



Selected Reflections from the 2025 Week Without Driving

From September 29-October 5, 2025, 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, in posts on the *Lost Coast Outpost*, and on social media.

“My day one observation of the Week Without Driving is that time is changed. I can't get someplace fast and direct. I have to rely on a friend to take me to my next engagement Monday afternoon. If this were a regular occurrence, I would wear my friends out.”

*-Humboldt County Association of Governments Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Member
Carol Moné*

“Most of the time I'm traveling across Humboldt — from Benbow to Ferndale to Eureka — and often lugging tables, equipment and brochures. Going fully car-free simply isn't feasible. And having lived in Orleans for a decade, I know firsthand how challenging transportation is in rural communities.”

-Arcata City Councilmember Meredith Matthews

“This Week without Driving has shown me how dependent I am on my car and how insanely busy one can accidentally get. It also shows me that with planning, I can ride the bus on three days I didn't think I could!”

-Area 1 Agency on Aging Executive Director Maggie Kraft

“Humans can't fly, but in my experience there are two things that come close to it – close to a thing that you dream of almost every night, if you're like me. One is swimming. The other is riding a bicycle.”

-Lost Coast Outpost Editor Hank Sims

“I’m not saying that Harbor District agendas are all-the-rage all the time and not to be missed, but I can’t attend their meetings in person, as they are held at the Woodley Island Marina. I also typically miss meetings at the Humboldt Area Foundation on Indianola in Bayside. The location is bucolic and the grounds are beautiful, but without driving there is no decent way to get there.”

-Humboldt County Association of Governments Senior Regional Planner Oona Smith

“It turns out taking a toddler on public transportation is fun! And definitely not boring.”

-Eureka Transportation Safety Commission Chair Caroline Griffith

“Even if I don’t stick to riding my bike on particularly rainy days, and I end up carpooling with coworkers or taking the bus, I’ve still got the best commute in Humboldt every other day of the year...I actively want to see more folks using this incredible new amenity. I look forward to seeing you on the trail.”

-Arcata Planning Commission Chair Matt Simmons

“It is raining today and I am prepared with rain gear. I feel like a kid again.”

-Cal Poly Humboldt Social Justice, Equity & Inclusion Center Coordinator Frank Herrera

“Today I rode the Redwood Transit Authority bus from McKinleyville to Arcata and back again for the first time in my 34 years of living in McKinleyville!...The drivers and other passengers were polite, no negative bus issues to report.”

-McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee Member Bonnie Oliver

“What would it look like if everyone had what they needed to move freely? Sidewalks would be clear of debris and maintained for ADA accessibility. A local transit system would be quick and easy to move from one part of town to another and between our communities. We would get to see our neighbors and friends much more frequently while we are walking or rolling between destinations.”

-McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee Chair Mary Burke

Local Leaders Who Participated in the 2025 Week Without Driving

66 people officially took the 2025 Week Without Driving pledge in Humboldt County. This is a partial list of local leaders who participated:

Robin Baker, McKinleyville Family Resource Center co-executive director

Philip Beaudry, Eureka Transportation Safety Commission member

Scott Binder, McKinleyville Senior Center executive director, McKinleyville Community Services District director, & McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee member

Mary Burke, McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee chair

Alysia Bixler, Redwood Community Action Agency project manager

Caitlin Castellano, Eureka senior planner

Katie Collender, Humboldt Transit Authority deputy general manager

G. Mario Fernandez, Eureka city councilmember

Caroline Griffith, Eureka Transportation Safety Commission chair

Frank Herrera, Cal Poly Humboldt Social Justice, Equity & Inclusion Center coordinator

Alexis Kelso, Caltrans District 1 complete streets adviser

Morgan King, Cal Poly Humboldt climate action analyst

Maggie Kraft, Area 1 Agency on Aging executive director

Meredith Matthews, Arcata city councilmember

Mark Mueller, Eureka Transportation Safety Commission member

Bonnie Oliver, McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee member

Joben Penuliar, Caltrans District 1 complete streets coordinator

Greg Pratt, Humboldt Transit Authority General Manager

Sarah Schaefer, Arcata city councilmember

Robert Schaulis, Eureka Times-Standard assistant editor

Matt Simmons, Arcata Planning Commissioner

Nanette Nickerson, Caltrans senior transportation engineer

Saskia Rymer-Burnett, Caltrans District 1 transit planner

Emily Sinkhorn, Arcata environmental services director

Oona Smith, Humboldt County Association of Governments senior regional planner

Co-Sponsors of the 2025 Week Without Driving in Humboldt County

