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Joyce Eleanor
Chief Executive Officer

Mobility Devices on Public Transportation

Do you ride Community Transit or DART (Dial-a-Ride Transportation) and use a wheelchair or scooter? Might you be using one of these mobility aids in the future? If so, it is important that you have one that you can safely and easily use on public buses.

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), public buses with lifts or ramps must transport mobility aids that:

- Have three or four wheels
- Are manual or powered
- Are not more than 30 inches in width and 48 inches in length, including footrests and backpacks
- Do not weigh more than 600 pounds when occupied

Public bus systems are not required to serve mobility devices that do not meet these ADA standards. However, Community Transit and DART strive to serve anyone in a wheelchair or scooter who can board and ride our buses. Please review the following guidelines.

Two-Wheeled Chairs

Segways and other two-wheeled aids that cannot be collapsed by the customer and stored between the seats are not allowed on Community Transit or DART buses.

Six-Wheeled Chairs

Customers with six-wheeled power chairs have had substantial problems getting on our buses. In some cases the devices are not properly fitted for the customer and as a result some chairs have become stuck on boarding ramps. Others have tilted forward causing customers to fall out or hit their feet against the floor. Some chairs are too heavy when combined with the passenger and their belongings. There are four areas you should carefully check which might enable you to travel with us:

- In most chairs, **the back and seat must be adjusted so your weight is centered** correctly on the chair. If the seat is too far forward, it can cause customers to be off-balance when going over small bumps or down inclines.
- Tires must be properly inflated to stabilize you and the chair or scooter.
- Also in most chairs, the **position of the wheels must be adjusted** to help balance your weight and steady the chair. If possible, **adjust the height of the front wheels** so they do not drag when you go up ramps or over bumps or dips in the surface. Front wheels that are too low can cause your chair to come to a sudden stop and/or tip forward.
- It is extremely important to **use the lap belt** that comes with the chair, to help keep you from sliding out of the chair in case it tilts or suddenly stops.

To ensure a proper fit, it's important that you try out the wheelchair while it's being adjusted!



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We Can Help

Community Transit buses

Would you like to travel with your mobility device on Community Transit fixed-route buses, but aren't sure how or wish you could just practice? Do you feel pressured that you may be taking too long to board or secure your device? Community Transit offers a free transit instruction program. Call 425-348-2379 and we will arrange for you to receive training and practice time on a ramp or lift of an out-of-service bus. At that time we can help you determine if your mobility aid will fit safely on our buses or how best to secure it.

DART paratransit buses

DART customers with a wheelchair or scooter receive an "access check" by a DART supervisor. The supervisor comes to your home to inspect your mobility aid and talks to you about using your aid on DART. The supervisor also checks if the DART bus can get to your location so that they can serve you. Please call DART at 425-347-5912 if you are considering a new mobility aid or have any questions.

Wheelchair Fitting Services

If you have any concerns about your power chair, two companies in Snohomish County are certified to inspect and adjust power chairs:

- Medic Repair- 425-252-6133 (limited services)
- Care Medical- 425-252-6456 (full services)

Some power chairs, especially scooters, are very difficult to secure with front and rear tie-downs used on public buses. Loops and other devices can sometimes be mounted to the main frame to help the driver secure the mobility aid faster and safer. Contact your mobility device's sales representative or manufacturer to inquire about any modifications you are considering for your device.

PLEASE NOTE: If your mobility aid doesn't fit on a fixed-route bus due to its size or weight, that alone does not make you eligible for DART paratransit service.