

## Specialized Transportation

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### PA Senior Citizens Free Ride Program

If you are 65 years of age or older, you may ride free on the BARTA Fixed Route bus system ALL DAY / EVERY DAY! To participate in the program, register with BARTA to obtain a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania ID Card. You can stop by the Special Services Office - 1700 N 11th St in Reading (between 8:00 AM and 5:30 PM, Monday through Friday) and fill out an application and receive your card immediately. You can also stop by the BARTA TRANSPORTATION CENTER - 8th & Cherry Streets in Reading (between 8:00 AM and 5:30 PM, Monday through Saturday). Please remember that you MUST provide proof of age in order to receive your card.

The following documents may be used as proof of age: Birth Certificate, Baptismal Certificate, Naturalization Papers, Passport, Statement from Social Security Administration, Armed Forces Discharge/Separation Papers, Pennsylvania Identification Card, Photo Motor Vehicle Operator's License, or Resident Alien Card.

Your free bus transportation is provided under the Pennsylvania Lottery's Free Transit Program for Senior Citizens. By riding the transit system, you will also help to insure the program's continued existence.

### Kneelers & Wheelchair Accessible

All of the busses in BARTA's fixed-route fleet are equipped with kneelers and are wheelchair accessible. A "kneeler" lowers the front of the bus, bringing the bottom step closer to the sidewalk or street surface. The kneeler is designed to assist passengers who have difficulty reaching the lowest step comfortably. Simply ask the driver to "please lower the steps" to make boarding the bus easier.

## **Half-Fare Program on BARTA Bus Service**

Persons with Disabilities who have a Medicare card and are under 65 years of age may qualify for the Half-Fare Program on BARTA's fixed-route bus service. If no Medicare card the application must be completed by a professional. A half-fare application must be completed to determine eligibility for the half-fare program. Once approved, the customer can show the half-fare card to the driver to receive the discount fare. The card must be shown each time the customer rides.

Call BARTA at 610-921-2361 to request a Half-Fare Program Application or apply in person at BARTA Special Services Office, 1700 N. 11th St., Reading, PA 19604.

## **BARTA Special Services Division**

Provides door to door transportation, for any type of trip purpose. An application must be completed prior to using the services.

Trip reservations may be scheduled by calling 610-921-2361 between 8:00 am and 5:30 pm., Monday through Friday. Transportation is generally available Monday through Friday from 5:30 am to 6:30 pm daily. Monday through Friday evening service, from 6:30 pm to 10:30 pm is available for trips where the pick-up address and destination are located within 3 miles of the fixed route bus services. Saturday service is available 5:30 am to 10:30 pm for trips where pick-up address and destination are located within 3 miles of the fixed route bus services. Sunday service is available from 10:30 am to 7:00 pm for trips where the pick-up address and destination are located within 3 miles of the fixed route bus services.

Trips must be scheduled at least one day in advance. Customers can call up to two weeks before their appointment to reserve a ride. Saturday, Sunday and holidays appointments can be made by leaving a message. This is only for trips where the pick-up address and destination are located within 3 miles of the fixed route bus services.

Please make sure you always know the complete street address for all your trips, the date and time prior to calling. This eliminates unnecessary time on the phone and our staff can then assist other customers in a timely manner.

Fares: The cost per trip varies. This is due to mileage and other programs that may assist an individual in paying a portion of their fare. When you call to schedule a trip, please check with our staff.

Application: Customers 65 years of age and older must complete the Senior Shared Ride application. The application must be returned with a clear copy of ID as listed on the application. If under 65 years of age, please complete the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) application. Also, complete the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) if between the ages of 18-64.

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