

Using Abilities-Ride



Abilities-Ride: DC MetroAccess customers ride to Maryland in a taxi.

What is Abilities-Ride?

- ▶ Abilities-Ride is a Maryland-based transportation option recently opened to DC residents.
- ▶ DC residents with a MetroAccess ID card may order a taxi, rather than ride MetroAccess vans, for trips into Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.
- ▶ The service provides on-demand taxi service at a discounted rate.
- ▶ The rider gives a MetroAccess ID number when ordering a taxi and then shows the card at time of service. (See next page for MetroAccess eligibility.)
- ▶ The passenger rides alone in the taxi, although one Personal Care Assistant (PCA) may travel with the passenger at no extra charge.

Why is Abilities-Ride a good transportation option for those eligible?

- ▶ MetroAccess customers travel efficiently from the District into two Maryland counties for medical and other appointments or activities.

- ▶ Rides are low-cost. The customer pays \$5 for the first nine miles of the ride and then pays \$2 per mile for mileage over that distance. (Use the contact phone numbers below to check the full fare schedule.)
- ▶ Eligible users can call for a taxi with as little as an hour's advance notice and may make a round-trip reservation.
- ▶ Reservations are not required but are strongly encouraged, especially during peak traffic hours.
- ▶ Abilities-Ride offers accessible taxicabs for those who use wheelchairs or need other special accommodations.
- ▶ DC resident riders starting their trip in the District must return to the District the same day. Riders may take up to four trips a day.

How do I get a ride using Abilities-Ride?

- ▶ A rider must be registered with MetroAccess to use Abilities-Ride. Call MetroAccess at **(202) 962-2700** to apply (see next page).
- ▶ For rides into Montgomery County from DC, call Regency Taxi at (301) 990-9100. Be sure to specify if you need an accessible taxi. Regency partners with Barwood Cab, which may provide some rides.

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- ▶ For rides into Prince George's County from DC, call Silver Cab at **(301) 277-6000**. Be sure to specify if you need an accessible taxi.
- ▶ You may book a round-trip ride or one-way ride, although you must return to the District on the same day.

What is MetroAccess?

- ▶ MetroAccess is a federally-mandated paratransit service for disabled persons and other individuals unable to independently use the fixed-route Metrobus and Metrorail system for some or all of their transportation.
- ▶ The Americans for Disabilities Act (ADA) sets criteria to determine eligibility for paratransit service. For MetroAccess, an application and in-person assessment are required.

Who is eligible for MetroAccess and what is the application process?

- ▶ Eligibility relates to the ability to independently use public transit for all trips. Eligibility is not related to income.
- ▶ MetroAccess applicants must call MetroAccess at **(202) 962-2700** for an appointment, and then go to Metro headquarters downtown for an assessment. Free transportation to the site is provided. There is no online registration, although the application can be downloaded at <https://tinyurl.com/y86rps8l>.
- ▶ The MetroAccess application has sections to be completed by the applicant and his/her healthcare provider. The applicant takes the

completed application to Metro headquarters at the scheduled assessment time.

- ▶ The healthcare provider must certify that the person has a disability that prevents the applicant from independently using public transit all or some of the time.
- ▶ Three-month MetroAccess registration is available for certain temporary disabilities.

How do MetroAccess and Abilities-Ride compare?

- ▶ **MetroAccess** is a shared-ride public transportation system; vans pick up multiple passengers.
- ▶ **Abilities-Ride** is a same-day, on-demand alternative transportation service, serving one MetroAccess rider at a time. A Personal Care Assistant may accompany the rider at no cost.
- ▶ **MetroAccess** is available at all times bus and rail service is available, to locations within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of the Metro routes.
- ▶ **Abilities-Ride** is available 24 hours a day for travel by DC residents originating their trip in DC (and by Maryland residents).
- ▶ Both services have accessible vehicles that accommodate wheelchairs and other special needs.
- ▶ **MetroAccess** provides door to door assistance.
- ▶ **Abilities-Ride** offers curb to curb assistance. Drivers do not assist passengers from the door to the curb, given program insurance coverage.

A downloadable PDF of this information sheet is available at www.CapitolHillVillage.org.

Capitol Hill Village is collaborating with other Villages and community groups in the District to increase older adult access to information about transportation options and to encourage seniors' use of alternate transportation modes in addition to driving.

For more information, contact CHV Transportation Outreach Manager Heather Foote at info@capitolhillvillage.org.
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