



Selected Reflections from the 2024 Week Without Driving

From September 30-October 6, 2024, many residents of Humboldt County, California participated in the second National Week Without Driving. In doing so, they challenged themselves to live their lives without driving a car, in order to gain a better understanding of the experiences of people who can't drive for reasons such as disability, age or income. Many participants shared reflections on their experiences with CRTP or in posts on social media.



“I am noticing that there is a lot less doing things spur of the moment on the way home from work. I also can't turn around if I forgot something or need to go back for any reason.

Once you're on the bus... you're going!”

-Arcata City Councilmember Sarah Schaefer

“We've noticed many of the benches and overhangs for bus stops have been removed in Eureka, leaving no place for seniors, disabled folks or children to rest. No overhang leaves community members exposed to wind, rain. This may contribute to less people being willing to ride the bus in general.”

-Old Town Community Alliance

“It was a lot of carpooling. I don't live in a location that's really served by a bus...[I realized] how isolating it can be. Really, what it made me realize more than anything is: if I didn't have a car, if my family didn't have a car, I really couldn't live where I live.”

-Humboldt County Association of Governments Executive Director Beth Burks



“I am impressed with the timeliness of HTA [Humboldt Transit Authority]. The bus is generally on time and the 'Transit' app gives me real-time updates on when the next bus is arriving. The new pay by card method is great too.”

-Environmental Protection Information Center Executive Director Tom Wheeler



Week Without Driving Participation

25 people officially took the 2024 Week Without Driving pledge in Humboldt County. Many others participated in the challenge for all or part of the week without taking the pledge. Following is a partial list of official participants.

Local Leaders Who Participated in the 2024 Week Without Driving

Mike Wilson, Humboldt County District 3 Supervisor
Sarah Schaefer, Arcata City Councilmember
Alex Stillman, Arcata City Councilmember
David Loya, Arcata Community Development Director
Matt Simmons, Arcata Planning Commissioner
Caitlin Castellano, Eureka Senior Planner
Beth Burks, Humboldt County Association of Governments Executive Director
Oona Smith, Humboldt County Association of Governments Senior Regional Planner
Caroline Griffith, Northcoast Environmental Center Executive Director
Tom Wheeler, Environmental Protection Information Center Executive Director
Katie Collender, Humboldt Transit Authority Finance Manager
Alexis Kelso, Caltrans District 1 Complete Streets Adviser
Steven Hopper, Caltrans District 1 Complete Streets Engineer
Joben Penuliar, Caltrans District 1 Complete Streets Coordinator
Morgan King, Cal Poly Humboldt Climate Action Analyst

Co-Sponsors of the 2024 Week Without Driving in Humboldt County

