

Comment from Nancy Petersen

As a power chair user, it would be more helpful to have an actual wheelchair van with ramp available as part of the van itself. Extra add on tailgate carriers can make a vehicle harder to drive and control. However, a vehicle with a ramp as part of the vehicle is similar to what many power chair users are already familiar with driving.

It would be more helpful to have rental companies share such a vehicle by having several wheelchair rampvans onsite at locations with larger demand such as hub airports. If Enterprise has one available, they can rent it to Avis who has a customer that needs it. If Avis has an extra unused van, they can give to Enterprise customer. The problem now is wheelchair van companies have no weekend hours and there is no spontaneity to reservations.

Alternatively, the government could own them nationally and rent out to specific rental companies at hub and regional airports. This may make more sense both from an insurance for the van point of view. I see this "carrier add on" with no rear mirror as a safety hassle and not really making it easier to rent an appropriate van. Even requiring wheelchair van rental companies to deliver vans on weekends would be more helpful.