



WEEKWITHOUTDRIVING

October 1-8, 2026

#WeekWithoutDriving | weekwithoutdriving.org

Talking Points

When encouraging decision makers to participate, here are some talking points.

Elected officials and Other Decision Makers:

1. **Explain you are not trying to take their cars away.** This is a reflection week. It is not a failure to drive. In fact, the point is to see how much we rely on driving. But some do not have that option. So what happens to those individuals? The week is a reflection on access.
2. **Participating in Week Without Driving can reveal critical gaps in the community.** Encourage them to see the valuable insights they'll gain to make informed, evidence-based decisions regarding funding, infrastructure, and other policy improvements, ensuring a better transportation system.
3. **The campaign aims at promoting a balanced transportation system that meets the needs of all members.** Creating a transportation system that provides. The week can also inspire solutions that improve overall transportation cost efficiency and effectiveness.
4. **The Week shows they are a proactive and responsible leader.** It supports public trust and confidence in them as a leader and shows their awareness, transparency and empathy with residents. This act of empathy can build public trust and confidence in your ability to make informed, inclusive decisions that benefit all transportation users.
5. **Promoting alternatives to driving aligns with many other goals.** Their participation can demonstrate a genuine commitment to understanding and addressing issues beyond transportation. It shows that as a decision maker, they are willing to learn about housing, environment, public health, safety and so much more.
6. **The Week Without Driving offers a unique opportunity for professional growth.** It provides a firsthand experience and insights that enhance your understanding of their community. It is also a chance to network with other professionals, individuals and community members who they may not know.



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Additional Tips:

- Highlight stories from the community. Bring in real-life examples that demonstrate the everyday challenges and benefits to alternative transportation options. Use visuals that highlight some of these issues.
- Link this to broader goals that the decision maker cares about. Explain how participating aligns with their goals of economic development, public health, sustainability, etc. If they have any upcoming transportation projects or initiatives that tie in with this, explain how their participation can provide them with insights that can influence the project positively.
- Present data and research that show why your community needs a balanced transportation system. Facts and figures from your community helps build a compelling case.
- Show there is broad community support for the Week. This can be in the form of a petition, letters, testimonials from a diverse range of community members.
- Be prepared to offer support and address their concerns if they participate. Show the decision maker that they will not be alone in this experience and that you can help highlight and uplift their work by engaging local media.
- If their participation is limited by transportation options, suggest a shorter commitment, even one day can provide valuable insights without being overwhelmed.