



Community Transportation for Transition-Aged Youth with Disabilities

The transition years offer an opportunity for students to prepare for life after school-based services. While students pursue their dreams of employment, post-secondary education, or other opportunities, they should also prepare for how they will get to these locations after they no longer receive school transportation. Learning how to drive and/or use community transportation options in their communities can be an IEP and transition goal with classroom and community activities, and/or a family activity. Transition specialists can help students learn to use transportation, and can also provide referrals to community-based services such as travel training. Students who learn about transportation and how to self-manage their transportation needs while still in school will be better prepared for success after transition.

Finding Transportation Options

- **PUBLIC TRANSIT.** Find out if a transit authority is available near you and then contact them to learn more: www.mass.gov/info-details/public-transportation-in-massachusetts
- **RIDE MATCH.** Find services near you in this online, searchable database of public and private transportation services in Massachusetts: www.massridematch.org
- **CARPOOL DATABASE.** Sign up to find a carpool buddy. You don't have to have a car or be able to drive to travel as part of a carpool: <https://baystatecommute.com>

Explore more options:

www.mass.gov/im-looking-for-transportation

Learning to Use Community Transportation

- **TOOL FOR EDUCATORS.** This new tool from Easter Seals helps educators support students in using a variety of modes: www.easterseals.com/ma/explore-resources/transportation/transportation-guide.html
- **TRAVEL TRAINING.** Professional service teaching people with disabilities the skills and information they need to ride fixed-route public transit independently and safely: www.mass.gov/service-details/learn-to-ride-transit-with-travel-instruction
- **DRIVING RESOURCES.** www.mass.gov/service-details/driving-resources-in-massachusetts

Creative Examples of Community Transportation Services

Transportation options in many communities – especially rural or suburban areas – can be limited. Human service organizations, transportation providers, and others can partner to coordinate services or implement best practices to help fill gaps. Here are some examples of creative approaches underway in different regions around Massachusetts:

- **CROSSTOWN CONNECT.** Acton and surrounding towns coordinate transportation resources to improve mobility for older adults, as well as for commuters coming from the city to suburban-based jobs
- **QUABAOG CONNECTOR.** Organizations partnered with a municipality in rural Central Massachusetts to launch a new service in a low-income, underserved area
- **COMMUNITY ACCESSING RIDES.** Organizations in Southeastern Mass collaborated to fund Uber rides for their consumers when the bus was not running or in areas not served by public bus
- **CAPE COD ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION.** Transit authority partnered with a human service agency to offer wheelchair-accessible, taxi-like livery services because no wheelchair-accessible taxicabs were available on Cape Cod

To learn more about how transportation coordination can expand mobility, visit www.mass.gov/info-details/community-transportation-coordination. Learn about funding opportunities for creative transportation projects at www.mass.gov/info-details/funding-for-community-transportation.

MASS MOBILITY

This resource was written by MassMobility, an initiative to increase mobility for older adults, people with disabilities, veterans, low-income commuters, and others who lack transportation access in Massachusetts. Keep up to date by subscribing to our monthly newsletter at www.mass.gov/massmobility-newsletter. For more information, please visit www.mass.gov/orgs/massmobility or contact hstmobility@state.ma.us.

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