



BeST Transit's ADA Paratransit Program

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Background:

The Americans with Disability Act of 1990 specifies that all transit authorities who offer Fixed Route services must make available Paratransit service to those individuals who cannot use the Fixed Route bus based on disability.

ADA Regulations strictly limit the use of ADA Paratransit Service to the following individuals: Any individual with a disability who is unable, as a result of a physical or mental impairment & without the assistance of another individual (except the operator of a wheelchair lift or other boarding device) to board, ride or disembark from any vehicle on the system which is readily accessible to and usable for individuals with disabilities. OR Any individual with a disability who has a specific impairment-related condition which prevents such individual from traveling to a boarding location or from a disembarking location on the Fixed Route system.

To become qualified for ADA Paratransit Service you must complete an application (attached to this brochure) and submit the application to BEST TRANSIT for review. BEST TRANSIT will make a determination regarding your status for the ADA Paratransit Service. You will either be granted permanent status until age 65, yearly recertification status and temporary status or denied ADA Paratransit Service.

Federal Guidelines for ADA Paratransit Service:

1. Once approved for ADA Paratransit Service, you can utilize the service at any time that the fixed route bus operates.
2. ADA Paratransit approved riders are permitted to have a personal care attendant (PCA) ride for free so long as the PCA boards and disembarks the bus with the rider. A note from a physician stating a PCA is medically necessary to accompany a passenger may be needed.
3. ADA Paratransit approved riders are permitted to have 1 guest ride with them. The guest must pay the ADA fare. PCA's are not considered guests.
4. ADA Paratransit approved riders can have more than one guest ride with them so long as there are available seats on the bus. BEST TRANSIT is not required to make accommodations for more than 1 PCA and 1 guest.

FAQ regarding BEST TRANSIT's ADA Paratransit program

Q. Who is eligible for ADA Paratransit service?

A. Any person under the age of 65 that lives or travels within $\frac{3}{4}$ of one mile of the boundaries of the BEST TRANSIT Fixed Route network and cannot use the Fixed Route due to a physical or mental disability.

Q. How much does it cost to ride the ADA Paratransit Service?

A. A. Federal law allows BEST Transit to charge twice the fixed route fare for persons who use the ADA Paratransit Service. The current one-way fare for an ADA trip is double the normal zoned fare. Persons need to call during normal business hours a minimum of one day before to schedule a Paratransit trip. In the event an ADA Paratransit trip is requested for a day following a weekend, observed holiday or other day in which the BeST offices are closed, the rider must leave a voicemail in the general mailbox indicating the desired trip time and destination. BeST will then contact the rider to confirm the trip request on the next business day. All fares must be paid at time of boarding

Q. Where can I go on the ADA Paratransit Service?

A. Once approved for ADA Paratransit Service, you can travel to any destination along the BEST TRANSIT fixed route. BEST TRANSIT cannot limit your usage of ADA Paratransit Service once you are approved.

Q. What if I need to go somewhere that the BEST TRANSIT fixed route bus does not go?

A. Then you cannot use ADA Paratransit Service for that trip. You must either pay full fare or utilize the PWD program under the BeST TRANSIT guidelines.

Q. If I am determined to be ADA Paratransit eligible and I want to ride the fixed route bus instead, how much does it cost to ride the fixed route bus?

A. BEST TRANSIT encourages **EVERYONE** to ride the fixed route bus. If you are determined to be ADA Paratransit eligible, you also qualify to ride the fixed route bus for a discounted rate. A one-way trip for ADA Paratransit eligible riders on the fixed route is only half-price of regular fare. In order to utilize the fixed route at a discount, you must show your ADA card to the bus driver (bus drivers do not carry change). This discount does not apply to guests. Guests must pay full fixed route fare for the zone of travel.

Q. How do I schedule an ADA Paratransit trip?

A. You must schedule your trip during normal business hours which are Monday – Friday between 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM. BEST TRANSIT cannot accept same day reservations. ADA law allows BEST TRANSIT to negotiate trip pick up and drop off times, but all trips must be provided within one hour of the initially requested time.

Q. Is there a penalty for not showing up or canceling my scheduled trip?

A. YES. You must call BEST Transit within two hours of your scheduled pick up time to cancel your trip. Failure to do so may result in your trip being labeled as a "No-Show". Should a pattern of repeat no-shows be established within a time period of 90 days, BeST reserves the right to temporarily suspend riding privileges. BEST Transit will issue you a letter after the first, second and third no-show and provide written documentation regarding future no shows and/or a potential temporary suspension of service. All ADA riders will have an opportunity to appeal a temporary suspension by providing written documentation to BeST.

What is the process for determining if I am ADA Paratransit eligible?

All information about ADA Paratransit Service is available in accessible formats including large print upon request.

- 1.** You must complete the attached ADA Paratransit.
- 2.** After BEST TRANSIT receives your completed application for ADA Paratransit Service, you are entitled to a decision from BEST TRANSIT within 21 days. Should you not receive a decision within 21 days, you can request and use ADA Paratransit Service until a decision is made.
- 3.** BEST TRANSIT will review your application and submit a decision to you in writing regarding your ADA Paratransit status.
- 4.** BEST TRANSIT may require recertification of the eligibility of ADA Paratransit eligible individuals at reasonable intervals.
- 5.** BEST TRANSIT has an administrative appeal process through which individuals that are denied eligibility can obtain review of the denial. That process is this: All appeals must be submitted to BEST TRANSIT in writing within 60 days of notice of decision. BEST TRANSIT may request a face to face meeting and/or forward the appeal to the BEST TRANSIT Board of Directors for consideration.

BEST TRANSIT ADA Paratransit Application

The information in this application shall be used strictly by BEST TRANSIT in determining the eligibility of ADA Paratransit Service. This information may be shared with your primary care physician to verify accuracy.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Emergency Contact Name and Phone: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Please describe 1. The disability that restricts you from using the fixed route bus and 2. How this disability restricts you from riding the fixed route bus.

Is this condition temporary? ____ YES ____ NO

If yes, what is the expected duration of this condition? _____

Do you know that BEST TRANSIT fixed route buses are fully ADA compliant with wheelchair securement areas, preferential seating for the disabled?

Yes No

Can you ride the regular fixed route bus on certain occasions?

Yes No Sometimes

If yes or sometimes, please specify when you can ride the fixed route bus:

Have you ridden the BEST TRANSIT fixed route bus within the last 4 weeks?

Yes No

Can you wait at a bus stop for up to 10 minutes at a time?

Yes No Sometimes

If yes or sometimes, please specify when you can stand at a bus stop:

When traveling, do you require the assistance of any of the following (check all that apply.)

- Personal Care Attendant
- Manual or Electric Wheelchair
- Power Scooter
- Cane

- Service Animal
- Crutches
- Other

Can you travel, unassisted: (Check all that apply)

- 200 feet 6 blocks or about 1/2 a mile?
- 3 blocks or about 1/4 a mile? 9 blocks or about 3/4 a mile?

Please list the name and phone number of your primary care physician OR the physician that can verify the information you have provided in this application.

Physician's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

By signing this form, you understand that you are giving BEST TRANSIT and the independent physician group the ability to contact your primary care physician to verify any and all information on this application. You also understand that submission of an application does not guarantee ADA Paratransit eligibility. Any application that is not completed in full will be returned to the applicant.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature: _____

If another person is completing this application on behalf of the individual requesting ADA Paratransit service, please provide:

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Signature: _____