

2019 annual report



Dear Partners,

As I look forward into 2020, the Americans with Disabilities Act will be 30-years old. The ADA is one of America's most comprehensive pieces of civil rights legislation that prohibits discrimination and guarantees that people with disabilities have the same opportunities as everyone else to participate in the mainstream of American life — to enjoy employment opportunities, to purchase goods and services, and to participate in programs and services. This may not mean much to some, but for me who has taken care of both parents who lived well into their 80's, has a brother with a disability who uses a wheelchair, and working in our long term care community for the past 22 years, it is rewarding to see how the landscape of transportation is changing to meet the needs of ALL people.

Mobility comes in different forms, and each type of "mobility ability" deserves equal access to transportation. I am proud to see our Council be the champions leading the charge on creating more access to medical appointments and essential services. It also inspires me that our members recognize life also includes access to social and recreational activities, be it hiking through our beautiful trails or sitting in a movie theatre. Quality of life includes accessible transportation.

The year ahead will bring changes and new opportunities for partnerships and programs. You, as mobility partners, are up for the challenge! On behalf of the NCW Mobility Council Leadership, thank you. Cheers for the next chapter!

Respectfully,

Maggie

Maggie Kaminoff, Co-Chair, NCW Mobility Council
Mobility Coordinator, Link Transit

OUR VISION

The NCW Mobility Council is a long-term effort aimed at creating partnerships and identifying resources to expand and increase accessibility to existing services; and to advise the community on services needed to fill in the gaps.

OUR MISSION

Improving the wellness of our communities and vulnerable populations in Chelan, Douglas, Grant and Okanogan counties by increasing access to mobility services.

YEAR-IN REVIEW

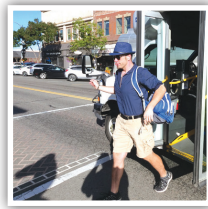
In 2019, the Mobility Council brought stakeholders together to discuss important topics related to transportation in North Central Washington. Bi-monthly meetings are an important part of building an informed network of community advocates working to advance mobility options for residents of NCW.

During the year, our meeting topics included:

- Progress reports and presentations on subcommittee work,
- Work plan development and priority setting, and
- Information dissemination, such as partner events, new programs, webinars, training opportunities, and funding opportunities.

MEMBER PARTICIPATION

- Confluence Health Foundation
- Link Transit
- Chelan-Douglas Transportation Council
- Entiat Community Services
- People for People
- North Central Accountable Community of Health
- Action Health Partners
- City of Wenatchee
- Aging & Adult Care
- City of Wenatchee Housing Authority
- Chelan-Douglas Community Action Council
- Wellness Place
- Washington State Department of Transportation
- Ambitions of Washington
- Catholic Charities
- United Way of North Central Washington
- Chelan-Douglas Developmental Disabilities Program



Link Transit Tax Initiative

In 2019, a two-percent retail sales tax initiative passed to help increase and expand Link Transit transportation. The Link expansion plan included a closely mirrored image of community transit improvements that was advocated for during the 2017 Mobility Summit. Expanded routes and schedules extend to *Link Plus*, a Link Transit system that is utilized by many senior adults and disabled people that need transportation to medical appointments, employment, grocery shopping and recreational/social activities. For more information about the Link Transit Vision 2020 Expansion Plan, visit: www.linktransit.com/more about link transit/vision 2020.

OUTCOMES

Education and Outreach Committee

The Mobility Council's Education and Outreach Committee created goals to educate communities and raise awareness regarding transportation gaps, improve knowledge and understanding of transportation resources, and create partnership opportunities. Committee discussion focused on how to define and measure gaps in transportation and identifying priority locations.

Bylaws Committee

A draft of bylaws is pending review and finalization.

Community-Based Accessibility Solutions Committee

In 2019, the Mobility Council's Community-Based Accessibility Solutions Subcommittee (CBAS) embarked on a process that explored low-barrier and community-based transportation solutions.

The purpose of the work was to highlight existing resources available in the community and to provide a curated list of models that could be utilized to fill persistent transportation service gaps throughout the region. The committee completed a report that is intended to inform community leaders, transportation planners, and advocates in North Central Washington. Key findings include:

- Highlighting 14 community-based programs in the region, including volunteer driving programs, brokered services, non-profit assistance programs, and vanpools/shuttles.
- Identified two new transportation-related programs aimed at mobility and public transit access.
- Identified three program models that would help meet transportation needs in the community.
- The full CBAS report can be accessed at: www.ncwmobilitycouncil.org/cbas

MOBILITY MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Oxford House Travel Reimbursement Pilot Project

This new project funded by the North Central Accountable Communities of Health (NCACH) provides Wenatchee Oxford House residents with mileage reimbursement for transporting peers to house-identified, community-building activities that build relationships and focus on improving whole-person health. The project also provides an effective, cost-efficient scheduling system for rides to a certain grocery store on dedicated days (i.e., Safeway Saturdays).

ADA Conference

Several Mobility Council members attended the 2019 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Conference. The 23rd annual conference was held at Campbell's Resort at Lake Chelan and was focused around Human Service Transportation Programs throughout Washington state. Attendees learned about public transit services and ADA requirements from accessible public transit, paratransit operations and ADA compliance expert, Dave Rishel from Delta Services Group, Inc. The highlight of the conference was a presentation from Confluence Health physician, Ed Farrar, MD. Dr. Farrar demonstrated the Ekso, a battery-powered bionic suit that helps patients walk.

Falls Prevention Expo

During the 2019 Falls Prevention Awareness event at the Wenatchee Valley Senior Activity Center, members joined with other community service providers in offering fall prevention information and reinforcing the importance of mobility enhancement to over 90 senior adults. Guest speakers included: Falls Prevention Specialist, Carolyn Ham and Naturopathic Doctor, Glenn Hoey. Participating Falls Coalition members included: Aging & Adult Care, Volunteer Services, Wellness Place, RSVP, Together for Youth, Link Transit, Action Health Partners, and Confluence Health.

KID'S HOLIDAY CONTEST

During the 2019 holiday season, the reindeer took a break and Santa's sleigh got a million-mile overhaul. During the repair time, Santa needed a different type of transportation to get those presents delivered! The Mobility Council put out the call to children (ages 5-12) around the region to pediatric clinics, schools and businesses.

The contest rules were simple: be creative and make it magical; Santa loves all types of transportation and so do we! The Mobility Council saw incredible artwork ranging from a nitro-filled rocket on skis decked with a rainbow nose cone and unicorn horn to Santa on a skateboard bursting with glitter! We received over 70 entries from talented kids around the region.

Contest entries were judged by five Mobility Council members and were judged according to grade level. Winners were notified through their teachers and prizes distributed accordingly.

A special *thank you* to local businesses that donated prizes: Town Toyota Center (ice skating tickets), Hooked On Toys (sleds), Gateway Cinema (movie tickets), Pybus Market (vendor coins), and Eagle Creek Ranch (sleigh rides with a parent discount).