



BETH

Age: 49 years | Rider

Area of Residence: Vancouver, Washington

Beth has been able to access transportation services easily, due to the excellent bus system in Vancouver, Washington.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, passengers sat in the back of the bus to avoid contact with the driver. With Beth's visual condition, this was an added barrier as she normally sits close to the driver for help with indicating her stop and other important information.

Beth wishes Medicare would provide a form of transportation for visually impaired folks.

Beth is visually impaired and relies heavily on public transportation for access to healthcare and other basic needs. However, she does not qualify for Paratransit as she is able-bodied. She faces challenges in planning transportation routes, especially when her eye doctor is across state lines in Portland, Oregon.

The seasonal changes in weather also impact her ability to use public transportation. In these moments, Beth relies on the generosity of others - requesting rides on Facebook or asking her coworkers for a lift.

QUOTE

"I could tell the bus driver I want to get off at 164th St., [but] by the time he turns onto 164th St. he's forgotten where I wanted to get off at...They drive right by."