**No Car Keys-No Problem**

* Cindy Bachofer, PhD, CLVT; Cheryl Austin, M.Ed, CTVI
* TSBVI Coffee Hour; April 19, 2021

Outline of Presentation

* Development of pedestrian strategies and positive attitude as a young traveler
* Identification of specific skills and responsibilities needed to manage transportation safely and efficiently
* Summary of options of transportation, including advantages and disadvantages

Figure 1 Four traffic signs (buses only, one way, do not enter, stop) set on 1 corner

Heading out the door as an active traveler

 Figure 2 Woman heading out the door

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

Early Steps in Travel Skills

* Understand and follow multi-step route instructions
* Travel a planned route
	+ Reverse the route
	+ Alternate route
* Identify and respond to critical objects, “collision hazards”
* Manage intersections (multiple types) safely

Excerpt from Step-by-Step Guide to Pre-Driver Readiness Skills (Chuck Huss)

School Hallway vs. Highway?

* Defensive travel acronym

**I**dentify … (Identify what?)

**P**redict… (Predict what?)

**D**ecide… (Decide what?)

**A**ct…

Questions for learning my route

* 1. How many traffic lights between my starting point and my first turn? Does the turning corner have a traffic light?
* What are some landmarks for my turn?
* Is your business on the left or right side of the street if I’m heading east?
* What is the color and size of your building, your business sign?
* If I’ve gone too far what landmark will I see that lets me know I need to reverse my route?

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

Developing Active Traveler Skills

* Take the active passenger challenge
* Set up time for practicing travel safely
* Work out an exchange rate (not favors) for rides
* Estimate & keep a record of costs (time, money)
* Make a plan, work up to that 1st solo trip
* Discuss parent support for select travel expenses

Cost of Operating a Vehicle

* Driver expenses (monthly):
	+ Car payment = $\_\_\_
	+ Gas = $\_\_\_
	+ Maintenance = $\_\_\_
	+ Insurance = $\_\_\_
	+ Tag(taxes)=$\_\_\_
	+ Toll charges = $\_\_\_
	+ Parking fees = $\_\_\_
	+ Total =$\_\_\_\_/month

Where to start?

* What trip do I want to take?
	+ 17 yr. old and 4 friends, film festival in San Antonio
	+ 13 yr. old, drums workshop on UT campus
* What information do I need to find out?
	+ Phone conversation
	+ Internet search
* What items do I need before traveling?
	+ Items related to transportation
	+ Items related to the activity (reservations, tickets)

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

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

Figure 3 Young woman using a telescope to look for information out the bus window

Travel Skills for Students

* Using travel tools: GPS, apps, maps, compass, timetables
* Using optical devices
* Getting travel directions, info (phone, internet)
* Building communication skills
* Practicing problem solving
* Choosing appropriate times for self-advocacy, assertiveness
* Keeping a sense of humor

Figure 4 A boy using a pocket magnifier to read posted information on bus route and schedule

“I’m waiting for the Google car.”

 It’s their future!

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

Transportation Options for Active Travelers

* Walking and bicycling (personal travel)
* Rides from family, friends
* Hired drivers (contract)
* Taxi
* Rideshare apps (e.g., Lyft, Uber)
* Mass transit-bus, train, subway

Most likely option to practice as Plan A & Plan B?

Walking and Bicycling-Ups & Downs (personal travel)

* + Freedom to not rely on others
	+ Set own schedule, spontaneous trips
	+ Minimal cost
	+ Health benefits
	+ Outpace traffic
	+ Time consuming
	+ Safety issues in some areas
	+ Subject to weather
	+ Restriction on residence, employment
	+ Access to assistance if travel mode “breaks down”

“No such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing.” Alfred Wainwright

Rides from Family & Friends-+ / -

* Feeling of safety
* Ability to negotiate schedules
* Familiarity in spending time during travel
* Benefit of assistance during errands
* Space to store purchases
* Sense of being a burden—subtle or direct
* Limitations of travel as a favor vs. payment
* Travel subject to “getting along”
* Compromise in deciding on a travel plan
* Tension if ride late, cancelled, or change of plan

Types of Reciprocation

* “Trade Negotiations”
	+ Family
	+ Friends
	+ Neighbors
* “Will work for Rides”
	+ Yard work
	+ Tutoring
* Service swap
	+ Car wash, gas
	+ Lunch on-the-road

Figure 5 Young woman beside her car pumping gas and cleaning the car window

Hired Driver – Good & Bad

* Door-to-door service
* Individual attention available for explanation of travel route
* Efficient travel, same route as other drivers
* Flexible schedule regarding stops requested and length of stay
* Route changes during travel possible
* Challenge of finding and hiring a driver
* Higher cost for service
* Plan B if driver is delayed, does not show
* Dependent on driver for honesty, safety
* Limitations of driver’s personal schedule—i.e. emergencies, good health

Factors in Writing a Driver Contract

* Payment rate (by the hour or the mile)
* Minimum time to request or cancel a trip
* Additional considerations (e.g., limit on hauling bulky, heavy items)
* Restrictions on condition of vehicle
* Responsibility of choosing route, providing directions
* Agreement on available hours for driving

Hey Taxi! – Pros & Cons

* Available beyond business hours (24/7?)
* Discount fares or travel vouchers
* Choice of company, driver
* No obligation for small talk during ride
* City “tour guide”
* Delays in arrival for service
* Higher cost (base fee + fare)
* Issues of honesty, safety
* Driver unfamiliar with area, address
* High turnover in drivers

Taking the Bus

* Sense of community in traveling with familiar passengers
* Fixed schedule helpful in trip planning
* Lower fare for special services card
* Paying passenger receiving a service
* Environmentally friendly
* Additional travel to and from bus stop
* Travel in uncomfortable settings (rush hour, nighttime)
* Passenger fatigue from walking between stops, carrying bags, waiting
* Frustration with schedules, delays
* Interaction with strangers often necessary

Commercial Bus Lines Info

* Travels to *lots* of cities
* More affordable than airline or hired driver
* Services for passengers with disabilities
* Experience of seeing the U.S. *in detail*
* Small trips can lead to big trips…

Figure 6 Logos of Greyhound Bus Lines and Megabus

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

Figure 7 Finding Wheels book cover

Getting in Charge of Getting Around

* Goal setting for trips, transportation needs
* Awareness of your traveler skill set, confidence
* Familiarity with transportation options
* Responsibilities as an active traveler

Contact: bachoferc@tsbvi.edu and austinc@tsbvi.edu