

# **Disabled People's Challenges & Solution with Public Transportation in USA**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Public transit is an important component of modern life, providing individuals from all walks of life with affordable, safe, and accessible transportation. However, when it comes to public transit, disabled people in the United States confront several problems. Many public transit systems are still inaccessible to people with disabilities, with malfunctioning lifts, tight corridors, and inaccessible stations making mobility difficult.

Furthermore, when using public transit, disabled people frequently face discrimination and stigma. They may be disregarded by bus or train drivers, or subjected to harsh attitudes and assumptions from other passengers. This might result in feelings of isolation, anxiety, and lack of independence. Some Common Challenges that are faced by disabled peoples are:

### **Inaccessibility:**

Disabled people face considerable challenges when accessing public transportation in the United States. According to the Americans with impairments Act (ADA) of 1990, all public transportation must be accessible to people with impairments. However, many public transportation systems in the United States do not follow ADA rules, making it difficult for disabled people to use public transportation.

### **Lack of Elevators and Ramps:**

The lack of elevators and ramps in public transit terminals is one of the most common issues that disabled people experience. Many public transportation stations feature stairs, rendering them inaccessible to wheelchair users. Similarly, many buses and trains lack ramps, making it difficult for disabled people to get on and off these vehicles.

### **Insufficient Space for Wheelchairs:**

Another issue that disabled individuals confront is a lack of wheelchair space on buses and trains. Many buses and trains have limited wheelchair room, making it difficult for disabled passengers to board these vehicles.

### **Discrimination:**

Discrimination against disabled individuals is another serious issue that disabled people experience when using public transportation in the United States. Discrimination can manifest in the form of a variety of ways, including verbal abuse, physical violence, and denial of service.

### **Verbal and Physical Abuse:**

When using public transit, disabled people are frequently subjected to verbal and physical harassment. Some people may mock or bully disabled persons, making them feel unwanted and embarrassed. In rare situations, disabled people may also be subjected to physical abuse, such as being pushed or hit.

### **Denial of Service:**

Disabled persons may also suffer service denials when using public transit. This can occur when public transportation providers refuse to serve disabled individuals for a variety of reasons, such as a lack of accommodations or staff training.

### **Inadequate Accommodations:**

Inadequate accommodations are another issue that disabled individuals confront when using public transit in the United States. Disabled individuals must be accommodated by public transportation operators so that they can use public transit safely and comfortably.

### **Lack of Audio and Visual Announcements:**

The lack of auditory and visual announcements on buses and trains is one of the most common issues that disabled people confront. Many buses and trains do not have audio or visual notifications, making it difficult for disabled individuals to know where they are or where they are going.

#### **Inadequate Staff Training:**

Another issue that disabled individuals confront is a lack of worker training. Public transportation operators must ensure that its employees are properly trained to accommodate disabled passengers. However, many employees may lack the essential training, making it difficult for them to assist disabled clients.

#### **Travel Anxiety Prevalent amongst Disabled People:**

One message which comes across loud and clear from all disabled people is the degree of anxiety involved in using public transport and spaces as a disabled person. Negotiating the cityscape has felt like a perilous mission for too long due to the sheer number of variables governing what could go wrong. To feel physically comfortable, some people use Google Street View to figure out if there are steps up to a building. This tool gives them confidence that they understand the environment they will arrive in, which reduces stress and anxiety.

#### **Solving Public Transportation for Disabled People in the United States:**

As a reliable and affordable method of transportation, public transit is currently a requirement for the people of the United States. However, using public transit can be challenging for those who are disabled. To address this issue, we must build a public transportation system that is accessible to all individuals, including those with disabilities. This is necessary to ensure that everyone can participate in society. The difficulties faced by disabled people using public transit in the USA will be discussed in this article, along with some potential solutions.

#### **Increasing Accessibility:**

Public transportation companies are required to abide by ADA regulations to improve accessibility for people with disabilities. This entails putting in elevators and ramps in the stations, as well as leaving enough room on buses and trains for wheelchairs. Providers of public transportation should also make sure that their vehicles are built with features like low floors, wheelchair ramps, and accessible seats to make them accessible to individuals with disabilities.

#### **Improving Accommodations**

Public transportation companies should think about including audio and visual announcements on buses and trains to better accommodate impaired passengers. Having their position and destination known will make it simpler for disabled people to use public transportation. Providers of public transportation should also make sure that their staff has received the necessary training to accommodate those with disabilities. As part of this, staff personnel must receive training on how to help persons with disabilities board and exit vehicles as well as information on the routes and schedules of public transit.

#### **Reducing Discrimination**

To combat discrimination against individuals with disabilities, it's essential for public transportation operators to establish regulations that prohibit verbal and physical abuse, as well as the denial of service. On top of that, companies must institute a reporting process for instances of prejudice and violence and address complaints promptly. By taking these steps, we can ensure equal treatment for all members of our communities.

#### **Empowering Disabled People**

Another strategy to enhance the experience of disabled individuals utilising public transit is to empower them. In order to better understand the requirements and difficulties faced by handicapped persons, public transportation companies can collaborate with disability organisations to create solutions that address those needs. The requirements and preferences of disabled individuals can be taken into account by including them in the design and implementation of public transportation systems.

### **CONCLUSION**

Disabled people in the United States continue to face significant challenges while using public transit. Among the many obstacles they face are a lack of accessibility, prejudice, and insufficient provisions. Nonetheless, public transportation companies may develop a comprehensive and accessible system that benefits everyone by boosting accessibility, improving amenities, minimising discrimination, and empowering disabled individuals. It is vital that we work towards this aim in order to ensure that everyone, regardless of physical ability, can travel securely and comfortably using public transportation.

#### **About the Author:**

Providing access to the freedom of mobility and equality with everyone else is Vasav's noble mission. An unsung hero, Vasav made sure that everyone enjoys the same kind of liberties that America is known for: freedom. It isn't just freedom of movement, but freedom to partake in the convenience and amenities that are offered to all.