

Assisted Mobility Vehicles

As Japan enters into a period of a super-aging society, government policy is shifting towards home-based medical treatment and nursing care. As a result, there is growing need for assisted mobility that is easy to use at home. Toyota named its assisted mobility vehicles Welcab with the hope of contributing to the happy lives of customers. Our goal is to make vehicles that are comfortable and safe as well as simple and easy-to-use, and that gives people with disabilities and the elderly the freedom of mobility and furthermore accommodates the needs and wants of caregivers.

Organization and Structure

We plan and develop Welcab vehicles based on five development perspectives—ease of getting in and out of the vehicle, comfortable and smooth ride, ease of operation for drivers and caregivers, ease of communication inside the vehicle, and reasonable pricing—while pursuing market needs.

Customers can experience Welcab vehicles firsthand at Welcab stations established at dealers and Heartful Plazas, which are general Welcab exhibit sites, and Welcab consultants are on site to help customers choose the most appropriate vehicle. As of May 2018, there were 250 Welcab Stations and 10 Heartful Plazas in Japan.

250 Welcab Stations in Japan

10 Heartful Plazas in Japan



Heartful Plaza

Exploring Ways to Make Assisted Mobility Vehicles into Ordinary Vehicles—Bringing User-friendly Functions Closer

In numerous instances, we received customer feedback indicating that customers considered buying a Welcab but chose not to do so because of the high price, because there was no longer any need, or because the customer did not know how long such a vehicle would be necessary. To address these customer concerns, Toyota is exploring ways to make assisted mobility vehicles into ordinary vehicles in terms of both function and cost.

In FY2018, we launched new models equipped with a new Side Lift-up Tilt Seat vehicle that includes a tilting feature that uses motors to rotate and tilt the second seat forward, helping the passenger get in and out of the vehicle smoothly. Since the Side Lift-up Tilt Seat protrudes minimally outside the vehicle, the passenger can get in and out of the vehicle even when parked in an ordinary parking spot or adjacent to another vehicle.

Furthermore, the size of the footrest is increased, allowing for a more gradual knee angle when getting in and out of the vehicle or when sitting inside the cabin, thereby reducing knee strain.

These Welcab features were newly added to the Voxy, Noah, Esquire, Alphard, and Vellfire.

As of May 2018, the Welcab product line included 43 models in 23 vehicle series.

We also offer “Sapotoyo+” (Support Toyota Program goods) such as a product that helps passengers maintain a comfortable posture when getting in and out of the vehicle or while seated in the vehicle, to encourage people with physical disabilities to go out more.

The Welcab product line included **43** models in **23** vehicle series



Side Lift-up Tilt Seat vehicle (Voxy)



Side Lift-up Tilt Seat vehicle (Alphard)

New Wheelchair-adapted Models That Make it Easier to Get in and Out of the Vehicle Were Launched with the Goal of Reducing the Burden on Caregivers

To address the issue of increasing number of families in which seniors are taking care of seniors, Toyota added Type III to its wheelchair-adapted models (with a Rear Slope type) with the goal of reducing the burden on caregivers.

Type III comes standard with the Welchair, a Toyota-developed original motorized wheelchair. Combining this with the one-touch anchor enables the user to quickly secure or release the wheelchair from an unstrained posture. Moreover, Type III eliminates the need for actions such as going to get the safety belt or squatting inside the cabin, significantly reducing the burden on the caregiver.

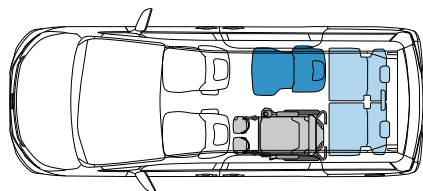
This Welcab feature was newly added to the Voxy, Noah, and Esquire.



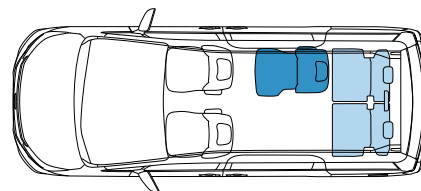
Motorized assist function

One-touch anchor

Motorized Welchair Second seat Third seat



Vehicle occupant capacity when a wheelchair is used: Seven, including one in the wheelchair



Vehicle occupant capacity when no wheelchair is used: Six

Equipped with the motorized Welchair and the securing device

Weljoin a Large-capacity Microbus for Helping Solve Public Transportation Issues in Japan

In Japan where the population is aging, many route buses are being eliminated especially in local cities, robbing ordinary citizens of their freedom of movement. Especially hard hit are the elderly who are losing their means for going to medical clinics or shopping.

Therefore, Toyota focused on the community buses being driven by local volunteers, and developed the Weljoin in order to help popularize these buses.

For these community buses, vehicles with three rows of seats, such as the Noah, are normally used. Consequently, when a passenger needs to get in or out of the third-row seat, the driver must help the passenger by moving the second-row seat. This means, on rainy days, the driver gets wet when helping the passenger get in or out of the vehicle. This kind of burden has made it difficult to secure enough volunteer drivers, putting the community bus system in jeopardy.

In the Weljoin, by removing one of the second-row seats and installing a handrail near the door, we made it possible for passengers to get in and out of the vehicle without assistance, thereby reducing the burden on the driver.

Toyota's assisted mobility vehicles, which were started based on the concept of "providing freedom of moving in comfort to all people," are facing a new phase. In the future, we are planning to help establish social systems, such as community buses, in which volunteers play an active role.

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Weljoin (Noah)



Inside the cabin of the Weljoin