

Transportation Issues Hurting NH Economy & Citizens

By Tina Derby for the Good News Garage, 2006

The absence of reliable transportation keeps many New Hampshire residents from becoming productive, self-sufficient citizens of the state. According to a recent flyer distributed by the UNH IOD, recent surveys report that between 70,000 and 111,000 NH residents are concerned about losing their ability to drive in the next few years. Without transportation these people will find it difficult, if not impossible, to get to work, to medical appointments, and even to the grocery store.

In New Hampshire there are a few methods being used to solve the transportation dilemma. In urban areas public transportation systems are being developed or improved so that people can at least get where they need to go during the day. However, most public transportation systems in New Hampshire cities do not operate at night so for people who need to work 2nd or 3rd shift public transportation isn't usually an option. Additionally, the use of public transportation at most any time, day or night, often involves tremendous waste of time, both time spent waiting for the bus or other vehicle to arrive, as well as time spent traveling to areas that are take the rider far out of his or her way, due to the rigid route of the transportation vehicle.

Ridesharing is a program available in several areas of New Hampshire. With this kind of program rides are coordinated for clients. Rideshare programs can be very helpful to those who live in areas in which the programs operate, but for those who are outside of those areas, or who work odd shifts, these programs do not always provide effective solutions.

Another type of program at use in New Hampshire is the use of donated cars. Currently in New Hampshire there are two organizations that use donated vehicles to help solve the transportation issues of citizens. Bonnie Clac is a Lebanon, NH, based non-profit that helps people who have some money get low interest loans with which they can purchase a vehicle. The Good News Garage, on the other hand, takes donated vehicles and refurbishes them then provides them to low-income clients at little or no cost to the client.

For more information on the issues of transportation in New Hampshire see the following web sites: www.goodnewsgarage.org, [New Hampshire Rideshare](#).