



Age-Friendly Transportation Tip Sheet

Age-friendly transportation supports mobility and a variety of affordable, accessible options. Everyone deserves to choose how to get from place to place.

Why It Matters

- More than 10% of older Americans use public transportation for daily activities. Locally, our bus and rail system provides over 3.7 million trips a year to older riders, and our paratransit system provides over a million trips a year.
- Nationwide, 37% of people with disabilities and 36% of people with low incomes—or over 123 million people—rely on rides from relatives and friends to get to the grocery store, medical appointments and other essential services.
- About 1 in 5 transit stations in the U.S. are not fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Nearly 25% of households in Pittsburgh do not own a car.
- Of our 130 municipalities in Allegheny County, almost 1 in 4 have low access to both cars and bus stops.
- Of the 6,800+ transit stops in Allegheny County, only 751—just 11% total—have shelters.
- More than 60% of 311 calls in the county are related to sidewalk obstructions.
- Approximately 604 Pittsburghers were injured by drivers between 2018-2022. That's one person every three days.
- The most common situation that our local older neighbors report fear of falling is walking on sidewalks (61%).

Transportation
impacts our
health—across our
lifetime.

We don't all drive.

Yet it's often
impossible to get
around without
cars.



Where did we source this information?

This tip sheet draws on data and information from the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, BikePGH, Pittsburghers for Public Transit, the American Public Health Association and University of Pittsburgh's University Center for Social and Urban Research.

Who is Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh?

Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh is dedicated to making our region more inclusive and respectful of all ages. We bring generations together to reimagine how our communities are built, and to advance equity through advocacy, education and innovation.

What Age-Friendly Progress Looks Like

For pedestrians

- Well-paved sidewalks at least 36 inches wide and clear of obstructions like parked cars, construction closures and foldable signage
- Curb ramps flush with the street
- Ample time at crosswalks—even longer than the ADA recommendation based on a speed of 3.5 feet per second
- Traffic calming measures like speed bumps, narrower lanes and reduced speeds

For transit users

- Easy-to-understand schedules and route maps
- Numerous, frequent routes for travel to destinations beyond the city
- Operators trained on age-inclusive practices, like lowering the bus without riders having to ask
- Sheltered transit stops with accessible entrances, clear signage, modern lighting and audio systems, plus nearby parking
- Adequate, accessible space for curb access, especially for unloading groceries or passenger pick-up/drop-off

For drivers

- Well-lit streets and signs with large, contrasted fonts
- Street lanes that are painted clearly and use bright colors
- At least one accessible parking spot for every 25 spaces
- Accessible parking options available close to home

Get Involved

Want to be
an age-friendly
champion?
Get in touch!

Visit agefriendlypgh.org to:

- Sign up for our newsletter
- Download Photo Bank images
- Update your stats and facts at our Learning Hub
- Schedule a focus group or speaker

Not sure where to start?

Email info@agefriendlypgh.org or call 412-532-7144 and we'll take it from there.

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