

Dawes, James

Subject: FW: Please Print: Joyce Driven, Blind Outdoor Leisure Development - 6/18 Testimony

From: Joyce Driben [mailto:joyce.driben@verizon.net]

Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 9:27 PM

To: Wolfe, Amanda

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Subject: Joyce Driven, Blind Outdoor Leisure Development - 6/18 Testimony

I will be attending the transportation hearing in Monroeville on June 18, as I discussed with Tara, in your office. My testimony is below.

Joyce Driben, 959 Lilac St., Pittsburgh, PA 15217

I am a retired clinical social worker, and am president of BOLD (blind outdoor leisure development). As an individual, I use public transportation to attend community activities, including meetings, concerts, theater. I also use transportation to keep medical appointments. After I completed graduate school at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social work and obtained a job in Pittsburgh, one of the factors that has kept me in this city is the availability of public transportation. Without adequate bus and paratransit service to participate in many activities I probably would have relocated many years ago.

Public transportation has kept me and many members of the BOLD group in the city. We use transit to participate in many recreational activities. We have used buses to meet at a central point in order to participate in a hike, met for meals at local restaurants, to shop, walk at a local mall, and generally to participate in community life.. Most of the members of BOLD are blind or have low vision. Obviously we don't drive (nor do you want us to). Public transit gives us freedom to participate in activities, independence, and choice about what to do and where to go. Because of this freedom many of us are able to contribute to the economy; many of our members work. Without transportation they could not get to their jobs. We are an active vital part of the community because of transit.

Two years ago I broke two bones in my left ankle, and after surgery was in a wheelchair 3 months. I needed to rely on aides. Several of them used buses to come and assist me. I know that others who provide in home services, and many nurses, rely on transit to get to and from their employment. Changes in transit may mean less access to services for many.

Transit provides many of us in this area the freedom to participate fully in life. Please keep that possible by providing adequate funding for transit. If you suddenly had no cars and had to get around without them, wouldn't you want the same for yourselves and your families? Thank you.