# **Navigating Your Neighborhood**

**Evaluate your current location**Determine whether where you live is impacting your ability to travel and/or use public transportation. Favorable locations include those with the following characteristics:

* Located three or fewer blocks from the nearest transit stop
* Have a secondary transit stop within five blocks (an alternate route will give you more options for places you can travel)
* Sidewalks are level and properly maintained
* Intersections have traffic lights or streets are lightly travelled with crosswalks
* In neighborhoods where you are comfortable walking alone
* Near or within walking distance of your employment
* Within four safe blocks of a grocery store, pharmacy, and other places you visit often
* Residents pick up after their dogs
* Travel time to reach common destinations is not greater than three times the amount of time it would take you to drive

**Keep safety in mind!**If you are comfortable walking in your neighborhood, make sure you know the route well and follow important safety tips:

* Wear brightly colored clothing at night
* Use sidewalks when possible
* Be aware of traffic or areas of potential danger
* Plan in advance for weather issues

## **Sources**

AARP. (n.d.). *The getting around guide.*

Commute Alternatives. (n.d.). *Employee Transportation Coordinator Handbook.* Retrieved from <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/NR/rdonlyres/FB86C0EF-9D8E-497C-A2DC-5B39A17E0D54/0/ETC_Handbook.pdf>

Corn, A. L., & Rosenblum, L. P. (2000). *Finding wheels: A curriculum for nondrivers with visual impairments for gaining control of transportation needs.* Austin, TX: Pro-Ed.

*Questions?
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