



# Gearing Up For Your Transitions

## How to Ride a Bus in Delaware or Another State

There are a variety of transportation services available to Delawareans. Dart provides transportation state-wide with 57 fixed bus routes, as well as train services from Wilmington to Philadelphia.

Individuals with physical limitations may require and qualify for specialized transportation options such as Paratransit or Senior Citizens Affordable Taxi (SCAT). SCAT provides a 50% fare reduction when using the services of taxi vendors recognized by DART. This service is available to not only senior citizens, but to persons with disabilities as well. To find out if you qualify and to get additional information, visit the websites of each of these services using the links below.

<https://www.dartfirststate.com/>

[http://www.dartfirststate.com/services/para\\_services.shtml](http://www.dartfirststate.com/services/para_services.shtml) (Paratransit information)

<http://www.dartfirststate.com/information/programs/scat/> (Senior Citizens Affordable Taxi-SCAT)

### **For Delaware DART Paratransit and SCAT**

In Delaware Paratransit riders will need to fill out an application to see if they qualify for door to door service and what the rate will be. *Currently DART is in the process of making some changes, you will need to contact DART for the most accurate and up to date information.*

If you use a wheelchair, make sure there is transportation in the state or city or town you live in. Visit Delaware's Department of Transportation website (DART) to find out what services are available in state.

Different states offer different services. Find out if there are discounts for individuals with disabilities for taking mass transportation and what the rules are.

You should know the cost of the bus before you get on. You will need to have correct change or use a DART Card. In some cities they have a card that is called a metro card. You will need to find out how you purchase the cards. Some cities offer the cards for purchase at bus stops or other locations. In Delaware, go to [Delaware Paratransit](#) for more information.

Before you ride, know the route that you are going to take to get from one point to another. It is important to know the names of the stop(s) where you are getting on and off. You will need to let the driver know where you are getting off when you get on the bus. If you need assistance getting on the bus, the driver will want to know where you are getting off in order to be able to stop the bus at a curb cut.

On the “bus time schedule” you find out what time the bus or buses stop and where they stop. If you have to make a transfer or connection to another bus, knowing the time the other bus arrives and planning accordingly can save you from waiting extended periods of time for another bus to arrive. Proper planning will help you get to your appointment or workplace on time.

Once you get closer to your final destination remind the driver where you want to get off. Sometimes this can be done by pressing a strip or yelling out, or asking someone to let the driver know you are nearing your stop and that you need assistance getting off.

Make sure you stand at the correct bus stop and the driver knows you are waiting for that bus route. Many times more than one bus stops at a single bus stop. Be careful to get the correct bus.

If you are the one passenger waiting for the bus and driver goes by you without stopping and ignores you over non-disabled passengers, make sure to get the bus number down so you can call and complain. The drivers will be told they did something wrong. Remember the office managers cannot do anything to correct a problem if they do not know or hear about it.

In some states passengers in wheelchairs are given a key to unlock the lift ramp. This is not true in Delaware. However, if you live or travel to another state that does offer this service; you will need to contact the city transportation company to ask about that service. It should not cost you anything.

If you have not ridden mass-transportation before, ask a friend for advice on which routes to take to and from your destination.

Practice, Practice, Practice! You might want to practice with a friend or relative before you ride the bus then do it yourself. Practice paying the fee yourself and telling the driver where you will need to get off. Practice letting the driver know that you need assistance getting on and off the bus. Practicing will help you feel more comfortable.

Weather is another thing to think about when riding the bus. Rainy days or icy winter days can make travel uncomfortable. You may want to stay home until the weather changes.

A great resource for those traveling who need to utilize public transportation is: <http://www.publictransportation.org/systems?Defalut.asp> this site lists public transportation options in the U.S. When traveling you can look on the internet to get information on a particular cities public transportation or use a phone book to get information.