



Transportation For All

FROM THE CHAIR!

I am truly honored to chair this group and am surrounded by group members who care deeply about our cause and advocate vigorously for the rights of people with disabilities, older adults, and other communities that are marginalized for safe and affordable transportation. I am also excited about our website (www.spiltrans.org) and our various partners who contribute information in order to empower those we serve to independently ascertain the resources needed to get themselves and their fellow community members from "place to place"! Much more than telling you where to find a ride getting "from point A to point B"; our group wants to engage those we serve in the communities in most need of transportation. We want to hear directly from YOU with our contact resources. Also available here are educational and systems advocacy resources to familiarize ourselves with our transportation rights and resources that are available, and engage our local, state, and national political representation to make our voices heard! Visit our web site's social media forum and "Let's Ride!" "Oh, the Places [We'll] Go!"
-Greg York

SPIL Transportation Group Chair

OUR PURPOSE

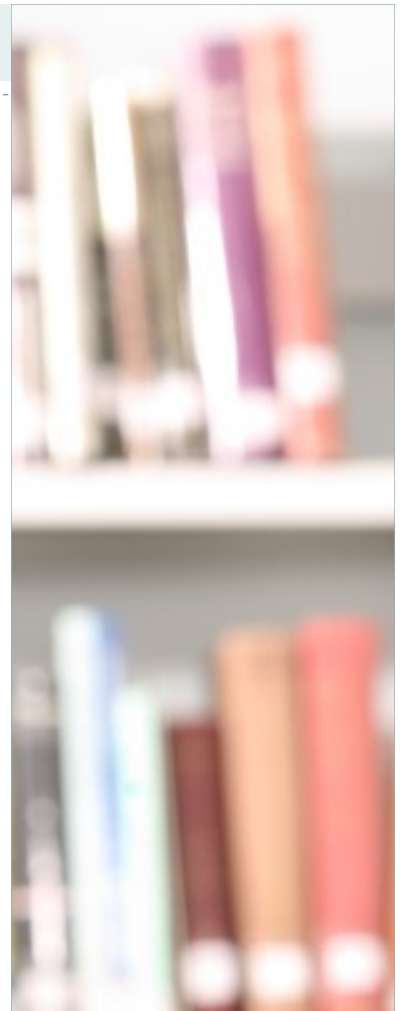
We are dedicated to bringing Kansas transportation resources and the communities we serve together; for people living with disabilities and for older adults to get them from "here to there" in a way that is safe and affordable through Advocacy, Education, and Resource Information.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Conversation Starter	2
About Us	2
January Keynote.....	3
The ADA & Transit	3
The ADA & Public Transport...	4
Articles.....	4
Documents.....	4

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Kelly Buckland
- Conversation Starter
- Group Members and Meeting Times
- Recommended Reading





CONVERSATION STARTER

Dear **[Sirs/Person/Entity/Organization]**,
As a **[person/individual/advocate/member of the SPIL Transportation Group]** I advocate for the transportation needs of our older adults and those living with disabilities. Hearing from those **[I/we]** serve whose lives depend on public transportation not only for planned destinations but for "spur of the moment" transportation needs, it has come to **[my/our]** attention that the availability of off hours and weekend accessible transportation is nearly nonexistent. Like many of our fellow citizens without disabilities the occasional necessity for unplanned nonmedical transportation

needs arising from personal or family issues are an unexpected reality. Unlike many of our fellow citizens without disabilities many of us cannot just hop in the car and go where and when we need to. I am urging you to assist **[local transit service/authorities]** with matching funds to provide these types of transportation services for needs that arise out of a moment's notice. Your compassionate contribution/s to the cause of needed accessible transportation will have a huge positive impact on the lives of so many Kansans. Sincerely,

[Your name]

"...the occasional necessity for unplanned nonmedical transportation needs arising from personal or family issues are an unexpected reality."

GROUP MEMBER & MEETING TIMES

Group Members

[Group Chair: Greg York](#)

Co-Chair: Christina Blair

Group Members: Jo Yarnell, Julia Dejean, Sheila Styron, Craig Perbeck, Judy Blunk, Diana Clanton, Michelle Griffin, LaNeece Jardon, Erica Christie, Lisa Harris, Kime Dietrich, Brian Lefson, Tom Anderson, Laura Denny, Dawn Hadley, Tammy Fuhr, Mignon Luckey, Kendra Burgess, Keyna Steinbrock, Kayleigh Macko, Chelsey Copeland.

If you would like to appear on this list of distinguished members then click [here](#).

When We Meet

We meet on the second Tuesday of each quarterly month. Our next meeting will be on January 11th, 2022 at 10 am. If you would like to participate or join the group then fill out our contact form [here](#). We use the [Zoom video format](#). Notes from our last meeting are available [here](#).

ABOUT US

Our goal is to provide you with the best information possible regarding the transportation services being offered in the state of Kansas, attempt to network those services for the customers we serve, and pass along any successes, improvements, pitfalls, or road-blocks to the Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas (SILCK) for purposes of systems advocacy. Our work for people living with disabilities in Centers of Independent Living (CILs) across the state gives us the opportunity to be a part of the Statewide Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) Transportation Group. This group exists for purposes of educating ourselves and our customers as to resources being offered to the communities we serve as well as advocate for and stay apprised of any changes or improvements in said services. Our intention is to contribute to the goal of transportation to those in most need of it.



Kelly J. Buckland advocating for Medicaid.

JANUARY KEYNOTE

Our January Transportation Group meeting Keynote Speaker is Kelly Buckland, who will be introduced by Special Guest: NCIL Vice President and SKIL Advocacy Manager Lou Ann Kibee. Kelly is a person with a disability who has been actively involved in disability issues since 1979. Kelly started his career as an employee for Idaho's Protection and Advocacy system. He served for over twenty years as the Executive Director of the Boise CIL, Living Independence Network Corp. and the Idaho State Independent Living Council. He has served on the Idaho Developmental Disabilities Council, the State Employment and Training Council, and the State Help America Vote Act Steering Committee. He has worked on issues affecting people with disabilities, including passage of the Personal Assistance Services Act and the Fathers and Mothers Independently Living with their Youth (FAMILY) Child Custody Laws

In 1978, Kelly graduated from Boise State University with a B.A. in Social Work and in 1988 Summa Cum Laude from Drake University with a Masters in Rehabilitation Counseling. In recent years, Kelly has been honored with numerous state and national awards, including the University of Idaho President's Medallion, the United Vision for Idaho Lifetime Achievement Award, the Hewlett-Packard Distinguished Achievement in Human Rights Award, and induction into the National Spinal Cord Injury Hall of Fame.

Kelly has testified before Congress several times on issues such as universal health care, Fair Housing and appropriations for centers for independent living. He has been closely involved with the direct-service and systemic change aspects of the Independent Living movement

Additionally, Kelly has a long history with the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL). He has served on numerous NCIL Legislative and Advocacy Subcommittees and other standing NCIL committees, the NCIL Governing Board since 1998, as NCIL Vice-President from 2001-2005, and as NCIL President from 2005 to 2009. After leaving as President, he was hired as the Executive Director of NCIL where he served until 2020. As a true advocate he decided to not retire as originally planned because he still had work to do. In September, he was appointed by President Biden to serve as "Disability Advisor, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy " at the United States Department of Transportation. He works on Disability Policy for all modes of transportation to make it easier for all people with disabilities.

THE ADA & TRANSIT

Section of the ADA:
Title II, Subtitle B
Applies to: public
transit systems.

General requirement:
Public transit systems
must provide people
with disabilities an
equal opportunity to
benefit from their ser-
vices. Note: Private
transit systems are
also covered by the
ADA. For more infor-
mation, see the sec-
tion **Businesses that
are open to the
public.**

How to file a com-
plaint: **File a com-
plaint with the U.S.
Department of Jus-
tice or with the Fed-
eral Transit Admin-
istration.**

**Conversation starter/
letter** for evening,
weekend or after
hours transportation.

RECOMMENDED READING:

Articles:

[Critical Issues in Human Services Transportation Wichita Transit Story History of Transportation](#)

Documents:

[IEP Guidance](#)
[Legal Aid at Work](#)
[ADA.org Fact Sheet](#)
[History of ADA Transit](#)
[ADA National Network](#)
[NCATT Promising Practices Guide](#)

THE ADA AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

1. What is the Americans with Disabilities Act? The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal civil rights law that was passed in 1990 and protects people with disabilities from discrimination. The goal of the ADA is to make sure you are treated the same as people without disabilities. The ADA contains five sections that relate to different aspects of public life such as employment, access to private businesses, telecommunications and public programs, including public transportation.
2. What is Title II of the ADA? Title II of the ADA is the section that relates to public programs, services and activities that are provided by a public entity. Under Title II of the ADA, people with disabilities are protected from discrimination in public transportation. The United States Department of Transportation issues regulations that define your rights under Title II of the ADA.
3. What is Considered Public Transportation Under the ADA? Title II of the ADA applies to public transportation services such as city buses, commuter rail, subway stations, Amtrak and paratransit services. Title III of the ADA applies to private transportation services such as hotel shuttles, private buses and vans and taxis
4. What Rights Do I have as a Person with a Disability in Using Public Transportation? The ADA guarantees people with disabilities equal access to public transportation. This means that public transportation providers cannot refuse to provide you with transportation because you have a disability. You cannot be required to transfer to a seat. You also cannot be required to use "priority" seating on a bus or transit vehicle. However, if a non-disabled person is sitting in a "priority" seat, transportation providers 2/5 are required to ask the non-disabled person to move. As a person with a disability, you cannot be required to be accompanied by an attendant. You cannot be forced to use paratransit if you are able to use the general transportation service.
5. What is Paratransit? Paratransit is a pre-scheduled pick up and drop off service for people with disabilities who are unable to use regular buses or trains. Most paratransit systems operate a "shared ride" service which means that other riders with disabilities will likely be riding with you. Paratransit must be comparable to the level of service provided to nondisabled persons who can use the transit system. Paratransit service cannot place restrictions or priorities based on the purpose of your trip. For example, it cannot determine that a medical appointment is more important than a social visit. And paratransit cannot limit the number of trips you take.
6. What if I want to Use Paratransit over the City Bus System? The ADA requires that services be provided to people with disabilities who meet ADA paratransit criteria. Not everyone with a disability is eligible for paratransit services. You must apply to use paratransit services and most paratransit companies have their own application process. The paratransit provider will look at how you board, ride and disembark the city bus and determine whether your disability prevents you from doing so all or some of the time. Once your application is complete, the paratransit provider has 21 days to make a decision in writing and state the reasons for the decision. If the paratransit provider does not make a decision within 21 days, you are considered eligible until the provider makes a decision. If your application is denied, you have the right to appeal.

To be Continued...