

Transportation

Across Louisiana, the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) administers ADA compliance programs, which require accessible sidewalks, transit stops, and public transportation infrastructure under ADA Title II and Section 504 [Louisiana DOTD](#).

Local transit agencies must train staff to assist passengers with disabilities and provide accessible infrastructure like ramps, lifts, and tactile paving at stops [State Regs Today](#).

Medicaid waivers in Louisiana (NOW, Supports, ROW, Children's Choice) formally include "transportation-community access" or day habilitation transportation services as covered supports for people with developmental disabilities [Louisiana Department of Health](#).

Travel Patterns & Limitations

- About 57 million Americans (19%) have some form of disability, and many encounter travel challenges—those with travel-limiting disabilities often take fewer trips, rely on others, and face reduced employment and social participation [Bureau of Transportation Statistics](#).
- According to the 2022 Bureau of Transportation Statistics (NHHS survey):
 - 34.7% of adults with disabilities (age 18–64) rely on others for rides; 60.3% reduce travel frequency; and 10.1% used rideshare services in the past month [Bureau of Transportation Statistics](#).
 - Nearly 65% of people with disabilities drive, compared to 88% of those without disabilities. Only 2% of disabled households had adaptive vehicles [Bureau of Transportation Statistics](#).

Transportation Barriers for DD Populations

- A Minnesota study on adults with developmental disabilities found nearly 46% couldn't make trips they wanted, citing public transit complexity and paratransit limitations as barriers—even when transit existed in neighborhoods
- Transportation challenges are heightened outside metropolitan areas, especially in rural areas.
- Many providers rely on underpaid direct support professionals (DSPs) to provide transportation for the persons they support and do not reimburse DSPs for gas expenses.