

Public Transportation Around Colleges in Rural Wyoming

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PSYCH 1000: General Psychology

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December 10, 2023

Do you use a personal car to go anywhere? Usually, the answer is yes, but around a college campus, many do not have this luxury. Public transportation is a must in a small town in rural Wyoming. Most cities in Wyoming are mostly compact, there is still some distance to cover in between major places such as schools, work, grocery stores, banks and so on. Along those lines, there is a portion of college students that are either out of state or out of country. Having access to a safe ride wherever they go should be a necessity. Whether that is catching a ride with someone else, a ride call service, or a bus or train. However, will people be able to get these services?

While talking with Robin Buckingham, a Casper College nurse at the clinic on campus, she had brought up the issue of the bus service the campus has. “There is only so many spots on our [bus] and they are all full.” (McDonnell, 2023, 0:29-0:41). With only a limited number of buses and seats, many people must figure out another way to get to the campus if they do not live on campus. In Casper, there is only around twelve buses in a bus service that can only transport an average of twenty people per bus. With SafeRide and car-pooling, getting around a town without a personal car will be easier. Car-pooling would be the most effective way of getting where they need to go. But, with the fluctuation in gas prices, it might be a little more difficult to find a ride willing to taking them. “Given the U.S.’ high dependence on automobiles, especially in small-town, suburban, and rural areas, international students who do not own a personal vehicle may face difficulties with transportation and access to essential services and social activities due to the lack of public transportation options.” (Islam et al., 2022, para. 4). Having a reliable source of transportation should be a priority in a town where things are more spread out. From Casper College, it is a ten-minute drive from Walmart. That is a difficult journey to make without a car or bus.

There are apps for rides like Uber, but for college students, they are pretty expensive. However, there is a different app for people around Laramie, Wyoming, called SafeRide. It is also in effect in Casper as well. The Cygnus Business Media stated, (2022), “The ultimate goal of the new SafeRide is to use technology to create a flexible transportation option for students and Laramie residents, said Paul

Kunkel, director of UW Transportation Services.” This is a step in the right direction. With this type of access to transportation, life could be just a bit easier for several people.

References

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Via helps launch SafeRide at University of Wyoming, marks anniversaries of service in North Carolina and Texas.

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