essential appointments only
- Vehicle sanitation & barriers
- Boarding in rear of vehicles
- Rules about masks, gloves, seating
- Volunteer Drivers
- New roles for volunteers: deliveries, telephone contacts
- Increased anxiety and growing needs

Community Transportation Options



Metrolina Association for the Blind

- **Reduced Demand**
- Driving
- More bicycles/bike share/scooters
- Street closures/more walking
- Public Transportation: reduced schedules & reduced income
- Concerns about shared rides
- Technology divide
- <https://www.nadtc.org/covid-19-resource-center/>

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TRANSPORTATION CENTER

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