



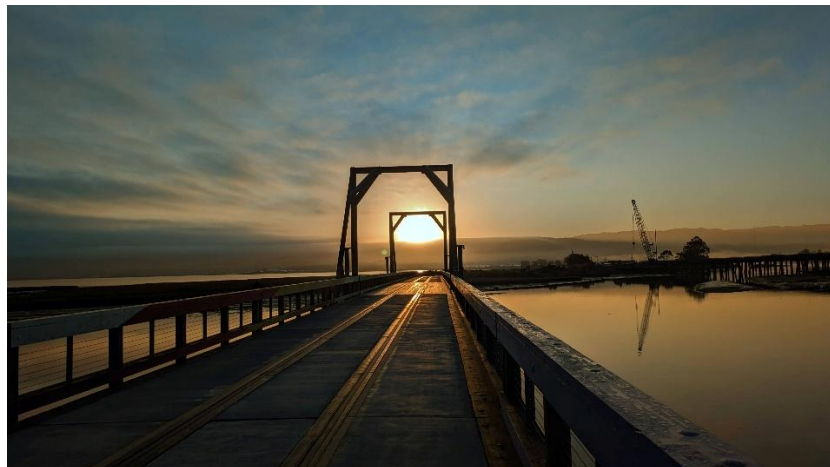
Selected Reflections from the 2026 Week Without Driving

From October 1-8, 2026, 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 for as much of the week as they could, 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 and on social media.

“For daytime activities, I got rides from 3 different people!...I could sustain this for a week, but on an everyday basis, I would soon become baggage.”

“I don't feel safe crossing the street. Even with the crosswalk signal on and wearing bright clothing, I've still nearly been hit by distracted or callous drivers too many times to count.”

“The morning commute has been my favorite. I've made friends with a few people on my regular bus route...My biggest issue is the lack of bus service on Sundays. This is a day that is perfect for running errands, and I find I can't get a lot of what I want done on weekends due to the limited bus schedule.”



“[T]he evening reminded me that I had a car to fall back on. Many of our neighbors don't. For them, a Sunday evening commitment simply isn't possible. That's what this week is for: finding the gaps.”

“To charge my ebike for the 25 mile round trip commute is only 14 cents per day. The cost of the bike was kind of expensive but if we look at total miles ridden vs cost of the bike I've paid 72 cents per mile and falling. To commute to work by car it would have cost me an even \$5 per day in gas (plus a \$5 parking permit).”

“If I didn't have a car I would have to give up a lot of activities.”

“I finished the week with two main thoughts. First, traveling through Arcata is so much more enjoyable on a bicycle compared to a car. Small things like smells, and temperature changes, the feeling of fog getting denser, flowers, interesting landscaping, and a cute dog are all details you notice on a bicycle. Second, I grew much more aware of, and frustrated with, how complicated and time intensive transporting kids is now compared to the 80s and 90s when I was a kid.”



Local Leaders Who Participated in the 2026 Week Without Driving

50 people signed up to participate in the 2026 Week Without Driving in Humboldt County. This is a partial list of local leaders who participated:

Natalie Arroyo, Humboldt County 4th District supervisor & Humboldt Transit Authority board chair

Scott Binder, McKinleyville Community Services District vice chair & McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee member

Michelle Caisse, Cal Poly Humboldt interim associate vice president of human resources

Caitlin Castellano, Eureka development services deputy director

Michael Fisher, Cal Poly Humboldt CFO & vice president of administration and finance

Debra Garnes, Rio Dell mayor & Humboldt Transit Authority board member

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

Rob Holmlund, Humboldt County Association of Governments executive director

Ashley Hurtado Hernandez, Cal Poly Humboldt Associated Students officer of external affairs

Morgan King, Cal Poly Humboldt climate action analyst

Stephen Luther, Humboldt County Association of Governments senior regional planner

Meredith Matthews, Arcata city councilmember

Tabatha Miller, Arcata assistant city manager

Joben Penuliar, Caltrans District 1 complete streets coordinator

Merrit Perry, Arcata city manager

Saskia Rymer-Burnett, Caltrans District 1 transit planner

Matthew Simmons, Arcata planning commission chair

Oona Smith, Humboldt County Association of Governments senior regional planner

Sarah West, Humboldt County planning commissioner

Kimberley White, Arcata mayor

Co-Sponsors of the 2026 Week Without Driving in Humboldt County

