



Lake Transit Authority

ADA Program

Eligibility Criteria and Service Policies

ADA Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for ADA paratransit service a person must be unable to ride accessible fixed route transit under one or more of the following criteria:

- Persons unable to board, ride, or disembark from accessible fixed route bus service due to physical, developmental, or vision impairment.
- Persons unable to travel 3/4 (three-fourths) mile, from home/destination to the nearest bus stop. Conditional eligibility will be provided to persons unable to access fixed route due to terrain or road conditions.
- Persons unable to grasp coins, tickets or stand on a bus.
- Persons unable to wait up to 15 minutes for a bus.
- Persons unable to understand and follow transit directions.
- Persons possessing a valid ADA identification card from another area.

Additionally, conditional eligibility will be provided to people who are unable due to an impairment related condition to access fixed route due to terrain or road conditions.

Eligibility criteria for ADA services is intentionally restrictive. Fear of transit or inconvenience are not, in and of themselves, criteria for ADA eligibility.

Conditional Eligibility

Applicants meeting one or more of the above criteria would be eligible for ADA paratransit service. Because eligibility depends on a functional definition of disability as it applies to actual trips, applicants may only be eligible for ADA paratransit for specific trips. Such applicants are conditionally eligible for ADA paratransit service. When considering eligibility for specific trips, there are three service categories of ADA eligibility. These are summarized as follows:

Category 1: Individual's inability to use system

Any individual with a disability who is unable to use the system due to a physical or developmental impairment. For example, an individual would be eligible under this category if he/she is unable to:

- wait, either standing or seated, more than 15 minutes
- get on or off a lift equipped vehicle without assistance from another individual (except the operator of the lift)
- grasp handles or railings, coins or tickets
- maintain balance while seated on a moving vehicle
- identify the correct bus or stop
- understand transit directions needed to complete the trip

Category 2: Inaccessibility of the system

Any individual who can use an accessible system, but can not do so when a portion of the system is not fully accessible. For example, the system is not considered fully accessible when:

- a lift cannot be deployed at the boarding or disembarking location the individual wishes to use
- a "common" wheelchair cannot be accommodated on the vehicle

Category 3: Individual's inability to get to the system

Any individual with a disability who has a condition which prevents them from traveling to a boarding location or from a disembarking location on an accessible transit system. An individual would be eligible for this category under the following circumstances:

- the individual's mobility impairment prevents traversing the terrain necessary to access the desired fixed-route service

- weather conditions interact with an impairment-related condition to prevent travel
- variations in the health/functional ability of the individual prevent travel
- individual's mobility impairment prevents travel beyond a certain distance, and the particular stop is beyond that threshold
- visual cognitive, or developmental impairment prevents travel to or from a stop for exceptional (non-routine) trips

A condition which makes travel to a boarding location or from a disembarking location more difficult for a person with a specific impairment related condition, but does not prevent the travel, is not a basis for eligibility under this category.

Personal Care Attendants

All ADA certified riders will be able to travel with a personal care attendant ("mobility aide") if required for mobility, free of charge. This information will be requested during the certification process and will be included on the ADA identification card. To ride without charge, a personal care attendant shall have the same origin and destination as the ADA certified rider.

Companions

In addition to a personal care attendant (if applicable), one companion, or more if space is available, may accompany the ADA certified rider and pay the same fare as the ADA rider. To be considered as companions the accompanying individuals must have the same origin and destination as the ADA certified rider.

Visitors

Lake Transit Authority paratransit services will be provided for up to 21 days per revolving year to anyone who presents an identification card stating their ADA eligibility from another area. Visitors requesting service for a longer period of time will be required to comply with the Lake Transit Authority eligibility certification process.