Ride Guide: Senior Transportation Options in the Greater Austin Area
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HOW THIS GUIDE CAN HELP YOU

Many older Americans think giving up the car keys means giving up independence. In the Austin metropolitan area, that does not have to be the case. This Ride Guide will aid you in finding the transportation option that best suits your needs or the needs of someone you know. The following are common situations and suggestions for how to remain mobile and actively involved in the community.

If you still drive and plan to keep driving as long as you safely can:

• Take a driver safety course designed for older drivers to keep your skills sharp. You will learn how to deal with changes in your vision, flexibility, reaction time and medications.

• Review drivers’ safety resources so you spot potential problems before they become serious.
• Adjust your car for comfort and safety by following Carfit practices (see page 5 Adjusting your vehicle).

If you have cut back on driving and are looking for other ways to get around:

• Use public transportation (taxi or bus) for rides to shorter destinations.
• If using the bus is difficult, you might be eligible for a volunteer service that picks you up at home and takes you to your destination.

If you are concerned about a friend or family member who probably should not be driving anymore:

• Access publications that provide tips about how to talk to friends and family about driving.
• Get the latest information about Department of Motor Vehicles’ policies on testing, reporting and license renewal.
• Help the older driver get a formal driving assessment.

If you do not drive, bus routes just do not go where you need to go, or you know you cannot use public transportation:

• Apply for a paratransit service like MetroAccess or CARTS.
• Call a volunteer driving program to see if you are eligible for services.
• Use a taxi for destinations that are not far from your home.

If you need help from another person in order to go anywhere:

• Ask if your personal care service or home health agency has someone who can stay with you at the destination.
• Inquire if family or friends can accompany you to destinations.
DRIVER’S LICENSE RENEWAL AND STATE IDENTIFICATION CARDS

License Renewal for Senior Drivers
Texas drivers who are 79 years of age or older at the time their current driver license expires are required to renew their license in person at a local Department of Transportation office. Drivers over 85 years of age can only renew it for a 2-year period. In addition to taking a vision test, you may be asked to take a written knowledge test as well. In preparation for this, you can review the Texas Drivers Handbook and take practice tests before going for your license renewal. For license-related inquiries, call (877) 452-9060 or email webhelp@texasonlinehelp.com

Texas State Identification
Many older drivers continue to renew their driver's licenses even after “giving up the car keys” to have it for identification. Non-drivers can obtain a State Identification card that is an official document for identification.

The Texas Department of Public Safety- Drivers Licenses Division issues driver's licenses and state identifications
For general Information and neighborhood bureau locations:
(512) 424-2000 www.txdps.state.tx.us

DISABILITY PARKING PERMITS

Disability parking is available to individuals who have an approved disability placard or disability license plate. Physicians complete forms that you obtain from the County Tax assessor’s office. Physicians must clarify whether your disability is temporary (6 months for $5) or permanent (4 year renewal cycle-no charge), and whether the reason is mobility, or non-mobility related.

The Disability Parking Placard is convenient to use when you are a passenger in someone else’s vehicle too.
For forms and other information about disability parking:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Web Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bastrop County</td>
<td>(512) 332-7261</td>
<td><a href="http://www.co.bastrop.tx.us">www.co.bastrop.tx.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blanco County</td>
<td>(830) 868-7178</td>
<td><a href="http://www.co.blanco.tx.us">www.co.blanco.tx.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burnet County</td>
<td>(512) 756-5494</td>
<td><a href="http://www.burnetcountytexas.org">www.burnetcountytexas.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caldwell County</td>
<td>(512) 398-1830</td>
<td><a href="http://www.co.caldwell.tx.us">www.co.caldwell.tx.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fayette County</td>
<td>(979) 968-3164</td>
<td><a href="http://www.co.fayette.tx.us">www.co.fayette.tx.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hays County</td>
<td>(512) 393-5545</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tax.co.hays.tx.us">www.tax.co.hays.tx.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lampasas County</td>
<td>(512) 556-8271</td>
<td><a href="http://www.co.lampasas.tx.us">www.co.lampasas.tx.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Llano County</td>
<td>(325) 247-4165</td>
<td><a href="http://www.co.llano.tx.us">www.co.llano.tx.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee County</td>
<td>(979) 542-2640</td>
<td><a href="http://www.co.lee.tx.us">www.co.lee.tx.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travis County</td>
<td>(512) 854-9473</td>
<td><a href="http://www.traviscountytax.org">www.traviscountytax.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williamson County</td>
<td>(512) 943-1102</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wilco.org">www.wilco.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DRIVER SAFETY RESOURCES

AARP
The AARP Driver Safety Program offers local classes for drivers age 50 and over. Courses cover many topics related to being an older driver such as traffic rules, staying flexible, and medications. It covers normal age-related physical changes, and how to adjust driving to allow for these changes. Many insurance companies offer a discount to AARP Driver Safety graduates.

For information on AARP Driver Safety courses in the area, and for other helpful information, call (888) AARP-NOW or (888) 227-7669 or go to www.aarpdriversafety.org

Adaptive Driving Program
St. David’s Rehabilitation Center offers a comprehensive driver evaluation and training program for people who experience medical or age-related difficulties that hamper the ability to drive a vehicle. Therapists use objective, standardized data from clinical tests and on the road driving to determine the patient’s: ability to drive; ability to use adaptive equipment if necessary; and willingness to participate in training sessions. Recommendations may include advanced driver training or the need to defer from driving.

St. David’s Rehabilitation Center
1005 E. 32nd St.
Austin, TX 78705
(512) 544-8140
www.stdavidsrehab.com

AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety
If you are unsure of your ability to drive safely, you can measure your driving skills by doing a self-assessment. Go to www.seniordrivers.org to find ways to help you test and improve your driving. Additionally, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety shares how aging affects driving, how to help a senior driver plan for driving retirement, and much more at www.aaaseniors.com

AAA South Austin
4970 Hwy 290 W Ste 310
Austin, TX 78735
(512) 444-4757
AAA North Austin
13376 Hwy 183 N Ste 108
Austin, TX 78750
(512) 335-5222
Driving Decisions Workbook
The University of Michigan developed a 47-page workbook to help older drivers evaluate their ability to drive safely. The workbook is available online at www.um-saferdriving.org

Adjusting Your Vehicle
Proper adjustment of seats, mirrors, headrests, and steering wheel can help keep you driving safely. Using simple devices can help compensate for physical changes or simply make a vehicle fit you more comfortably and safely. Easy to follow instructions based on the CarFit program are at www.car-fit.org Contact Faith in Action Caregivers-West Austin for information about CarFit programs available in the Austin metropolitan area: (521) 472-6339.

Family Conversations with Older Drivers
The Hartford insurance company and the MIT AgeLab developed a guide to help families have productive and caring conversations with older adults about driving safety. A 24-page free brochure called “We need to talk...Family conversations with older drivers” is available by mail from The Hartford-We Need to Talk, 200 Executive Boulevard, Southington, CT 06489. For information on dementia and driving, write for a copy of the “At the Crossroads: Family Conversations about Alzheimer’s Disease, Dementia & Driving” brochure: The Hartford-At the Crossroads, 200 Executive Boulevard, Southington, CT 06489. Additional information is available and both booklets can be downloaded free from www.safedrivingforalifetime.com

National Center on Senior Transportation
Information and resources for older drivers and for caregivers who provide transportation for older adults is available at (866) 528-NCST, or at the website www.seniortransportation.net

This is a comprehensive online source for various mind, muscle, vision and range of motion assessments. www.elderlydrivingassessments.com
ADJUSTING TO LIFE WITHOUT DRIVING

Adjusting to life without a car may be difficult at first. Hopefully, you have participated in the decision to stop driving and found other ways to continue your routine activities. Some tips may help to make the transition.

Reach out to others
Many seniors have difficulty asking family and friends for rides. You can be proactive and make it comfortable for everyone. Perhaps your adjustment is easier if you keep your car and have others drive it. The first few times you try out a new service or ride the bus, make it fun by asking a family member or friend to ride with you until you feel more confident.

Stay positive
Use positive language to describe your situation. For example, think about the money saved on car insurance, maintenance, registration and gasoline. If necessary, it is one of the advantages of giving up your car and leaves you able to pay for alternative transportation. Thinking about your transition as something that you can handle will speed the adjustment.

If you cannot go out to get something, have it come to you. Many stores will deliver their products straight to your door.

• Consider having your groceries delivered. Many stores have free delivery or deliver for a low fee. You can also ask your family, friends, or volunteers from your local community center, church, or synagogue, to pick up your groceries for you.
• Order your medicines by mail. Not only is this more convenient—it is often less expensive. Only order from pharmacies that you know and trust.
• Consider having your meals delivered to you or order meals online from a meal delivery service.
• Learn to shop on the Internet. There are many conveniences and interesting information at your fingertips on the World-Wide Web. Contact Austin Groups for the Elderly at (512) 455-4611 or visit www.seniornetaustin.org for special computer courses for older adults.
QUESTIONS TO ASK

Consider the following questions before deciding on a transportation option.

1. What is the service area?
2. Is there a limitation on distance?
3. How much will the service cost?
4. Do insurance companies pay for rides provided by the service?
5. Are there requirements to qualify for the service? If so, what are they?
6. Is there an evaluation that must take place prior to the first ride?
7. Is there a required membership fee that must be paid before scheduling rides with the service?
8. How far in advance must riders make reservations?
9. Are rides available in the evenings, on weekends or on holidays?
10. Are rides only for medical appointments?
11. Is service only curb-to-curb or can riders have assistance?
12. Are riders who use wheelchairs able to use the service?
13. Do riders stay in their wheelchair, or must they transfer to a seat during the ride?
14. Is there an escort or attendant in the vehicle with the driver?
15. Does someone stay with the rider during appointments?
16. Can a family member serve as an escort? If so, is there an extra cost associated?
17. Will there be a wait when picked up from home? If so, how long?
18. Will there be a wait when picked up for my return trip? If so, how long?
19. Will the driver or attendant come into the office/building for the return trip?
20. Will other passengers be riding? If so, what is the maximum length of time of the ride while others are being pick-up/dropped-off?
Drive a Senior is a network of neighborhood-based volunteer driver organizations in the Austin metropolitan area. The volunteers, who use their own vehicles, can serve as your companions while providing transportation.

Volunteers will drive you to the grocery store, bank, medical appointments, beauty shops, or on errands. You can also get a ride to attend social or recreational activities. You can ask for a round trip ride or a one-way ride.

**Drive a Senior volunteers provide transportation based on your needs:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Curb-to-Curb:</th>
<th>You walk to the volunteer's vehicle on own when they arrive. Volunteer drops you off at your destination and returns to pick you up later for the return trip to your home.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Door-to-Door:</td>
<td>A volunteer comes to your door, assists you into the vehicle, and escorts you to the door of your destination. A volunteer returns later to pick you up and assists you home to your door.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Door-through-Door:</td>
<td>A volunteer comes into your home, assists you into the vehicle and escorts you into your destination, staying for the duration. A volunteer then drives you home, assisting you into your home.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- There is no charge to riders. Service is supported through contributions from riders and community funders.
- Enrollment is available to older adults who are still living independently in the community.
- Volunteers do not transport wheelchairs, but will bring a wheelchair to the car if there is one available at your destination.
- All services are based on volunteer availability; weekdays, evenings and weekends service, with 3-5 business days advance notice.
- Go to [www.driveasenior.org](http://www.driveasenior.org) for more information.
- Call to schedule an enrollment interview.
### Drive a Senior - Elgin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Call for scheduling rides</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 1368/ 1210 Hwy 290 Elgin, TX 78621</td>
<td>512-281-6065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00 am - 12:00 pm, M-F</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Clients 60+ live within this service area but may have appointments elsewhere

78621

### Drive a Senior – North Central Austin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Call for scheduling rides</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1640 E. 2nd. St., Ste B-200 Austin, TX 78702</td>
<td>(512) 453-2273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00 am - 12:00 pm, M-F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Clients 60+ live within this service area but may have appointments elsewhere

NORTH- FM 1325 and Toll Road 45, EAST-I-35, SOUTH-45th St, WEST-Burnet Road to 183, to Mopac

### Drive a Senior - North East Austin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Call for scheduling rides</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6100 Berkman Drive Austin, TX 78723</td>
<td>(512) 459-1122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00 am - 12:00 pm, M-F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Clients 60+ live within this service area but may have appointments elsewhere

NORTH-Parmer, EAST-Decker Lane, SOUTH-Cesar Chavez, WEST-I-35

### Drive a Senior - serving Round Rock/Pflugerville/North Austin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Call for scheduling rides</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2498 E. Palm Valley Blvd. Round Rock, TX 78665</td>
<td>(512) 310-1060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00 am - 1:00 pm, M-F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Clients 60+ live within this service area but may have appointments elsewhere

Weekly van service to HEB and Walmart

### Drive a Senior – South Austin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Call for scheduling rides</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>205 E. Monroe St. Austin, TX 78704</td>
<td>(512) 445-5552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00 am - 12:00 pm, M-F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Clients 60+ live within this service area but may have appointments elsewhere

78704, 78739, 78745, 78748, 78749

Partial zip codes covered: 78702, 78741, 78744, 78747
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drive a Senior - Southwest Austin</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Office</strong></td>
<td><strong>Call for scheduling rides</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3801 N Capital Of Texas Hwy, #E240-77 Austin, TX 78746</td>
<td>(512) 364-6501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00 am - 12:00 pm, M-F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clients 60+ live within this service area but may have appointments elsewhere</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Serves zip codes: 78733, 78735, 78746 and partial coverage of 78734, 78736, 78737, 78738</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drive a Senior – West Austin</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Office</strong></td>
<td><strong>Call for scheduling rides</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2601 Exposition Blvd Austin, TX 78703</td>
<td>(512) 472-6339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00 am - 5:00 pm, M-F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clients 60+ live within this service area but may have appointments elsewhere</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NORTH-183, EAST-Burnet Road to 45th St, then East to I-35, SOUTH-Lady Bird Lake, WEST- Capital of TX Hwy to Lady Bird Lake</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Drive a Senior Northwest- A Faith in Action Program**
Volunteer drivers take clients to doctor appointments, grocery stores and on errands. Other support services offered: friendly visiting in the home or by phone and minor home repair.
- Fare: No cost to riders. Rider donations and community contributions.
- No wheelchairs
- Call for scheduling initial assessment appointment to enroll
- Scheduling: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
- Advance notice required: 3 business days
- Level of assistance: curb-to-curb, door-to-door and door-thru-door
- Geographic boundaries: NORTH-FM 2243, EAST-Parmer Lane, SOUTH-Loop 360 to Duval, SOUTHWEST border is the Lake, WEST-620 to Steiner Ranch & River Place
  - (512) 250-5021)
  - Email: rides@driveaseniornorthwest.org
  - www.driveaseniornorthwest.org

**Faith in Action-Georgetown**
Volunteer drivers take clients to doctor appointments, grocery stores and on errands. Other support services offered: friendly visiting in the home or by phone and minor home repair.
- Fare: No cost to riders. Rider donations and community contributions.
- No wheelchairs
- Call for scheduling initial assessment appointment to enroll
- Scheduling: 9:00 am 12:00pm M-F
- Advance notice required: 3 business days
- Level of assistance: curb-to-curb, door-to-door and door-thru-door
- Geographic boundaries: Georgetown city limits
  - (512) 868-9544)
  - Email: gt@fiacaregivers.org
  - www.faithinactiongeorgetown.org

**American Cancer Society - Road to Recovery**
This volunteer staffed program picks up patients from their homes and takes them to any cancer-related appointment.
- Fare: FREE
- No wheelchairs
- Call for scheduling: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm, M-F
- Advance notice: 3 business days
- Level of assistance: depends on driver
- Geographic boundaries: Travis and surrounding counties.
  - (877) 227-1618 (toll free) Apply by phone.
United for the People
Transportation for Veterans from their homes to VA appointments in Cedar Park and Austin.
(512-298-2532) Email: admin@unitedforthepeople.org
www.unitedforthepeople.org

Business shuttles
Some health care providers in the Austin metropolitan area provide transportation to and from appointments for specific procedures or services. Typically, these services are for adult day care programs, ophthalmology care physical therapy programs or Medicare Advantage programs. Contact your service provider to inquire about transportation.
**AUSTIN’S SENIOR CENTER AND NEIGHBORHOOD TRANSPORTATION**

**Austin’s Parks and Recreation Department (PARD)**
Provides rides along *set routes* to senior centers and senior lunch programs with suggested donation of $1.00.  
*Reserve-a-ride* is for non-emergencies such as medical appointments and grocery stores for a fee of $3 one-way. Rides outside of the set routes require 24-hour reservations and are subject to availability of the program’s vehicles.

(512) 974-1464 M-F, 8am-5pm

**MEDICAID RECIPIENT TRANSPORTATION**

Elderly Medicaid recipients living in the Austin metropolitan area may qualify for free transportation to doctor or dentist appointments and pharmacies if they are not residing in a long term care facility, or do not have dual enrollment in Medicare and Medicaid. Health and Human Services does not have vehicles, but pays for Capital Metro or CARTS services and taxis. You also must not have any other way to get to the doctor, dentist or drug store.

Medicaid toll free: (877) MED-TRIP (877-633-8747) M - F, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Complete details available on-line at  
www.hhsc.state.tx.us/QuickAnswers/index.shtml - Get_Ride

Call at least 2 work days or more before you need a ride. If you need to travel a long way out of town to see your doctor, call at least 5 work days before you need a ride.

**RURAL TRANSPORTATION**

**Aarios International (limo service & airport service):** serving central Texas, Horseshoe Bay, Marble Falls  (512) 755-0937  www.aarios.com

**Aloha Taxi:** Serves San Marcos, Kyle and Buda (512) 392-2222  
www.alohataxi.com  has wheelchair accessibility

**Angel Wings:** Serves Bastrop, Lee, Fayette, and Caldwell Counties  
(512) 636-7584

**Bastrop County Taxi & Charter Service**  (512) 281-6362

**Bluebonnet Shuttle:** Serves Lampasas, Burnet, Llano, Williamson and Travis counties. *Wheelchair accessible.* Call for rates. 24 hr notice suggested.  
(512) 689-0981
CARTS
Capital Area Rural Transportation System (CARTS) provides curb to curb transportation services to people in Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee Counties as well as the non-urbanized areas of Travis and Williamson Counties. Please reserve twenty-four (24) hours in advance for wheelchair accessible buses. As service frequency varies, specific information relative to your community can be found at [www.ridecarts.com](http://www.ridecarts.com) or by calling (800) 456 – RIDE (7433). Destinations can include nutrition sites, Senior Activity Centers, shopping, medical facilities, governmental or social services. Fares can vary based upon the destination.

Celebration Limo’s: (airport service) serves central Texas  (830) 693-0800

Hays Taxi: Serves San Marcos and Hays Counties  (512) 665-0048

Hill Country Transit District (The Hop): Serves Llano County and Central Texas  (800) 791-9601  [www.takethehop.com](http://www.takethehop.com)

Lago Vista Volunteers: Serves Jonestown and Lago Vista areas  (512) 267-1567

Lakeway Service League: Serves Lakeway and The Hills areas  (512) 261-3514  [www.lakeway.org](http://www.lakeway.org)

Rural Opportunities Providing Encouragement (ROPE): Provides rides to non-critical medical and dental appointments. Serves Burnet & Llano counties.  (830) 693-0700  [www.ropeagency.com](http://www.ropeagency.com)

VETRIDES: FREE rides to veterans, their dependents and caregivers living in Burnet, Llano and Lampasas Counties to destinations necessary to maintain lifestyle and health (Hospital, clinic, doctor’s offices, pharmacies, grocery store). Transport to Temple and San Antonio for VA hospital appointments.  (877) 851-8838

**HOME HEALTH AND PERSONAL CARE SERVICES**

Some home health and personal care companies provide transportation as part of the package of services offered to enrolled clients. As with other services, transportation is usually booked in 2 – 4 hour segments for a fee. If you are currently enrolled for these services, ask your provider whether transportation is an optional service. Check the Yellow Pages of the local phone directories for listings under HOME HEALTH SERVICES or contact the Area Agency on Aging of the Capital Area  (512) 916-6062 or toll free  (888) 622-9111 for information and referral.
WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE SERVICES

MetroAccess
MetroAccess is a demand-response, shared-ride service offered by Capital Metro for people whose disabilities prevent them from riding regular bus and rail service. MetroAccess is an advanced reservation system with the service area and the hours of operation dictated by the service area and the hours of the Capital Metro bus service. Reservations can be made up to three days in advance over the phone or up to six days in advance online.

Individuals interested in becoming a MetroAccess rider must go through an eligibility process. For information about the eligibility process, to request a MetroAccess application (applications should be brought to eligibility appointments, not mailed) or to schedule an appointment, please call: (512) 389-7501.
For more information about the MetroAccess program, please call:
Eligibility: (512) 389-7501
Reservations: (512) 478-9647
Cancellations: (512) 385-1268
Open Returns: (512) 385-1271
Where’s My Ride?: (512) 389-2767 or (512) 389-2768

Access-A-Ride
Access-a-Ride is a demand-response service provided by Yellow Cab. It is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to certified Capital MetroAccess customers, including those using nontransferable mobility devices. Access-a-Ride is a cost-shared service supported by Capital Metro, but is not part of the ADA-mandated paratransit program, and rides are not guaranteed.

Service is available anywhere within the Greater Austin area serviced by Yellow Cab, with no mileage restrictions. There are no limits on the purpose of a trip; use Access-a-Ride to go grocery shopping or out to dinner, for an emergency doctor visit, to attend a meeting or lecture, or to visit a friend.

You must be a certified MetroAccess customer to use the Access-a-Ride program. To join the Access-a-Ride program, please call (512) 434-7712.
Accessible Taxi Services
Some Taxi companies in the greater Austin area offer pre-arranged and response/demand sedans and vans for riders with wheelchairs. Check the TAXICAB listing in the Yellow Pages of the local phone book. Some taxi companies that accommodate power wheelchairs and scooters are:

- Ace Taxi (888) 582-8646
- Austin Cab (512) 478-2222
- Dedicated Medical Transportation (512) 472-7433
- Lone Star Cab (512) 836-4900
- Yellow Cab (512) 452-9999

Accessible vehicle rentals & vehicle conversions
See yellow pages or web search under VANS RENTING & LEASING, WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES

AMBULANCE SERVICES

For Emergency Transport always call 911
For non-emergency situations, call the ambulance company in advance to determine cost and payment arrangements. Insurance coverage for ambulances is usually restrictive so it is best to check with your insurance company ahead of time to determine coverage. Ambulance companies often require cash payment at the time of transfer. Billing is on a flat fee plus mileage basis, with extra charges for additional service such as oxygen. Check the Yellow Pages of local phone directories for listings under AMBULANCE SERVICE.

LOCAL BUS AND RAIL

Capital Metro is the regional transportation provider in Central Texas offering over 80 bus routes and a commuter rail service, MetroRail. The agency provides bus and rail service in the Austin metropolitan area, serving the City of Austin, and the surrounding communities of Leander, Lago Vista, Jonestown, Manor, San Leanna, Volente, Point Venture and portions of Travis County and Williamson County.
For additional bus and rail information, call the GO Line at (512) 474-1200 or visit www.capmetro.org.

Seniors (65+), riders with disabilities, MetroAccess-certified individuals and reserve/active military ride fixed route bus lines FREE with a Capital Metro-issued ID available at the Transit Store.
Public Transportation Training
Many people have never ridden public transportation before and it can be a confusing experience. Capital Metro helps new users learn to read a schedule, make a reservation, get on, pay for, and ride their vehicles. Contact the Travel Trainer for details at: (512) 379-6083

Capital Metro I.D.’s, Maps, Schedules and Info
Customer Service Center/Transit Store
323 Congress Ave.
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 474-1200 (information) (512) 389-0190 (complaints)
(512) 474-1200 (specific route Information) (512) 389-7454 (transit store)

Capital Metro provides an online trip planner at www.capmetro.org, in addition to individual route maps and a complete service guide called Destinations, which is available free of charge online. Customers can purchase a printed copy at the Transit Store for $3, or can order one by phone or online for $5 (includes $2 shipping and handling). Individual route maps are available free of charge on board your bus. Route schedules are at major bus stops.

Limited routes specifically designed for senior riders
Capital Metro offers two routes for older riders and passengers with mobility difficulties. Routes #151 Allandale and #161 Dellwood operate with 15-passenger, lift-equipped vans and make stops at several of the area’s major medical complexes, service facilities, shopping malls and grocery stores.

#151 operates on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, every hour between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.
#161 Dellwood operates every hour between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

See maps and schedules of both routes on the Capital Metro Web site (www.capmetro.org) or in Destinations, Capital Metro’s official schedule book.
Special accommodations for fixed routes
Capital Metro accommodates the special needs of senior citizens and passengers with disabilities who choose to use the fixed route service:

- Large print schedules
- General & schedule information TDD line (512) 385-5872
- Courtesy stop requests due to accessibility barriers
- Automated stop announcement for major stops
- Bus driver-announced stops by special request
- Reserved front of bus seating
- Lift and ramp access on all buses

Northwest Dial-A-Ride (A Capital Metro bus service)
An advance registration, door-to-door service, providing service from Lago Vista, Jonestown, and Leander available in every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for direct service to:

- Any location on the Highway 183 corridor between FM 620 and the U.S. 183/MoPac intersection.
- Highland Mall
- Lakeline Mall
- Northcross Mall
- The Central Medical Complex—any location within the following area: north of 26th Street, south of 45th Street, west of Guadalupe Street and east of Shoal Creek Boulevard.
- Convenient service to downtown Austin also is available on Route 214 the Lago Vista Feeder (LVF), connecting at Northwest Park & Ride with Route 983 U.S. 183 Express, 984 Northwest Direct or 987 Leander/Northwest Express.

Call 478-RIDE between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. for more information or reservations.
Seniors and persons with mobility impairments ride FREE.
LONG DISTANCE TRAVEL

Amtrak - www.amtrak.com
   250 North Lamar Boulevard
   Austin, TX 78703
Discounted rates are available for seniors age 62 and older and people with disabilities. Call ahead to inquire about accessibility of station.
(800) 872-7245 (Toll Free)   (800) 523-6590 (TTY)

Greyhound Bus - www.greyhound.com
   916 E Koenig Lane
   Austin, TX 78751
   (512) 458-4463

Customers with Disabilities Travel Assistance Line
(800) 752-4841 (Toll Free)   (800) 345-3109 (TTY)

Kerrville Bus Company – www.iridekbc.com with daily routes to Houston
(512) 389-0090 or (800) 256-2757 or in Spanish at (800) 531-5332

Both bus lines require 48-hour notice prior to departure for a lift equipped bus. Personal care assistants travel at no cost. Certain rules apply.

AIRPORT SHUTTLES

Airport Super Shuttle
   Has wheelchair accessible vans.   TDD Reservations
   (512) 258-3826 or (800)258-3826   (866) 472-4497

Capital Metro Bus Airport Flyer
For schedules, call: (512) 474-1200 or visit www.capmetro.org
USEFUL NUMBERS

2-1-1 Texas  (Dial 211)
Formerly called First Call for Help, 2-1-1 Texas, is the new abbreviated dialing code for free, bilingual information and referrals to health and human services and community organizations. 2-1-1 links individuals and families to services provided by nonprofit organizations and government agencies in their community.

Texas Department of Aging & Disability
This state agency helps seniors and their caregivers with information beyond transportation. You can get find help with medical needs, caregiver support, daytime programs, hospice, residential services and more.
(800) 458-9858  www.dads.state.tx.us

Where do you go for answers on aging?
Aging can create a variety of challenges for caregivers and older adults. Remaining independent and living with dignity become important issues.

Often, you may need advice from experienced and knowledgeable sources. That’s where we come in.
When you or someone you care for needs help, call us. We’ve got most of the answers. If we don’t have one for you, we know where to turn.

Austin local (512) 916-6062 or Toll free 1-888-622-9111
Visit our Web site at www.aaacap.org
Serving the ten county Capital Area since 1982:
Bastrop  Blanco  Burnet  Caldwell  Fayette  Hays  Lee  Llano  Travis  Williamson
# Important Phone Numbers

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Drive a Senior -West Austin published the original RIDE GUIDE in 2004 as a project for the Beverly Foundation. In 2010 the RIDE GUIDE was updated and updated again with this 2014 version. We have made every effort to assure the entries of local services are accurate.

An on-line version of this guide is available at: www.drivesenior.org
The online guide has live links to all the web resources listed in this print version.

If you have any questions, or would like additional copies of this booklet, please write or call:

Drive a Senior-West Austin
2601 Exposition Blvd.
Austin, TX 78703
(512) 472-6339
westaustin@driveasenior.org

Printed August 2014