

Little People of America

Getting Around: Transportation & Accessibility for Little People

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

Jon Etherton & Kori Allen

Agenda

01 Cars and Personal Vehicles

02 Paratransit

03 Air Travel

04 Amtrak

05 Questions

06 Contact Information

Presenters

Jon Etherton

- ❖ LPA Coordinator for Federal Advocacy.
- ❖ LPA District 3, MarValous Chapter (President).
- ❖ 40 years working policy issues in Washington, DC inside and outside of government.
- ❖ Live in McLean, Virginia with Susan.
- ❖ Two adult children.



Presenters

Kori Allen



- ❖ Little People of America District 8, Chapter 2 (Dallas/Fort Worth) Treasurer
- ❖ Vice Chair of the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities
- ❖ ADA & Capital Programs Coordinator for the City of Coppell, Texas

- ❖ Grew up in Florida, moved to Texas in 2004
- ❖ Is the only "biological" Little Person in her family
- ❖ Met husband (Mike Allen) at an LPA event!
- ❖ Skyler Joe Allen is their 7 year old American Cocker Spaniel

Presentation Overview

- Advocate for Yourself
- Know Before You Go
- Research, Research, Research

Cars – Personal Vehicle

Questions to ask yourself...

Will you be the only driver?

If you share the vehicle with someone else, then permanent modifications will not work

Travel or portable pedal extenders would be best with removable cushions and foot rest



What are the financial options?

LPAMobility Fund

Fund for LPA Members to apply with

Vocational Rehabilitation

Each state is different in how they organize this - through Health & Human Services or Workforce Commission

Sales and Use Tax Waived

–Entire vehicle: Texas, Minnesota, Tennessee, Georgia
–Only Adaptive Modifications: Washington, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island

Buying a New Car

Mobility Subsidy that you'll have to ask for and do research for the steps

What are the certifications/requirements for installation?

Finding a Location with Certified/Licensed Technicians to Install

Health & Human Services have a list as well as Workforce Commission's

Certifications/Requirements for Installation of Vehicle Modifications

–Jon's Sit-kit

–Car insurance may/may not require a certain installation process
–Vocational Rehabilitation Program will require certain vendors/inspections

What kind of modifications will you get?

Hand Controls or Pedal Extenders

–Travel and Portable Extenders are also an option

LPA Resources Page with Mobility Tools

List of Modifications

–Hand Controls
–Pedal Extenders
–Seat Cushions
–Air Bag On/Off Switch
–Trunk Opener
–Foot Rest
–Others

Jon's Sit Kit

Paratransit

- ❖ [LINK to the National Directory for paratransit availability across the USA](#)
- ❖ If there is Public Transportation available, then Paratransit is more likely
 - In rural areas or in areas where there is not coordinated public transportation, this could be difficult
- ❖ Uber Wav
- ❖ Public Comment at a City Council Meeting or County Meeting
- ❖ Private companies that the cities/counties could partner with or you could partner with
- ❖ Reach out to the City or County ADA Coordinator for issues/concerns



Air Travel



- ❖ Do research ahead of time and connect with the airline you're using
 - Toggle "ON" the accessibility accommodations when you purchase your tickets
 - Get to the gate early and tell them you need assistance getting on/off the plane
 - Advocating for yourself and what you need
- ❖ US Access Board/Great Lakes ADA Center webinars and information: <https://www.accessibilityonline.org/ao>
- ❖ CPAP, sit-kit, stools, reachers/grabbers, etc. are not counted as a carry on – they are medical equipment
 - [Jon's sit-kit](#) - think about comfortable seating on long flights
- ❖ How can you re-arrange your luggage to not have it on your body or putting pressure on your limbs?
- ❖ Lithium batteries and fire hazards
- ❖ If you have issues/concerns, reach out to Airline Support and/or the Airport ADA Coordinator

Amtrak



Station accessibility for boarding and disembarking trains varies

Passenger car accommodations are more consistent but reservations for accessible spaces are often required

Do research on station accessibility and make necessary reservations ahead of time

As you plan, reach out to [Amtrak Accessible Travel Services](#)

→ **Questions**

→ **Contact Information**



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