



ADA PARATRANSIT APPLICATION

After completing this form, Mail back completed forms to:
1830 Golden State Ave., Bakersfield CA 93301 or FAX: 869-6355

Applicant: Fill out this page (1) to the best of your ability. Take this entire form to a qualified healthcare professional. A healthcare professional must fill out pages 2 - 4. See pages 5 - 7 for definitions and eligibility requirements.

1. CONTACT INFORMATION (please print clearly)

Last Name: _____ First: _____ Middle Initial: _____

Female Male Date of Birth MONTH / DATE / YEAR

Language spoken: English Spanish other _____

Your Home Address (location where you will be transported to and from):

Street: _____ City: _____ State: CA Zip: _____

Day Phone (____) ____ - ____ Evening/Mobile Phone (____) ____ - ____ *Email: _____

*In our effort to be more efficient and distribute information that affects our riders, GET would like to use email when appropriate.

Mailing Address (If different from above):

Street: _____ City: _____ State: CA Zip: _____

Emergency Contact Information (required information):

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Day Phone: (____) ____ - ____ Evening Phone: (____) ____ - ____

2. MOBILITY INFORMATION

a.) Which of the following mobility aids or equipment do you use? (Check all that apply and read the disclosure below)

- Power wheelchair
- Crutches
- Oxygen tank
- Manual wheelchair
- Cane
- Service animal
- Scooter
- Walker
- other _____

b.) Measurements of your manual/power wheelchair/scooter: width: _____ inch. length: _____ inch. weight: _____ lbs.

What is your current weight: _____ lbs.

c.) Do you require the use of a Personal Care Attendant? YES or NO

Disclosure: On-Demand Paratransit vehicles are designed to accommodate mobility aids that are up to 48 inches in length, up to 30 inches wide, and which, together with the passenger, weigh up to 600 pounds. These size limits are consistent with federal ADA regulations and the "common wheelchair" definition (49 C.F.R. Section 37.3 2001). Riders will be provided transportation when safe to so, and does not pose any safety concerns to rider, other passengers, or driver.

3. AUTHORIZATION FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL TO RELEASE OR PROVIDE INFORMATION

I authorize _____, a healthcare professional (see page 2 for list of qualified professionals) to complete the rest of this application and verify my disability to Golden Empire Transit District. GET reserves the right to verify information provided in the processing of this application.

(please check) I have provided all the information requested in this application and understand that failure to do so will delay the processing of my request for On-Demand Paratransit ADA paratransit service. I also acknowledge that I have read, understand and accept the disclosure regarding mobility devices.

Applicant Signature

Date



On-Demand Paratransit Medical Assessment

This following 2 pages are to filled out by the applicant's Healthcare Professional.

What Kind of Healthcare Professional can fill this form out?

The following licensed healthcare professionals are authorized to provide clarifying information:

- Physician (MD or DO)
- Psychiatrist
- Physical therapist
- Registered nurse
- Other licensed provider familiar with your condition
- Ophthalmologist
- Occupational therapist
- Psychologist
- Optometrist

Section 1: Healthcare Professional's Information

Name	Professional License Number (REQUIRED) or Title
Office Street Address	City, State, ZIP Code
Phone Number w/ Area Code Extension	Fax Number w/Area Code

I certify that I am a legally licensed healthcare professional by the State of California. I am currently treating _____ (REQUIRED) for a qualifying disability, the applicant is disabled as defined by the above criteria, & the information I have provided is true & correct under penalty of perjury according to the laws of the State of California.

Authorized Signature	Date
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Section 2: Healthcare Professional Assessment

Applicant's Name: _____ DOB: _____

Disability/Medical Condition: _____

Based on the applicant's abilities, does the applicant require a Personal Care Attendant (PCA)? YES NO

How long have you known or worked with the applicant? _____

How does the applicant's condition affect their ability to use public transportation? Be specific:

How does the applicant's disability/health condition affect daily life activities?

Section 2: Healthcare Professional Assessment (continued)

Required Travel Skills	Reasonable Expectations
Walking distance to/from stops	
Stepping on/off curbs, crossing streets	
Navigating hills/steep terrain	
Standing time at bus stop	
Boarding lift and non-lift buses	
Other: _____	

Please provide us with information on any environmental issues applicant may have with medical diagnosis.

Environmental Issue	Unsafe/Risky Conditions
Extreme heat/humidity	
Extreme cold	
Rain	
Poor air quality	
Other: _____	

Please read the following before answering the questions on the next page:

On-Demand Paratransit is a service for individuals who are not able to utilize the fixed route bus system. Though On-Demand Paratransit is a curbside-to-curbside service, riders must still have the physical and cognitive ability to board vehicles with little assistance and manage their own needs or with the help of a personal care attendant traveling with them. Personal care attendants are not provided by Golden Empire Transit but are allowed to travel with rider at no additional cost. While On-Demand Paratransit drivers offer some assistance, their main function is to drive the vehicle to various locations where they may leave the vehicle unattended to assist riders boarding or alighting the vehicle.

Continued on the next page...

Section 2: Healthcare Professional Assessment (continued)

Check all that apply in regards to the applicant's abilities:

- Applicant CAN board, with some assistance, a public transportation vehicle that utilizes a lift for mobility devices.
- Applicant CAN be left unattended and unsupervised for an undetermined period of time.
- Applicant CAN identify safety risks.
- Applicant CAN observe all safety procedures while riding public transportation.
- Applicant CAN follow simple one-step instructions.
- Applicant CAN make good judgement decisions.
- Applicant CAN ride in a vehicle without distracting the driver.

Thank you for your assistance.

Please mail back or to:
Golden Empire Transit District
1830 Golden State Ave.
Bakersfield CA 93301



Paratransit Service Information and Eligibility Requirements

Regulatory Definition:

Eligibility for On-Demand Paratransit paratransit service is directly related to the inability of a person with a disability to use the existing fixed route service. The regulations describe three specific circumstances under which a person would be considered ADA paratransit eligible.

1. An individual who is unable, as the result of a physical or mental impairment (including a vision impairment), without the assistance of another person (except the operator of a wheelchair lift or other boarding assistance device), to board, ride or disembark from an accessible bus. A person who is unable to “navigate” the system (e.g., recognize & board the correct vehicle, having available the correct fare/and or using the fare collection system, recognize destination, and understanding transfers that might have to be made.)
2. Any individual who could use the fixed route service, but cannot because the fixed route he/she wants to ride is not wheelchair lift equipped. When all fixed route buses are accessible, eligibility will not be granted under this category. GET’s fleet is 100 % accessible. This condition would apply when an individual travels outside of GET’s service area as a visitor.
3. A person whose disability interacts with the environment to prevent travel to or from a bus stop. Distance to or from the stop alone does not make a person eligible. In addition, lack of fixed route service or inconvenient bus schedules is not a basis for eligibility.

On-Demand Paratransit service is provided within ¼ miles of, and during similar hours as, GET’s regular fixed route service. On-Demand Paratransit service and scheduling guidelines include scheduling trips 1 to 7 days of the requested date, picking up customers within a quoted 30 minute pick-up window and ride times generally not exceeding 90 minutes for each trip.

Eligibility

Eligibility is determined by 3 factors:

- Individual's ability to get to/from the bus stop
- Individual's ability to board/exit the bus
- Individual's cognitive ability to navigate the regular bus system

ADA Eligibility Objective:

- Eligibility is not based on the disability, but rather the functional inability of a disabled person to use the fixed route service
- To determine when and under what circumstances an individual can and cannot use the fixed route service
- Paratransit eligibility is not based on a medical decision
- Objectively identify functional ability

Types of Eligibility

Unconditional eligibility – an individual who can never use the fixed route service independently.

Conditional eligibility – an individual who can use the fixed route service under certain circumstances. Feeder service will be provided.

Temporary eligibility (conditional or unconditional) – an individual who’s disability prevents the use of the fixed route service during a designated time period.

Visitor – a person who is paratransit eligible in another jurisdiction is automatically eligible and the host transit agency must provide up to 21 days of paratransit service. Visitors with disabilities who are not certified by another transit provider, but whose disability is visually apparent, are automatically eligible for visitor’s status up to 21 days of paratransit service. Visitors with a disability that is not apparent through visual observation will be asked to provide documentation as proof of their disability prior to being granted eligibility. The District reserves the right to ask for proof of residency for a visitor who is not paratransit eligible in another jurisdiction. The “21 days” of service that shall be provided to visitors with disabilities are to be calculated as any combination of 21 days during any 365-day period beginning with the visitor’s first use of service.

Mobility Devices

On-Demand Paratransit vehicles are designed to accommodate mobility aids that are up to 48 inches in length, up to 30 inches wide, and which, together with the passenger, weigh up to 600 pounds. These size limits are consistent with federal ADA regulations and the “common wheelchair” definition (49 C.F.R. Section 37.3 2001). Not all wheelchairs and mobility aids will fit on a fixed route bus or On-Demand vehicle. While the accessibility standards for buses are designed to accommodate the majority of power and manual wheelchairs and mobility aids, there will be some that are too large or heavy to fit.

On-Demand Paratransit will carry a wheelchair and occupants if: the lift and the vehicle can physically accommodate them, can be boarded and de-boarded safely, does not block the aisles, unless doing so is inconsistent with legitimate safety requirements.

On-Demand Paratransit Service

The applicant’s disability, and how it affects their functional ability to use regular bus service is the only criterion used in determining eligibility. Operational issues are not considered in the eligibility process. These are issues that affect any individual, whether they suffer from a disability or not. Operational issues not used to determine eligibility, include:

- Age
- Distance
- Overcrowded buses
- Weather conditions
- Lack of bus service to an area

On-Demand Paratransit eligibility may be granted for up to 3 years. Customers wishing to continue On-Demand Paratransit service must reapply and complete the eligibility process prior to their eligibility expiration date in order to prevent a lapse in On-Demand Paratransit service.

What Types of Trips can be taken on On-Demand Paratransit?

On-Demand Paratransit can be used for the majority of your transportation needs, this includes:

- Work
- School
- Medical appointments
- Recreation
- Shopping

On-Demand Paratransit Fares

The standard fare is \$3.00 per passenger for each one-way trip within GET’s service area. This amount is for a ONE-WAY ride. If you book a round trip, remember to calculate the amount for both ways.

Certification Process

On-Demand Paratransit requires a Medical Assessment from your doctor before we can give eligibility. A GET official will review the assessment and determine eligibility within 21 days. Applicants are notified by mail regarding their eligibility determination. If you become eligible for the On-Demand Paratransit service, you will receive a On-Demand Paratransit identification number and a Rider's Guide describing the On-Demand Paratransit service and booking process in more detail. Eligible customers will receive a customer identification card that includes customer’s photo.

For additional information or to apply for ADA paratransit service, please contact the On-Demand Paratransit at (661) 869-2438 or review the GET website:

www.getbus.org