

Do You Have a Driving Retirement Plan?

*Buddy Cloud
Transportation Director
Communities for a Lifetime*

We are born, go to school, learn to drive, and join the workforce. Life moves fast, and as it moves forward, we start our financial plan for retirement. However, we don't consider that there may come a time when our mobility is threatened by the aging process or other issues. So, as we have prepared ourselves to settle into retirement, we should also plan for the time when we can no longer be as active and mobile in our community. We should develop a driving retirement plan.

Planning for this change and making choices help us maintain a sense of order and control in our lives. It can also help relieve the stress and anxiety about the unknown.

Although we are active, independent, and mobile today, some may stop driving at any time because of the expense (fuel, maintenance, and insurance). Some also stop driving because they feel unsafe on the roadway, have aging impairments, or have just never learned to drive well in the increasingly heavy Florida traffic.

Recently, a new study from Transportation for America, a Washington-based advocacy group, said approximately 55 percent of the country's seniors over age 65 – about 15.5 million – will

have poorer or nonexistent access to public transportation by 2015.

So, why not take the worry out of your transportation needs by planning today and making it work tomorrow?

Planning and developing a driving retirement plan are sensible things to do and can assure us of adequate transportation in the future.

So how do we begin our plan?

First, develop a service worksheet with the following components: types of services, names of companies, coverage areas, scheduled operating times, and costs.

Also, develop a similar worksheet for friends and family.

Next, list your transportation activities:

1. Time and frequency
2. Destination
3. Choice of providers
 - a. Family/friends
 - b. Other transportation providers



Place this information in chart form for ease of reference.

For additional information on transportation mobility and accessibility, contact Buddy Cloud at 850-414-2123 or via email at cloudw@elderaffairs.org.

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UPDATE

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