

Public Transportation, Its Barriers and What We Can Do About It

By Kiana Parker

Agenda

Current transit options

What are the barriers

What does transportation cost

What you can advocate for

Public Transportation Options

Fixed route transit does not meet the needs of many older adults and people with disabilities.



What the transportation barriers look like

Broken sidewalks at bus stops



Missing sidewalk



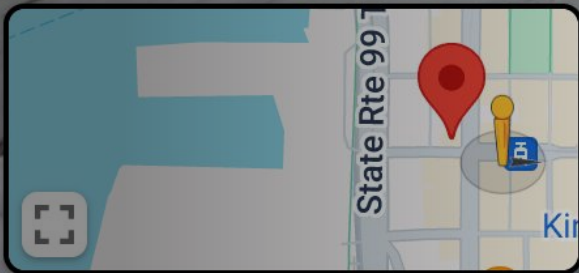
Missing curb ramps at transit hubs



S Jackson St

Google

Image capture: Dec 2021



Manhole covers in crosswalks



Poorly maintained crossing surfaces



Escalator Safety Rules
1. Stand on the middle
2. Keep shoes steady, firm soles
3. No baby stroller
4. No wheelchairs
5. No bicycles
6. No skateboards
7. No roller skis
8. No rollerblades
9. No unattended children
10. No bags or suitcases on the steps
Use ESCALATORS for:


Escalator
out of service

Phone is needed
for call see us at
9-358-1218



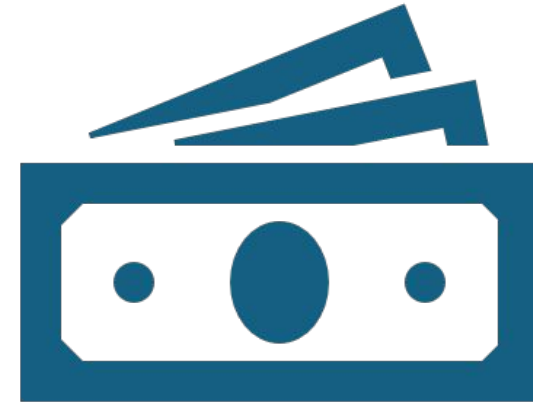
Escalators that do not work

Access Paratransit

- Prove eligibility
- Reservations are required in advance
- Pickup windows can be long and unreliable
- Roundtrip service to a single destination take up to half a day



How much safer
& faster
transportation
costs



The cost of a ride can vary greatly.

My house to Sea-Tac Airport is 19 miles



Light Rail	Yellow Cab	Uber
\$1	\$53	\$96

Finding a ride?

Finding ride options is becoming easier

The screenshot displays the FIND A RIDE .ORG website. The top navigation bar includes the logo and links for Find A Ride, Trip Planner, Provider List, Travel Tools, and About Us. The main heading is "Finding Your Best Transportation Options" with social media share icons for Facebook, X, and LinkedIn. The search interface is overlaid on a map of the Pacific Northwest. It features a "Trip Origin" section with a grid of location options: "My Location" (selected), Snohomish County, North King County, Seattle Area, East King County, Snoqualmie Valley, South King County, and Pierce County. Below this is an "Accessibility Needs" dropdown menu currently set to "-Any-". At the bottom, there is a "Medical Trip?" toggle with "No" and "Yes" options, where "Yes" is selected.

Metro Flex

- On Demand
- Affordable
- Point to Point
- Area Specific



Photo Courtesy of King County Metro

What you can help advocate for

Tell SDOT it needs to bring back the Ride Now Pilot

<https://www.seattle.gov/transportation/projects-and-programs/programs/ride-now>

- How can we fund it?

Advocate for regular equitable maintenance of critical pedestrian infrastructure: Seattle can't be age friendly without it

- Regrade the thermoplastic crosswalks rather than repeatedly painting over existing lines
- More regular maintenance/replacement of elevators and escalators



Keep in Touch

Kiana Parker

kiana.parker@seattle.gov

Discussion