2007 Colorado Transportation Survey: Statewide

May 2008
The vast majority of members residing across Colorado are licensed to drive and say they generally drive when they need to get someplace.

AARP members in Colorado are heavily reliant on their automobiles. Most (95%) are licensed to drive, and 95 percent of these drivers use their automobiles to get to where they need to go.

More than three in four members (77%) report that public transportation is available in their community, but only three percent use it on a weekly basis. More than eight in ten members report that they do not use public transportation at all. (This percentage is higher than in Denver (72%).

Nearly two in three members (63%); however, report that there is a public transportation stop less than one-half mile from their homes.

**Having shelter from the weather is the top problem members identify in the use of public transportation.**

Those who use public transportation and those who may use public transportation in the future report that the top two problems with public transportation are not having adequate shelter from the weather (36%) and the time it takes to use it (35%).

**Most members say they would ride with others if they were no longer able to drive themselves.**

When asked what type of transportation they would use to get to where they need to go, if they were no longer able to drive, most members indicate they would ride with family or friends (89%). Many members across Colorado would also walk (65%) or use public transportation (61%).

**Members across Colorado with poor health disability status (HDS) are most likely to be homebound and to experience problems with finding transportation to access needed goods and services.**
In general, most members (85%) get out of their house to go someplace at least three or more times per week. However, health and disability status (HDS)\(^1\) influences how often members leave their homes. Slightly more than one in three members with poor HDS (35%) leave their homes to go someplace five or more times during the typical week compared to four in five members with excellent HDS (81%). Four percent report that they do not leave their homes at all.

While most members do not report problems finding transportation to get goods and services, more than one in eight members with poor HDS have problems finding transportation to medical appointments (16%), grocery shopping (13%), or drug stores/pharmacies (13%) at least somewhat often.

**Nearly half of members agree that if they were unable to drive it would be difficult for them to continue to live in their current neighborhood.**

Slightly more than half of members across the state agree (strongly agree, 29% and somewhat agree, 22%) that, if they were unable to drive, it would be difficult for them to live in their current neighborhood.

About seven in ten members (68%) say they would be at least somewhat likely to move to a new neighborhood with better public transportation, if they could no longer drive.

When asked what could be done to make it easier for them to remain in their current neighborhood, half of survey respondents report that more driving alternatives and more delivery services would make it easier for them.

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\(^1\) See methodology on page 3 for the health disability status definition.
AARP conducted the Colorado Transportation Survey between October 4 and November 1, 2007. Mail surveys were sent to a randomly selected stratified sample of members. Two thousand members were asked to participate in the statewide sample which excluded the cities of Denver, Fort Collins, Pueblo, and Grand Junction. An additional 1,000 members were randomly selected from each of these four cities.

Each sampled member was contacted about the survey in four ways: a pre-notification postcard, the survey itself, a reminder postcard, and a second survey. Of those surveyed, 3,361 returned completed questionnaires by the survey end date, yielding a response rate of 56 percent. The survey has a sampling error of plus or minus one percent.

Since health and disability affect a driver’s ability to drive safely and are interrelated, a health and disability status (HDS) index has been created to simultaneously capture the variation in each measure. The HDS index draws data from two survey questions: Question 18, “How would you describe your current health?” and Question 19, which assesses the difficulties the members have in twelve key routine activities such as reading, hearing, lifting, climbing stairs, and walking (See Appendix I: Annotated Survey Questionnaire). The health status of a respondent is recorded on a 5-point scale with excellent health rated as 5 and poor health rated as 1. The count of disabilities is used to describe disability status. For example, a respondent who reports no disabilities gets a disability score of 0, while a respondent with six disabilities gets a score of 6. The HDS index rating is then calculated by subtracting the number of disabilities from the health rating. Thus, a respondent who reports that he/she is in excellent health with no disabilities has an HDS score of 5, while a respondent who reports poor health and six disabilities has an HDS score of -5. On the basis of their HDS scores, members are classified into four groups: excellent HDS (a score of 5), good HDS (a score of 3 or 4), fair HDS (a score of 1 or 2), or poor HDS (a score of 0 to -11).

Response rates for the following subgroups are: Statewide, 53%; Denver, 54%; Fort Collins, 58%; Grand Junction, 59%; and Pueblo, 59%. For these subgroups, the sampling errors are: Statewide, ±3.0%, Denver, ±4.2%, and Pueblo, Fort Collins, and Grand Junction, ±4.0%. Throughout the report, statistics representing member responses are reported in percentages. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding. As of January 2008, there are approximately 685,362 AARP members in Colorado.

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2 This Index was created by Edward Evans, AARP Knowledge Management, to account for the influence of both health status and disability on mobility options. This Index was first introduced in Understanding Senior Transportation: Report and Analysis of a Survey of Consumers Age 50+, a 2002 publication of the AARP Public Policy Institute.
Annotated Questionnaire

2007 AARP Colorado Transportation Survey: Statewide

(Weighted N=1,062)

1. How often would you say you get out of your home and go somewhere, for example, shopping, visiting, or exercising, in a typical week? (n=1,062, total respondents.)

   1% Not at all
   12% 1 or 2 times a week
   22% 3 to 5 times a week
   63% More than 5 times a week
   2% Missing / No Answer

2. In general, when you need to get somewhere do you use the following forms of transportation? (n=1,062, total respondents.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Not Sure</th>
<th>Missing / No Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
   a. Drive myself                        93%  2%  0%  5%  |
   b. Get a ride with family or friends    31%  26% <0.5% 43% |
   c. Walk                                32%  24%  1%  43% |
   d. Take taxis                           2%  47% <0.5% 52% |
   e. Take public transportation (buses,  9%  41%  1%  50% |
      commuter rail)
   f. Take community vans for seniors or  2%  46% <0.5% 51% |
      people with disabilities
   g. Use private drivers                  2%  47%  1%  51% |

3. Overall, how satisfied are you with how you get around in your community when you want or need to go someplace? (n=1,062, total respondents.)

   73% Very satisfied
   16% Somewhat satisfied
   4% Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
   3% Somewhat dissatisfied
   2% Very dissatisfied
   1% Missing / No Answer
4. In the past two months, how frequently have you: (n=1,062, total respondents.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Daily</th>
<th>Weekly</th>
<th>Several times</th>
<th>Once or twice</th>
<th>Not at all</th>
<th>Missing / No Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Driven a car</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Gotten a ride with someone</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Used public transportation (buses and commuter rail)</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Walked to someplace</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Taken a taxi</td>
<td>&lt;0.5%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>&lt;0.5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Used a community van for seniors or people with disabilities</td>
<td>&lt;0.5%</td>
<td>&lt;0.5%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Used a private driver</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>&lt;0.5%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. How often do you have problems finding transportation to each of the following destinations? (IF YOU DO NOT GO TO THAT DESTINATION, CHECK THE “DO NOT GO” BOX) (n=1,062)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Very often</th>
<th>Somewhat often</th>
<th>Not very often</th>
<th>Not often at all</th>
<th>Do not go</th>
<th>Missing / No Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Medical appointments</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Activities with family</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Activities with friends</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Your place of worship</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Grocery shopping</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Drug store or pharmacy</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Shopping for clothes or household items</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. (continued) How often do you have problems finding transportation to each of the following destinations? *(IF YOU DO NOT GO TO THAT DESTINATION, CHECK THE “DO NOT GO” BOX.)* (n=1,062, total respondents.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very often</th>
<th>Somewhat often</th>
<th>Not very often</th>
<th>Not often at all</th>
<th>Do not go</th>
<th>Missing / No Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>h. Entertainment</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Volunteer activities</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j. Work</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>&lt;0.5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. To the best of your knowledge, is there public transportation available in your community such as public buses, commuter trains, and community vans for seniors or people with disabilities, not including taxi cabs? (n=1,062, total respondents.)

78% Yes  
12% No ► GO TO QUESTION 10  
8% Not sure ► GO TO QUESTION 10  
3% Missing / No Answer

7. How close is the nearest public transportation stop from your home? (n=825, respondents with public transportation in area.)

46% Less than ¼ mile  
17% At least ¼ mile but less than ½ mile  
6% At least ½ mile but less than ¾ mile  
3% At least ¾ mile but less than 1 mile  
15% One mile or more  
11% Not sure  
2% Missing / No Answer

8. In the last two months, how often have you used public transportation in your community, such as buses, commuter trains, or community vans for seniors and people with disabilities, not including taxi cabs? (n=825, respondents with public transportation in area.)

1% Every day  
2% Several times a week  
1% About once a week  
4% Once or twice a month  
8% Less than once a month  
83% Not at all ► GO TO QUESTION 11  
2% Missing / No Answer
9. What do you like MOST about using public transportation in your community? (CHECK ONLY ONE.) (n=130, respondents who have used public transportation in past 2 months.)

11% It is affordable
19% It gets me where I want to go
0% I enjoy seeing other people
11% It is convenient
 7% I do not have to pay for gas
15% I do not have to drive
 7% I do not have a car so it provides me with a way to go places
11% Some other reason (Please Specify): _______________
20% Missing / No Answer

10. The following is a list of some difficulties people may have when using public transportation. Thinking about your experience with public transportation, how much of a problem is each of these for you. (n=1,062, respondents who have used public transportation in past 2 months.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Difficulty</th>
<th>Major problem ▼</th>
<th>Minor problem ▼</th>
<th>Not a problem ▼</th>
<th>Missing / No Answer ▼</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty boarding                                                       4%                6%                60%               30%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being able to get a seat                                                  4%                14%               51%                32%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being worried about crime                                                 3%                18%               46%                33%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The cost of public transportation                                        6%                16%               45%                34%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a place to sit while waiting                                       6%                17%               45%                33%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Going where I need to go                                                  14%               17%               36%                32%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adequate shelter from the weather while waiting                           11%               26%               30%                33%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting information about fares, routes, and schedules                    7%                18%               42%                34%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inconvenient schedules, such as, no weekend or evening services           10%               20%               36%                34%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The condition of public transportation stations and vehicles               3%                17%               46%                34%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The time it takes to use public transportation, for example, numerous stops, transferring, and speed 11% 26% 30% 34%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty getting to the stop, such as, distance, no or poor sidewalks, or highways to cross 10% 17% 39% 34%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
11. Do you drive? (n=1,062, total respondents.)

- 90% Yes
- 4% No
- 6% Missing / No Answer

12. Please rate your level of agreement with the following statement: If I were not able to drive, it would be difficult for me to continue to live in my current neighborhood. (n=1,062, total respondents.)

- 29% Strongly agree
- 22% Somewhat agree
- 16% Neither agree nor disagree
- 14% Somewhat disagree
- 18% Strongly disagree
- 3% Missing / No Answer

13. If you were unable to drive yourself, would you use the following kind(s) of transportation to get you to the places you need and want to go? (FOR EACH TYPE, PLEASE CHECK YES IF YOU WOULD USE IT, NO IF YOU WOULD NOT USE IT, OR NOT AVAILABLE IF YOU DON’T HAVE THIS KIND OF TRANSPORTATION IN YOUR AREA.) (n=1,062, total respondents.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kind of Transportation</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Not Available</th>
<th>Missing / No Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Walk</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Public transportation</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Taxi</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Senior or Community Van</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Transportation for those with disabilities</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Ride with family or friends</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

14. Thinking about the friend or family member who would be MOST likely to take you where you need to go, how far away from you do they live? (CHECK ONLY ONE.) (n=1,062, total respondents.)

- 24% Within walking distance
- 22% 10 minutes away or less
- 32% 11-30 minutes away
- 10% Over 30 minutes but less than 60 minutes away
- 2% More than 60 minutes away but within driving distance
- 2% More than 60 minutes away but not within driving distance
- 2% Would not ride with family or friends
- 6% Missing / No Answer
15. If you could no longer get around as you currently do, what would make it easier for you to stay in your current neighborhood? *(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)* (n=1,062, total respondents.)

- 39% Improved access to public transportation
- 18% Improved road and sidewalk conditions for pedestrians
- 46% More delivery services for groceries, prescriptions, and other daily necessities
- 49% More driving alternatives, such as community vans, volunteer drivers, carpooling
- 10% Other (please specify):_______________________
- 11% Missing / No Answer

16. If you were no longer able to live in your current neighborhood, how likely would you be to move to a new neighborhood with better public transportation? (n=1,062, total respondents.)

- 21% Extremely likely
- 28% Very likely
- 20% Somewhat likely
- 14% Not very likely
- 14% Not at all likely
- 4% Missing / No Answer

17. If you were no longer able to live in your current neighborhood, what type of transit would be most desirable to you in choosing a new neighborhood? *(CHECK ONLY ONE.)* (n=1,062, total respondents.)

- 33% Buses
- 10% Commuter train
- 38% Community vans for seniors or people with disabilities
- 5% Taxicabs
- 15% Missing / No Answer

18. How would you describe your current health? (n=1,062, total respondents.)

- 34% Excellent
- 34% Very Good
- 20% Good
- 9% Fair
- 2% Poor
- 2% Missing / No Answer
19. Do you have difficulty with any of the following: (n=1,062, total respondents.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Missing / No Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Going out alone, for instance to shop or visit a doctor’s office</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Dressing, bathing, or getting around inside your home</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Seeing the words and letters in an ordinary newspaper even when wearing glasses</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Hearing what is said in a normal conversation when using a hearing aid if one is used</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Lifting or carrying something as heavy as ten pounds, like a bag full of groceries</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Climbing a flight of stairs without resting</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Walking a quarter mile (about three city blocks)</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Having speech understood by others</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Using the telephone</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j. Reading the names of streets on street signs</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k. Working at a job or business</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

20. Does any disability, handicap, or chronic disease keep you from participating fully in work, school, housework, or other activities? (n=1,062, total respondents.)

18% Yes
79% No ▶ GO TO QUESTION 23
3% Missing / No Answer

21. In general, how severe would you say these health difficulties or disabilities are? (n=192, respondents with a disability, handicap, chronic disease.)

12% Very severe
49% Somewhat severe
25% Not very severe
5% Not at all severe
4% Not Sure
5% Missing / No Answer

22. Approximately when did these health difficulties or disabilities begin? (n=192, respondents with a disability, handicap, chronic disease.)

2% At birth
2% Ages 0-19 years old
6% Ages 20-39 years old
12% Ages 40-49 years old
26% Ages 50-64 years old
25% Ages 65-74 years old
16% Ages 75 or older
2% Not Sure
10% Missing / No Answer
23. Do you use any of the following aids to get around? (n=1,062, total respondents.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Missing / No Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. A cane, crutch, or walker ..........</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. An electric scooter ..................</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. A wheelchair...........................</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

24. Are you male or female? (n=1,062, total respondents.)

- 45% Male
- 52% Female
- 3% Missing / No Answer

25. What is your age as of your last birthday? ________ years (n=1,062, total respondents.)

- 33% 50 – 59
- 31% 60 – 69
- 33% 70 or older
- 4% Missing / No Answer

26. What is the highest level of education that you completed? (n=1,062, total respondents.)

- 6% 0-12th grade (no diploma)
- 21% High school graduate (or equivalent)
- 16% Post-high school education (no degree)
- 10% 2-year college degree
- 17% 4-year college degree
- 6% Post-graduate study (no degree)
- 18% Graduate or professional degree(s)
- 6% Missing / No Answer

27. What is your current employment status? (n=1,062, total respondents.)

- 6% Self-employed, part-time
- 7% Self-employed, full-time
- 10% Employed, part-time
- 26% Employed, full-time
- 45% Retired, not working at all
- 2% Not in labor force for other reasons
- 1% Unemployed but looking for work
- 3% Missing / No Answer

28. What is your current marital status? (n=1,062, total respondents.)

- 57% Married
- 2% Not married, living with partner
- 1% Separated
- 16% Divorced
- 17% Widowed
- 4% Never married
- 3% Missing / No Answer
29. Do you live in a city, suburban area, small town or a rural area in the country? (n=1,062,)
   35% City
   32% Suburban area
   18% Small town
   13% Rural area in the country
   3% Missing / No Answer

30. Do you have a current driver’s license? (n=1,062, total respondents.)
   95% Yes
   2% No
   0% Not sure
   2% Missing / No Answer

31. Are you of Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino origin or descent? (n=1,062, total respondents.)
   6% Yes
   91% No
   1% Not sure
   3% Missing / No Answer

32. What is your race? (n=1,062, total respondents.)
   91% White-Caucasian
   2% Black or African American
   <0.5% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
   1% Asian
   1% American Indian or Alaska Native
   2% Other
   3% Missing / No Answer

33. What is your 5-digit Zip Code? (WRITE IN YOUR ZIP CODE.) __ __ __ __ __

34. What was your annual household income before taxes in 2006? (n=1,062,)
   4% Less than $10,000
   11% $10,000 to less than $20,000
   16% $20,000 to less than $35,000
   14% $35,000 to less than $50,000
   8% $50,000 to less than $60,000
   9% $60,000 to less than $75,000
   25% $75,000 or more
   4% Not sure
   9% Missing / No Answer

Thank you for completing this survey. Please use the postage-paid envelope and return it to State Member Research, AARP, 601 E Street NW, Washington, DC 20049 by November 1, 2007.
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