

Riding SamTrans if You Have a Disability

If you have a disability, public transportation can be your ticket to increased independence – whether you want to go to work, school, shopping or catch the latest movie.

With 70-plus routes throughout San Mateo County and into Palo Alto and San Francisco, SamTrans can get you there.

Travel Training

SamTrans offers one-on-one travel training, free of charge, to teach people with disabilities how to ride the bus.

Working with skilled instructors, participants learn where to wait, how to get on the right bus, how to pay the fare, where to sit, how to get off at the right stop, how to make connections and how to get help if they have trouble during the trip.

Candidates for travel training include those who use a wheelchair or walker, who are blind or visually impaired or people with developmental disabilities. People with developmental disabilities may need further assessment by a travel-training instructor who can develop an individual program that's presented in stages at a pace determined by the participant.

For more information, call SamTrans at 650-508-6202 (TTY 650-508-6448).

Bus Stops

Many SamTrans bus stops already meet regulations established by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Newer bus stops are ADA accessible. Bus lifts and ramps can be deployed at many stops that do not meet full regulations.

Discounted Fares

Persons with disabilities may ride all Bay Area public transit systems at a discount if they hold a Regional Transit Connection Discount Card, Medicare card or Department of Motor Vehicles Disabled Placard Identification Card.

To request an RTC Discount Card application, call SamTrans Customer Service at 1-800-660-4287 (TTY 650-508-6448) or visit www.samtrans.com/disability.

Boarding - Lifts and Ramps

All SamTrans buses are equipped with lifts or ramps that can be used by people who use mobility devices or cannot climb steps.

Each bus also has a kneeling feature that lowers the front end so the first step is easier to reach. If you have difficulty boarding the bus, ask the operator to lower the front end or deploy the lift or ramp.

Seating and Securement Area

The side-facing seats in the front of every bus and the first two forward-facing seats are priority seating for seniors and persons

with disabilities. If you need to use one of these areas and they are occupied, inform the operator, who will help you find a seat. The operator may ask a passenger to move but cannot compel a passenger to vacate his or her seat.

Seats on either side of the bus near the front fold up to allow room for securing mobility devices. Space is available on a first-come, first-served basis. For safety, SamTrans recommends that passengers in three- or four-wheeled scooters transfer to a seat, if possible.

Announcements

All SamTrans buses are equipped with an automated system that makes amplified announcements of major transfer points, intersections and destinations. An electronic message board inside the bus simultaneously displays the same information. External loudspeakers announce the route number and destination of the bus at all bus stops.

Reasonable Modification

SamTrans is committed to making reasonable modifications to its policies, practices and procedures to ensure full access to its service for customers with disabilities. To make a request for a reasonable modification, visit www.samtrans.com/ReasonableModification or call Customer Service at 1-800-660-4287 (TTY 650-508-6448).

Getting Off the Bus

On most buses, there is a bell cord in the wheelchair area that is easy to reach. Some buses also have a touch bar to request a passenger stop.

If you are unable to pull the bell cord or press the touch bar, tell the operator when you get on the bus which stop you need.

Operators will announce any stop on request. When you board, ask the operator to call out your stop and sit in the front of the bus so that the operator can let you know when the bus has reached your stop.

Service Animals

Service animals, such as guide dogs, may accompany persons with disabilities on the bus.

The animal must be under the constant supervision and control of the person with the disability. It must be on a lead that does not interfere with other passengers. While riding, the animal must sit or stand on the vehicle floor without blocking the aisle.

If the animal misbehaves, the customer will be asked to remove the animal from the vehicle. Riding privileges may be revoked for repeated misbehavior.

Using a Mobility Device on SamTrans

SamTrans for People with Disabilities

All SamTrans buses will transport any size wheelchair that can be safely accommodated on the lift and in the bus.

Boarding

Remove poles or flags attached to your mobility device before boarding.

If you need to use the lift or the ramp, the bus operator will ask you to board the bus before any other passengers. When you arrive at your stop, you will de-board after other passengers.

When using a lift while in a wheelchair, it is recommended that you back onto the lift platform. Lock your brakes to prevent rolling while the lift is in operation. Once the device is secure, the operator will raise the lift until it is level with the bus floor.

When using a ramp in a wheelchair, it is recommended that you face forward.

When boarding a lift or ramp with an EPAMD, it is recommended that you face forward.

The first forward-facing and adjacent side-facing seats on either side of the bus fold up to allow room for mobility devices.

Securing a Mobility Device

You must allow the bus operator to secure your mobility device. However, the Americans with Disabilities Act states that if your mobility device cannot be properly secured, you may still ride the bus.

Belts

SamTrans buses are equipped with retractable belts to secure mobility devices, making it easy for bus operators to quickly secure them. All buses also have lap and shoulder belts to secure the passenger.

Two-wheeled Mobility Devices

Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Devices, including Segways, are permitted to board if they are no larger than 20 inches deep, 25 inches wide and 60 inches high. The EPAMD must be "off" at all times during boarding and transport. You may push or pull the EPAMD onto the ramp or lift when boarding or deboarding. The bus operator cannot assist with moving the EPAMD. You may accompany but not ride the EPAMD on the lift, holding the hand rail for support. You may need to lower your head to clear the entrance. In the vehicle, position your EPAMD in one of the two securement positions available for mobility devices. The operator will secure the EPAMD. Sit in the closest available seat.

You may be asked to remove your handlebar bag to facilitate securement of the EPAMD.

EPAMDs with attachments that exceed the above dimensions won't be allowed on the bus.

Back-up Service

SamTrans bus operators are required to test the lift or ramp to make sure it is working properly before starting their route.

If the lift fails to operate when the bus is in service, the bus operator will call the dispatcher to determine when the next bus is scheduled to arrive. If the bus will arrive within 30 minutes and the weather is good and/or there is a bus shelter you can wait in, the operator will ask you to wait for the next bus. Otherwise, the dispatcher will send a paratransit vehicle to transport you.



1-800-660-4287
(TTY) 650-508-6448
www.samtrans.com

San Mateo County Transit District
1250 San Carlos Ave.
San Carlos, CA 94070-1306



Tips
to make
bus
travel easy



PLEASE ALLOW SENIORS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TO USE THESE SEATS WHEN REQUESTED



APRIL 2016