

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



Proclamation

WEEK WITHOUT DRIVING OCTOBER 1–8, 2026

WHEREAS transportation is essential to full participation in community life, connecting people to workplaces, schools, health care, businesses, family, friends, and the many opportunities that make a community vibrant and connected; and

WHEREAS approximately one-third of people in the United States are nondrivers, including older adults, people with disabilities, and individuals who cannot afford the increasing costs of vehicle ownership, fuel, insurance, and maintenance, yet many communities continue to be designed around the assumption that everyone drives; and

WHEREAS **Week Without Driving** invites residents to experience their community from the perspective of a nondriver by choosing, whenever possible, to walk, bike, scooter, ride public transportation, or ask for a ride for a single trip, a day, or the entire week; and

WHEREAS the Charlottesville region offers a diverse range of transportation options, including public bus service through Charlottesville Area Transit (CAT), the Afton Express, Jaunt Connect, and the Virginia Breeze intercity bus routes; on-demand rideshare services such as MicroCAT; alternative commuting programs including Wahoo Commute and RideShare's carpool matching, vanpool coordination, and emergency ride home services; transportation information and referral assistance through the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission's Partnership for Accessible Transportation Help (PATH), with a focus on older adults and people with disabilities; and active transportation options including walking, biking, eBiking, and scooters, supported by local bike rentals, lending libraries, and community bike resources; and

WHEREAS, launched in 2021 by author and disability advocate Anna Zivarts, Week Without Driving has grown into an international effort, with more than 800 community organizations, public officials, and transit agencies across all fifty states, Canada, and Australia participating in activities that promote awareness, accessibility, and understanding of transportation challenges; and

WHEREAS the City of Charlottesville recognizes that learning from the experiences of nondrivers can build empathy, illuminate transportation gaps, and inspire continued investment in a more accessible, equitable, and connected community where everyone has the opportunity to move, participate, and thrive;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Charlottesville City Council hereby recognizes **October 1–8, 2026, as "Week Without Driving"** in the City of Charlottesville and encourages community members to participate by choosing an alternative to driving when possible, supporting transportation options that strengthen accessibility, independence, and connection throughout our community, while also helping to achieve the city's climate goals.

Signed and dated the 21st day of September 2026.

Juandiego Wade, Mayor

Kyna Thomas, Clerk