

Transportation

May 20, 2024

Who We Are

One Joplin is a Community Collaborative that facilitates collaboration and open communication to identify and meet top community needs.

100+ Community Volunteers serving in:

- Health
- Education & Literacy
- Poverty

Why are we here today?

The One Joplin Poverty Team created a Transportation Sub-team in response to the Trolley closure.

The Sunshine Lamp Trolley system suspended service on

November 28, 2022 540 Days ago

Why does it matter?

In order for Joplin to be a thriving community, all citizens have to have access to safe, reliable, and affordable transportation to **access:**



- **Healthcare**
- **Employment**
- **Housing**
- **Education**
- **Shopping**
- **Dining and Entertainment**

By the numbers…

Community Members depend on public transportation to access necessities.

In a recent survey conducted by One Joplin, participants said they would use public transportation to access:

Work 65%

Shopping 74.3%

Medical Facilities 81%

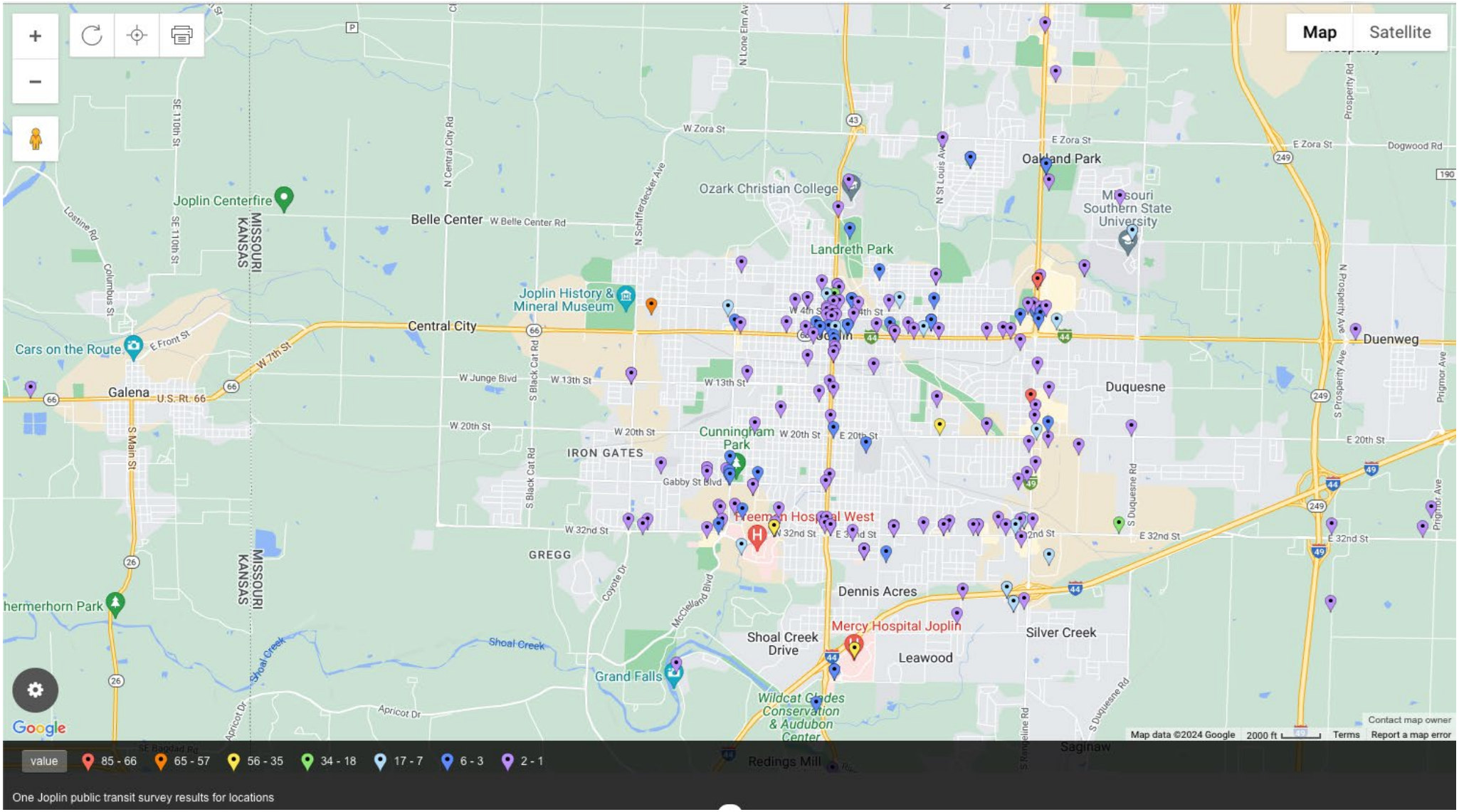
Restaurants 50%

Entertainment or Recreation 48.6%

Social Interaction/Get out of the house 41.4%

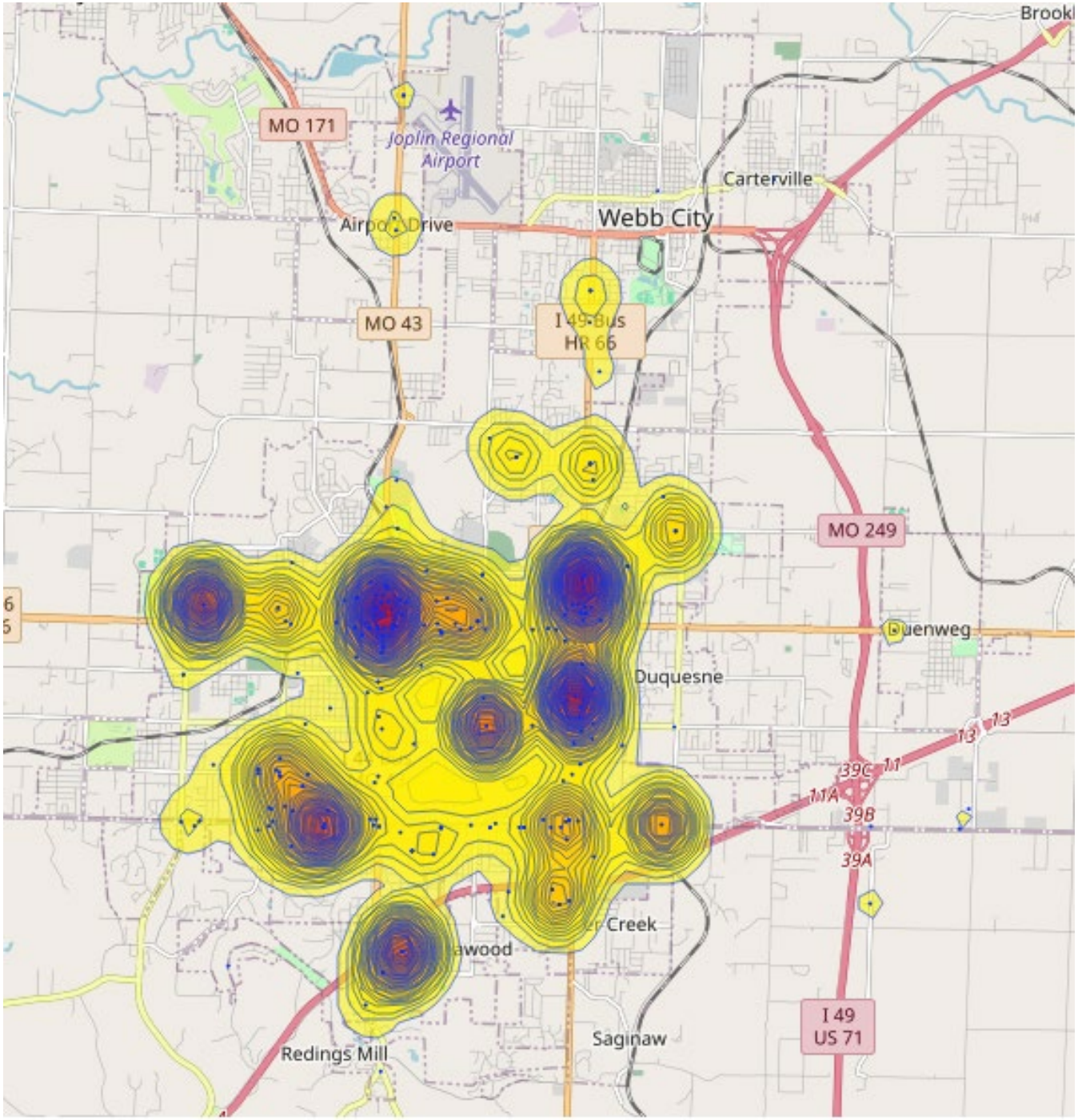
*367 survey participants

Where in Joplin would individuals like to go?



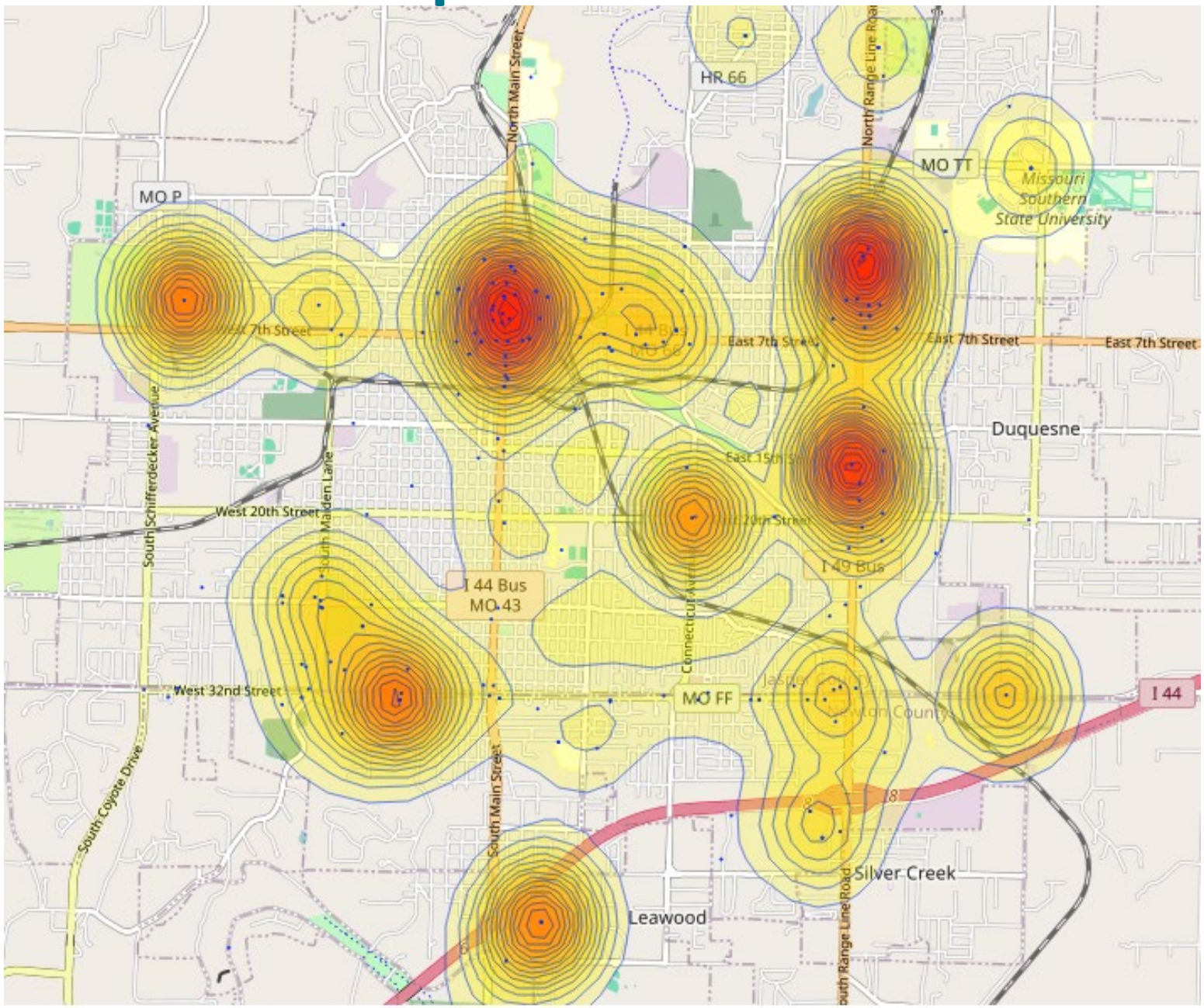
Each point represents a location that survey respondents want to go to.
The color scale represents how many people wanted to go to that location.

Where in Joplin would individuals like to go?



Darker colors represent more people indicating they want to go to a location.

Where in Joplin would individuals like to go?



Darker colors represent more people indicating they want to go to a location.

As you can see, these are spread out and would be difficult to navigate on foot or by bike.

How are Citizens currently accessing necessities?

Walking & Biking

Challenges:

- Weather
- Health
- Safety
- Lack of Complete Streets
- Accessibility for wheelchair or other physical limitations

Anna, a type 2 diabetic, moved to Joplin in 2016. After her car broke down, she utilized the trolley for its convenience to maintain her employment. Since November 2022, she mainly walks 3.1 miles in all types of weather to her place of employment.

Personal Vehicles

Challenges:

- More than 5,700 Joplin citizens lack access to a personal vehicle
- 50% cannot afford car maintenance costs
- 32% do not have a valid license or have poor credit
- 26% experience transportation problems

Predatory Car Lots

Jay St. Clair of Gods Resort and Circles reports many clients have fallen victim to predatory car lots.

- Individuals purchase unreliable vehicles at high interest rates.
- They often cannot afford the repair costs and wind up without transportation and are saddled with a car payment.

Data from https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/editorials/our-view-joplin-must-address-problems-facing-sunshine-lamp-trolley-system/article_2d33b726-6fe6-11ec-abfb-4377195deffd.html and Economic Security Client Survey

MAPS

Challenges:

- Requires preplanning for all stops and has limited availability.
  - *"I tried to use MAPS but I cannot give 24 hour notice, I cannot wait 24 hours to cook dinner."*
- Many individuals with physical or mental health challenges are unable to plan ahead for their needs.
- Must have access to a phone and physical home address to schedule a ride.
  - *"We tried to schedule a ride for a homeless client, MAPS would not pick him up at Dollar General but would pick him up at a shelter address but he was not staying at one"*
- Lack of flexibility in scheduling
  - *"I used MAPS to schedule a ride to my Doctor's appointment. I was prescribed a medication and told to start taking it right away. MAPS required me to ride home from the doctor and call to schedule a separate trip on a different day for the prescription."*

Rideshare

Taxi, Uber, Lyft, CARS

Challenges:

- Cost
- Access to a phone
- Accessibility for wheelchair or other physical impairments
- Rideshare drivers can refuse to pick up in some neighborhoods without notifying agency scheduling
- CARS is a great new addition but will take time to ramp up volunteers and will have their own set of challenges including advanced scheduling

*"At the Community Clinic, we see patients who are struggling with transportation obstacles that make it nearly impossible for them to **go to work, keep appointments, and participate in the community**.*

- *We have patients who **walk 30 or more blocks** to make it to necessary medical appointments.*
- *We have other patients who have **lost employment** due to the Trolly service being discontinued.*
- *These residents want to be productive citizens, **but they lack affordable and reliable transportation.***

*I strongly encourage the City to seek options to meet their needs that focuses on **reliability, consistency, accessibility, and affordability**."*

Stephanie Brady, Executive Director Community Clinic

How did we get here?

Still a few drivers short…

November 9, 2022 Joplin Globe, Nick Edwards:
"We are working to increase our applicant pool by working with area schools and training facilities that teach these skills to individuals. Although the stringent qualifications, as well as the low unemployment rate, are a challenge, **we are focusing our efforts to allow us to renew the trolley service when conditions are more favorable."**

Recommendations:

- Prioritize getting **Trolley service restored** while looking at future regional transit options
- Evaluate pay and adjust to a competitive level for other CDL Positions
  - Joplin Schools Bus Driver starts at $19.05 /hr
  - Delivery Driver (non-CDL) starts at $19 /hour
  - Current Transit Driver II – Trolley Transit System $16.24 per hour
- Explore partnerships to assist in hiring and training drivers or running services

Recommendations (continued):

- Explore advertising on Trolleys and Trolley stops to offset some costs of the system
- Explore Data Applications for vehicles to provide information on numbers of riders utilizing designated stops. this tool can evaluate stops's usefulness or lack thereof
- Continue to improve walkability and bikeability of the city to make it easier for people to get to Trolley stops

Imagine needing to factor transportation into every decision.

How would you access...



- Healthcare
- Employment
- Housing
- Education
- Shopping
- Dining and Entertainment