

Public Transit Overview

Public Transit is a shared-ride passenger transportation service that is available to the public, usually for a fare per ride. Public Transit is operated by a government entity or by a private entity that receives government funding to provide the service. Public Transit refers to the transportation programs and services eligible for federal funds from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Types of Public Transit

Public Transit is described in three categories:

Fixed Route

Flexible Route

Demand Response

Fixed Route

Fixed route public transit operates on scheduled times along a designated route with set stops. Fixed route public transit is most often seen in larger cities. These buses must be accessible.

Flexible Route

Flexible route buses operate along a fixed route but the buses may deviate from the route. Flexible route is sometimes called deviated fixed route, because the bus is permitted to make deviations from the fixed route. There may be limits on how far off a route a rider may go and scheduling requirements in advance. These buses must be accessible.

Schedule deviations in advance by calling the transit provider. The bus will pick up or drop off a rider within a certain distance of a route. Find out the limits for your area. Route Deviations are for riders with and without disabilities.

Demand Response

Demand response public transit operates by a system of smaller vehicles where passengers share rides to locations based on their request. With demand response, scheduling may be immediate, like a taxi. The system may require scheduling the ride a day or more in advance. These buses must also be accessible.

County-to-County Transit

Some public transit programs offer public transportation between adjacent counties. The JessLex Connection provides transportation between Nicholasville and Lexington, Kentucky.

Park and Ride

Park and Ride programs allow people in outlying areas to connect with a transit system. Riders must find a ride into the service area, and then can board public transit at arranged "park and ride" locations.

Example: Joan

Joan lives in Winchester, Kentucky. She learns that Foothills Transit offers daily transportation from Clark County into Lexington - with stops at Good Samaritan Hospital, VA Hospital, UK Hospital, and the Kentucky Clinic. The cost is \$40 per month, and service runs at a set time daily. Because of this opportunity, Joan can apply for a job at the Kentucky Clinic.