

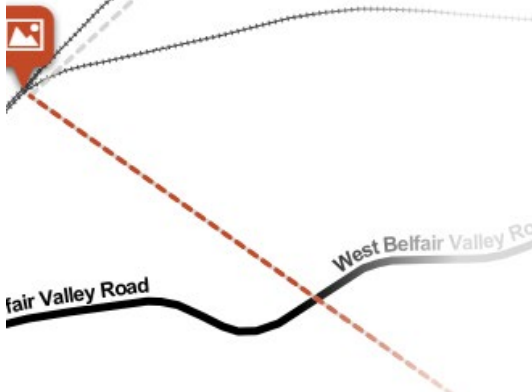


Disability Rights
WASHINGTON

TRANSPORTATION ACCESS STORYMAP



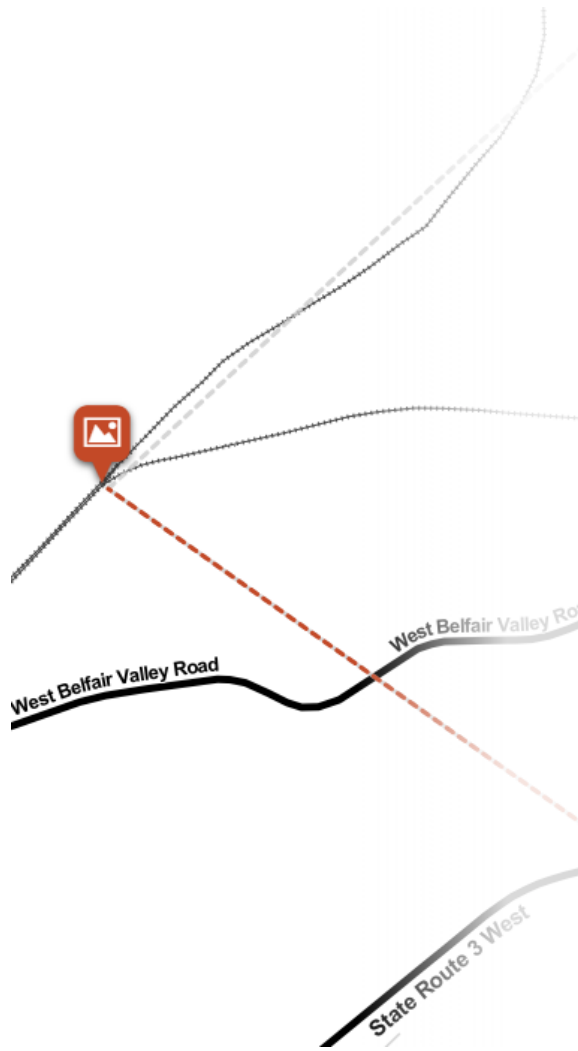
JR AND KAT



West Belfair Valley Road

“It’s hard even with my guide dog to know where the bus stops really are at the transit station. The station uses the same kind of bumps at their curbside stops that are used to indicate there is an ADA ramp. Kat thought she was at a curb ramp and rolled off the edge in her chair and got hurt.”

West Belfair Valley Road



Kat and JR live in Bremerton. Kat is legally blind and uses a powerchair. JR is blind and uses a guide dog. They get around using paratransit and the bus. JR will sometimes walk while Kat takes transit, and he takes transit and ferries to his job as a machinist, in Seattle. One big barrier is that there are no real sidewalks on their street or bus stops near their home. They now have to walk to Walgreens to get her medication, a mile from home, since a bus stop was recently moved farther away. Using Access, the paratransit service, requires a reservation at least 24 hours in advance, then requires a half-hour window for pick up. Access can also move the pickup time forward or backward by up to one hour. It's difficult for Kat to plan her day when she has so little control over her transportation. If Kat has to go farther from home and is worried she won't be able to get an Access ride back, she has to bring her charger with her because she will have to wheel it home. There is a nearby bus stop JR takes to the fast ferry to get to work in Seattle, and a nearby bus Kat can take if she needs to go to Silverdale. But doing things closer to home can actually be harder because buses don't run on Sunday at all and the Saturday schedule is very limited. There are a few accessible ride-hail cars but they can only use those for doctors appointments, they require an annual letter from the doctor, and charge a minimum of \$25, which is expensive on Kat's fixed income. For JR, it's difficult even with his guide dog to know where the bus stops are actually located at the transit station, which has resulted in Kat being injured. JR has noticed that the ORCA disabled ferry pass costs more than a standard pass, and that's not accessible. He wants elected leaders to make transit more accessible for people with disabilities. Kat would like elected leaders and decision makers to consider what it is like to navigate with a disability, and see how difficult and exhausting just trying to get around can be.