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# Transportation For All

## FROM THE CHAIR!

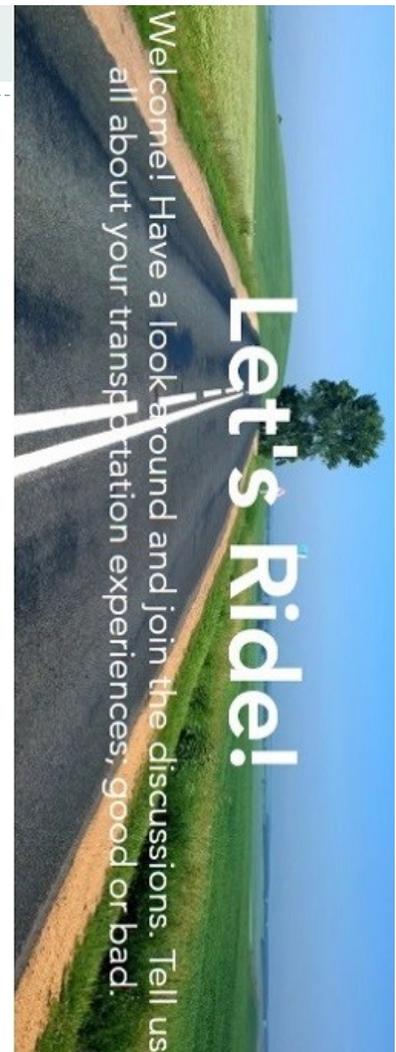
I was unable to attend the first of this years quarterly group meetings due to personal reasons, however, the group's Co-chair, Christina Blair, stepped in and stepped up to host the meeting! The meeting featured Kelly Buckland who holds a high level advisory office in the Biden/Harris Administration and provided very important accessible transportation information. Group members asked pertinent questions and we heard from special guests Lou Ann Kibbee, SKIL Advocacy Manager and the NCIL Vice President, and Peter Johnke, Chair of the NCIL Transportation Subcommittee. Peter will be our keynote speaker for the April meeting. The meeting was recorded and is available at [spiltrans.org/group-meetings](http://spiltrans.org/group-meetings). This, also, brings me to the second part of this article which will be my last as the group's Chair. Christina Blair who has displayed time and again the ability to very effectively Chair this group in my absence will be stepping into the role permanently. Diana Clanton from SKIL will be the group's new Co-Chair; I am excited about the group's new leadership and with the direction the group is headed. I will continue to be a group member and administrate the group's website, however, because my responsibilities with SKIL has increased I am stepping down and leaving the group's leadership in hands that are more than capable to advance our cause into the future. "Oh the Places We'll Go!"

-Greg York

Former SPIL Transportation Group Chair

## OUR PURPOSE

We are dedicated to bringing Kansas transportation resources and the communities we serve together; for people living with disabilities and for older adults to get them from "here to there" in a way that is safe and affordable through Advocacy, Education, and Resource Information.



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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Peter Johnke
- Conversation Starter
- Group Members and Meeting Times
- Recommended Reading

IN A GOOD CONVERSATION,  
ONE PERSON TALKS WHILE  
THE OTHER LISTENS.

-Charlie Brown



## CONVERSATION STARTER

Dear **[Sirs/Person/Entity/Organization]**,  
As a **[person/individual/advocate/  
member of the SPIL Transportation  
Group]** I advocate for the transporta-  
tion needs of our older adults and  
those living with disabilities. Hearing  
from those **[I/we]** serve whose lives  
depend on public transportation not  
only for planned destinations but for  
"spur of the moment" transportation  
needs, it has come to **[my/our]** atten-  
tion that the availability of off hours  
and weekend accessible transporta-  
tion is nearly nonexistent. Like many of  
our fellow citizens without disabilities  
the occasional necessity for un-  
planned non-medical transportation

needs arising from personal or family  
issues are an unexpected reality. Un-  
like many of our fellow citizens without  
disabilities many of us cannot just hop  
in the car and go where and when we  
need to. I am urging you to assist  
**[local transit service/authorities]** with  
matching funds to provide these types  
of transportation services for needs  
that arise out of a moment's notice.  
Your compassionate contribution/s to  
the cause of needed accessible trans-  
portation will have a huge positive  
impact on the lives of so many Kan-  
sans. Sincerely,

**[Your name]**

***"...the occasional necessity for unplanned non-medical transportation needs arising from personal or family issues are an unexpected reality."***

### GROUP MEMBER & MEETING TIMES

#### Group Members

Group Chair: Christina Blair

Co-Chair: Kendra Burgess

Group Members: Jo Yarnell,

Julia Dejean, Sheila Styron,

Craig Perbeck, Judy Blunk,

Diana Clanton, Michelle Griffin,

LaNeece Jardon, Erica Christie,

Lisa Harris, Kime Dietrich, Brian

Lefson, Tom Anderson, Laura

Denny, Dawn Hadley, Tammy

Fuhr, Mignon Luckey, Greg

York, Keyna Steinbrock,

Kayleigh Macko, Chelsey

Copeland.

If you would like to appear on  
this list of distinguished mem-  
bers then click [here](#).

#### When We Meet

We meet on the second Tues-  
day of each quarterly

month. Our next meeting will

be on July 12, 2022 at 10 am. If

you would like to participate or

join the group then fill out

our contact form [here](#). We use

the

[Zoom video format](#). Notes from

our last meeting are availa-  
ble [here](#).

## ABOUT US

**We are dedicated to bringing Kansas trans-  
portation resources and the communities we  
serve together; for people living with disabili-  
ties and for older adults to get them from "here  
to there" in a way that is safe and affordable  
through Systems Advocacy, Education, and  
Resource Information. All of this information  
can be found on our group's website  
[www.spiltrans.org](http://www.spiltrans.org). Stories of your transporta-  
tion experiences can be submitted on line at  
[spiltrans.org/stories](http://spiltrans.org/stories) and will be posted on our  
website at [spiltrans.org/testimonials](http://spiltrans.org/testimonials). We can  
be contacted at [spiltrans.org/contact-us](http://spiltrans.org/contact-us).**



*Peter Johnke Deputy Director of the Vermont Center for Independent living (VCIL).*

## APRIL KEYNOTE

**Our April Transportation Group meeting Keynote Speaker is Peter Johnke. Having been born with a visual disability and then later in life dealing with hearing loss Peter is no stranger to the world of someone with a disability. He joined the disability movement in 1990 after moving to Vermont and began working for Vermont Center for Independent Living. Peter started in the field of Information and Referral before working his way up to the position of Deputy Director about 5 years ago. Peter is the Chair of the NCIL Transportation Subcommittee as well as the Representative for the disability community with the Vermont Public Transit Advisory Council. He also participates in many state and local transportation projects. On the national level he participates in a variety of transportation advocacy groups including: Air Carrier Amendments Act working group (ACAA), We Will Ride, Amtrak and Disability Advocates.**

**-Christina Blair**

**SPIL Transportation Chairperson**

## THE ADA & TRANSIT

Section of the ADA:  
Title II, Subtitle B  
Applies to: public transit systems.  
General requirement: Public transit systems must provide people with disabilities an equal opportunity to benefit from their services. Note: Private transit systems are also covered by the ADA. For more information, see the section [Businesses that are open to the public](#).

How to file a complaint: [File a complaint with the U.S. Department of Justice](#) or [with the Federal Transit Administration](#).

[Conversation starter/letter](#) for evening, weekend or after hours transportation.

**RECOMMENDED  
READING:**

**Articles:**

[Critical Issues in Human Services Transportation Wichita Transit Story History of Transportation](#)

**Documents:**

[IEP Guidance](#)  
[Legal Aid at Work](#)  
[ADA.org Fact Sheet](#)  
[History of ADA Transit](#)  
[ADA National Network](#)  
[NCATT Promising Practices Guide](#)



## THE ADA AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

7. What Does it Mean for My Transportation Facility to be Accessible? All transportation facilities whose construction began after January 25, 1992 must be readily accessible to and useable by persons with disabilities. When a transportation alters a facility that was constructed before January 25, 1992, the altered portions must be readily accessible and useable by persons with disabilities. A public entity must operate public transportation programs or activities. Examples of accessible transportation facilities include:

- o Accessible paths of travel to enter and access the transit system
- o Level boarding and narrowing the gap between train doorways and station platforms
- o Boarding ramps
- o Bus stops and shelters
- o Curb ramps in sidewalks and entrances
- o Maintained, functioning elevators
- o Braille in elevators 3/5
- o Maintained, functional escalators
- o An emergency evacuation plan
- o Visual alarms
- o Accessible fare collection equipment
- o Accessible ticket vending machines
- o Accessible restrooms, including grab bars, raised toilet seats and insulated lavatory pipes
- o Accessible signage
- o Accessible water fountains
- o Elimination of turnstiles
- o Designated accessible parking spaces
- o Accessible transit websites

8. Are Public Transportation Providers Required to Keep Accessibility Features in Working Condition? Public transportation providers are required to maintain accessibility features in good working condition. This includes: lifts, ramps, signage and securement devices (straps to secure wheelchairs on board). Any repairs to accessibility features must be made quickly. If an accessibility feature is out of order, the transportation provider must take reasonable steps to assist the person with a disability while the feature is out of order.

9. Must my Local Transportation Service Provide me Information in an Accessible Format? Yes. Public transportation providers must provide information in accessible formats. This includes providing written materials in Braille, large print format or by CD, and online content must be accessible and compatible with screen readers.

10. My Transit Operator Told me I Cannot Bring My Service Animal on the Vehicle. Is that Legal? A service animal is a guide dog, signal dog or other animal trained to provide assistance to a person with a disability whether or not the animal is licensed or certified by a state or local government. Your service animal may go with you on vehicles and in transportation facilities.

11. Are Bus Drivers Required to Help Me? Public transit operators are required to offer you assistance with lifts, ramps and securement devices but are not required to lift you or your personal belongings. Operators cannot rush you and you must be given enough time to board and exit from vehicles.

12. I have a Vision Disability and Need Assistance with Stop Announcements. Are Bus Drivers Required to Make Announcements? Operators are required to announce transfer points, major intersections and destination points. Operators must also announce any stop at the request of a rider with a disability. Are There Other Requirements for Transit Vehicles? Yes. Vehicles need a lift or ramp for a person who uses a mobility device. Lifts must be able to hold a mobility device that is 600 pounds when occupied and measures 30 inches in width and 48 inches in length and is 2 inches above the ground. Transit providers must regularly maintain and frequently check lifts. And any broken lift must be reported immediately. In addition, all vehicles must have a two-part securement system. The first is to secure the mobility device and the second part is a seatbelt and shoulder harness for the person with a disability. Vehicles that are over 22 feet are required to have at least two securement locations and devices while vehicles less than 22 feet are only required to have one securement location and device. Do note that if the vehicle is required to have a securement system and your bus system has a policy requiring your mobility device to be secured, the operator may decline service to you if you do not allow your mobility device to be secured. You, however, are not required to use a seat belt if you do not want to.

To be Continued...