



PART PARATRANSIT

=====

WHAT IS PARATRANSIT?

PART Paratransit is a curb-to-curb transportation system for those Putnam residents who are unable to use the PART public transportation due to a physical or mental disability. PART Paratransit operates two specially modified vans to transport riders with a range of disabilities, including those who use wheelchairs.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO USE PARATRANSIT?

A person may be eligible to use PART Paratransit under the following guidelines:

- Service shall be provided to those persons within 3/4-mile of a PART fixed-route and have a destination that is within 3/4-mile of a PART fixed-route.
- Service is complementary to the PART fixed-route. It is for persons with physical or mental disabilities who are unable to use accessible fixed-route transit service or for wheelchair persons on days when only a non-accessible bus is operating on the fixed-route.
- Service is provided only after a certification process, which includes certification by a medical doctor, psychiatrist, ophthalmologist or optometrist affirming that an individual is unable to ride on public transportation due to a disability.
- Age by itself does not entitle a person to use Paratransit.
- Disabled visitors who reside in a location outside of Putnam County and have been ADA Certified by the jurisdiction in which they reside are eligible for 21 days of service over a one-year period beginning on the day service was first rendered. After this time, they must be certified by Putnam County.
- Disabled visitors who have no documentation and reside in a location outside of Putnam County are presumed eligible for paratransit service for 21 days over a one-year period beginning on the day service was first rendered. After this time, they must be certified by Putnam County.

WHEN DOES PARATRANSIT OPERATE?

Paratransit operates at the same time and the same days as the PART fixed-route transit service. If the PART fixed-route service is operating on snow routes, then Paratransit service will be comparable to the snow route service.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO RIDE ON PARATRANSIT?

A Paratransit one-way trip currently costs \$2.00. A trip begins when a person gets on the bus and ends when a person gets off the bus.

MAY A RIDER TAKE A COMPANION ON PARATRANSIT?

A Paratransit rider may be accompanied by one personal care attendant and/or one personal companion. A personal care attendant is considered a person traveling as an aide to facilitate the travel of a person with a disability. A personal care attendant will not be charged a fare. A companion means a person other than an attendant who may be traveling with a disabled person. A companion will pay the same fare as the person with the disability. Additional

companions may be allowed if space is available. All personal companions and attendants must have the same origin and destination points. Service animals are also allowed at no charge.

HOW MUCH ASSISTANCE CAN THE DRIVERS OFFER RIDERS?

Because Paratransit is a curb-to-curb service, riders must be able to meet the van at the curb outside their homes. Drivers cannot go into riders' homes or carry riders or wheelchairs up or down stairs. Paratransit drivers do help riders board the van; they lock down wheelchairs and secure all seat belts. At the riders' destination, the driver will help the rider off the van.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER RESTRICTIONS?

All passengers in wheelchairs that are transported on a Paratransit vehicle must have the wheelchair secured in the provided securement devices in the designated locations on the vehicle. In no case will a wheelchair passenger be allowed to ride in the aisle.

The operator reserves the right to negotiate trip scheduling within one hour of the requested time. Paratransit is not a taxi or limousine service, your trip may be combined with one or more other trip requests.

A maximum of 50% of the system capacity can be dedicated any time of the day to subscription service.

Paratransit may be used as a feeder bus to the regular fixed-route bus.

If an individual exhibits a greater than 50% "no show" pattern based on 10 consecutive trip requests, the person shall be put on a six-month suspension from Paratransit service.

A person whose behavior threatens or has threatened the safety of Paratransit personnel or other passengers, may be denied service or have service suspended.

HOW DOES ONE APPLY TO USE PARATRANSIT?

Call any one of the following numbers and ask for an application:

(845) 878-3480; (845) 878-7433; TDD (845) 878-4039

Or, Write to:

Putnam County, Division of Planning & Development
841 Fair Street
Carmel, NY 10512

A completed application will take no longer than 21 days to process from the date it is received by the Putnam County Division of Planning and Development.

HOW DO YOU ARRANGE FOR A PARATRANSIT TRIP?

Once you are certified and receive your ID card, you simply call (845) 878-7433; TDD (845) 878-4039 during the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the day preceding desired service.

When you make the call, simply say you are calling to schedule a Paratransit trip. You will be asked your name; address; card ID number; when you want to leave and return; your destination; if you have special needs; and a phone number where you can be reached.

If you find it necessary to cancel your trip, please call with the cancellation.