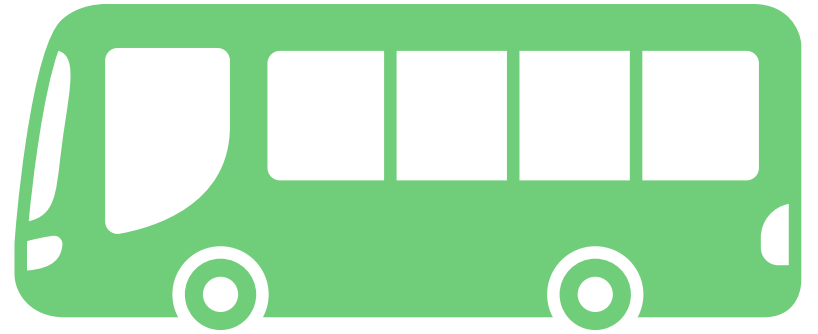


PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

What is Public Transportation?

Public transportation refers to vehicles that provide general or special services to the public on a regular or continuing bases. This includes:

- Buses
- Ferries
- Subways and trams
- Light-rail and commuter-rail trains
- Taxis and ridesharing
- **Paratransit**



What is Paratransit?



Paratransit refers to public transportation that is intended to provide services to people with disabilities.

Before utilizing its services, **you MUST be found eligible** by a regulatory body including an inability to use fixed route services for parts of or all of the trip.

Why is Public Transport Important?

Often, people with disabilities don't possess private vehicles, thus public transport is **essential for them to access education, employment, health, recreation, and social activities.**

The inclusion of people with disabilities in the community **cannot be achieved until** public transportation is fully accessible.

Research shows that **70% of people with disabilities** who rely on public transport have reduced their daily travel.

Problems with public transportation:

- Not meeting individual needs (e.g. audio stop announcement)
- Lack of accessible route to the transit stop
- Safety concerns
- Inappropriate driver attitude
- Lack of information
- Increased travel time, cost, and distance
- Specific to paratransit: problems with scheduling, long wait times, and narrow user eligibility



These barriers are **largely influenced by policies that establish accessibility and service requirements** of public transportation infrastructure.

References

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2. Bezyak, J. L., Sabella, S. A., & Gattis, R. H. (2017). Public transportation: An investigation of barriers for people with disabilities. *Journal of Disability Policy Studies*, 28(1), 52-60. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1044207317702070>