

# Regina Paratransit Service



## Policy and Procedure Guide

2024

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## A. DEFINITIONS

- a) “**Accessible Door**” means the first building door in view of the vehicle or selected by paratransit for either a customer pick-up or drop-off. Access to the door does not include any steps where a customer uses a motorized wheelchair or scooter, or more than one step where a customer uses a manual wheelchair.
- b) “**AAC**” means Accessibility Advisory Committee.
- c) “**Ambulatory**” means a customer who can walk but has difficulty accessing conventional transit service.
- d) “**Attendant**” means a person who travels with a registered customer. An attendant’s purpose is to provide the registered customer with assistance on the vehicle or at the destination beyond what the operator is required to provide.
- e) “**Automated Fare Collection System**” means a system used by the City of Regina to collect and track fare media that uses smart card technology.
- f) “**Cancellation**” means a scheduled or booked trip cancelled with advance notice.
- g) “**Cancellation at the Door**” occurs when the operator arrives at the pick-up location and the customer cancels the trip.
- h) “**Charter Service**” means pre-booked, private service or service beyond normal operations provided on a request basis. Service may extend travel beyond the extended service limits.
- i) “**City**” means City of Regina.
- j) “**Clerk**” means the persons who schedule, dispatch and cancel trips for registered paratransit customers.
- k) “**Companion**” means a person who travels with a customer in addition to the attendant, such as a friend or family member.
- l) “**Customer**” is a person who has met eligibility criteria and is registered to use paratransit.
- m) “**Emotional Support or Comfort Animal**” means an animal that may or may not be prescribed by a physician to enable people with anxiety and social phobias to be able to participate in daily life. These types of animals may not be identified by a service harness.
- n) “**Fixed Route Transit**” means the regular transit system which operates regular routes.

- o) **“Late Cancellation”** means any trip cancelled by a customer with less than two-hours’ notice.
- p) **“No Show”** means any trip where a customer is not at the designated pick-up location.
- q) **“Operators”** means employees of the Contractor who are drivers of the vehicles who meet the qualifications established by the City.
- r) **“Paratransit Administration”** means those who work for the City of Regina in the Integrated Transportation Services Branch within the Transit and Fleet Department.
- s) **“Peak Travel Times”** means Monday to Friday from 7-9 a.m. and 2:30-5:30 p.m.
- t) **“Pet”** means an animal that may accompany a person in a carrier but is not required for medical reasons.
- u) **“Pick-up Window”** means 10 minutes before or after the customer pick-up time.
- v) **“Service Animal”** means an animal that has been trained to assist a person experiencing a disability that has undergone a rigorous training program and is given identification such as a working harness that makes the animal readily identifiable. Some examples include; guide dogs for persons who are blind, assist animals used to retrieve and carry items for people with limited mobility, hearing alert/signal animals for people who are Deaf, late deafened and hard of hearing, seizure response animals, social signal animals to assist people with autism and animals trained to assist people experiencing mental health issues such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. In most cases the service animal will be a dog, however cats, birds, monkeys, ferrets and other types of animals can also be service animals.
- w) **“Subscription Trips”** means ongoing trips which are made one or more times a week at the same time from the same origin to the same destination.
- x) **“Transit and Fleet Department”** means the Transit and Fleet Department of the City of Regina.
- y) **“Vehicle(s)”** means the City-owned vehicles which are used to provide paratransit service.

## **B. GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

### **Paratransit**

Paratransit is a public transportation service operated by the City of Regina (the “City”) for people who, because of a disability, are restricted in using the fixed route transit system.

Paratransit is not an exclusive ride service. Booking and scheduling decisions are made to allow as many customers as possible to use this shared system while staying within budget requirements.

Because it is a shared ride system, policies and procedures respecting the use of the system have been developed over the years that ensure the safe transportation of customers, smooth operation of the system and that customers are treated in a fair and equitable manner.

A “How to Ride” brochure, newsletters and this Paratransit Policy and Procedure Guide are available upon request.

### **Fixed Route Transit and Travel Training**

Paratransit customers are encouraged to use fixed route transit whenever possible. Fare payment can be used interchangeably on both systems. Fixed route transit is accessible to people experiencing disabilities and is an excellent alternative to paratransit. Fixed route transit features vehicles with no stairs and an easy access ramp, two stations for people using mobility devices such as wheelchairs, and interior and exterior audible stop announcements. The greatest benefit to using fixed route transit is that there is no requirement to book trips in advance. People can travel where they want to, when they want to.

If a paratransit customer is unsure how to use fixed route transit but would like to learn how, Regina Transit offers free one-on-one transit travel training. Customers who are interested in learning more about the program can call 306-777-7007 and press #2.

# I. PARATRANSIT ELIGIBILITY AND ASSESSMENT PROCESS

## 1. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

People are eligible to use paratransit if they are a resident of Regina and are restricted in using fixed route transit because of a permanent or temporary disability. Visitors to Regina are also eligible to use paratransit if, because of a disability, they are restricted in using fixed route transit.

Restrictions may include, but are not limited to:

- i. ability to travel to or wait at a bus stop.
- ii. ability to identify landmarks, follow directions and navigate the fixed route transit system.
- iii. easily confused or disoriented.
- iv. frequent dizziness.
- v. high risk of falling.
- vi. unable to board fixed route transit independently.
- vii. tires easily.

## 2. ASSESSMENT

- a) Eligibility to use paratransit is determined by an assessment process. All those who wish to have their eligibility assessed must complete an application form. When an application is approved, the person becomes registered with paratransit. A 10-business day processing time for the initial application shall apply.
- b) The personal information collected in the application form is done so under the authority of *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The information is used only for the purpose(s) of providing paratransit service. Customers with questions about the collection or use of personal information can call 306-777-7262 or email [lafoipp@regina.ca](mailto:lafoipp@regina.ca).
- c) Applicants (or someone acting on their behalf) must fully complete the application form. The purpose is to provide enough information so that a decision can be made about their eligibility.
- d) If the form is not fully completed, it will be returned to the applicant for completion.
- e) Paratransit Administration reviews the form and may contact an applicant for further information, if eligibility is not clear from the review of the form. Further, an applicant may be required to attend an in-person interview or appear before an Eligibility Committee to provide further information.

- f) Eligible applicants receive a registration package by mail including informational materials on how to use paratransit.
- g) Applicants who do not have their application approved are advised in writing. They are advised of the reasons that their application was denied. Reasons that an application may be denied include, but are not limited to, length of mobility device, exceeding vehicle lift weight restrictions (See Vehicles – Section VII-1) and ability to successfully use fixed route transit. Information on how to appeal the decision is also provided (See Appeal Process – Section II-3). A subsequent application will be considered only if there has been a significant change in the disability.
- h) Applicants must be residents of Regina to be eligible for a five-year registration. A person with a disability visiting Regina may be eligible for visitor registration. Visitors must provide a Regina address as a pick-up location.
- i) In exceptional circumstances, at the Paratransit Administration’s discretion, limited trip bookings may be provided to a person with mobility limitations without a paratransit registration being completed until such time as an application form can be submitted.

### **3. REGISTRATION TYPES**

When the Paratransit Administration approves an application for paratransit, the applicant’s registration is approved as unconditional, conditional, temporary or visitor. The maximum registration term is five years.

- Unconditional - Unconditional registration means that the person is permanently restricted in riding fixed route transit and requires regular access to paratransit.
- Conditional - Conditional registration means the person is able to use fixed route transit more regularly and only requires paratransit at certain times or to certain locations, e.g. winter or after dark. Applicants who require paratransit in the winter are given a “winter only” registration, which are active between November 1 and March 31. Trips are stopped on March 31 of each year. If there is an early start to winter or significant snow and ice remains after March 31, winter registrations may be extended by the Paratransit Administration.
- Temporary - A temporary registration means that paratransit is only needed for a set period of time. An example of this is someone requiring paratransit while they are recovering from surgery. A temporary registration may be extended by the Paratransit Administration, if necessary. A change in an applicant's medical condition may require the change of a temporary registration to unconditional or conditional status.
- Visitor - A visitor registration is issued to persons who visit the city and are restricted in using fixed-route transit. Visitor registrations are automatically

approved if they are registered with another paratransit service provider in a different community with similar eligibility criteria.

- If a person is issued a registration and they do not use it for 18 months, the registration will be cancelled by the Paratransit Administration. This includes visitor registrations. If paratransit service is required after deactivation, the person must reapply in accordance with assessment process (See Assessment – Section I-2).

#### **4. ELIGIBILITY REVIEW**

- a) Occasionally, an ineligible person's application is inadvertently approved, or a customer's condition changes such that he or she no longer meets the eligibility criteria. He or she will then be requested to reapply for paratransit service. Upon learning of an incorrect approval or a change in a customer's condition, the Paratransit Administration will advise the customer who may reapply.
- b) When a request to review a customers' eligibility is received, an investigation will be conducted. The individual's application to use paratransit will be reviewed. If, following the internal investigation, there remains a question of the individual's eligibility, he or she will be contacted by letter. The letter will advise of the concern and will suggest the individual reapply for paratransit service.
- c) Paratransit Administration will follow the registration process. This process includes the right of the applicant to appeal the final decision of the Paratransit Administration to the Accessibility Advisory Committee (See Appeal Process – Section II-3).
- d) Paratransit service is available to registered customers while their eligibility is being reviewed.

## **II. ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SUSPENSIONS AND APPEALS**

### **1. ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)**

- a) The Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) is an Advisory Committee appointed by City Council who reports to the Community and Protective Services Committee. A majority of the members are people experiencing disabilities.

The purpose of the AAC is to engage residents experiencing disability and other subject matter experts to advise the City on investments and choices that will deliver on the mandate for accessibility and inclusion articulated in Council's

Vision and further detailed in Regina's Official Community Plan and master plans.

The AAC has delegated authority to hear paratransit service appeals in accordance with the Paratransit Policy and Procedure Guide in relation to registration denials, the requirement to have an attendant or be met by an attendant, passenger suspensions over seven days, denial of trips because of unacceptable behaviour and no-show trips.

## **2. SUSPENSION OF SERVICE**

- a) Customers who do not follow paratransit policies and procedures may be denied service for a period of time. Typically, a suspension of service is issued if a customer's behaviour or health impacts the operation of paratransit or negatively affects other customers.
- b) In the instance where the behaviour of a customer is so disorderly or abusive that the customer presents a danger to the operator, other customers, or him/herself, paratransit may refuse to transport the customer if at a safe location.
- c) Operators are required to submit incident reports to their supervisor detailing any customer incidents, which are forwarded to the Paratransit Administration for investigation and follow-up. When a particular incident has resulted in suspension of service being considered, camera footage may be reviewed to assess the incident.
- d) When a customer's behavior or health condition threatens the safety of other customers or operators, service may be suspended immediately, pending completion of an investigation by the Paratransit Administration. The review will include an interview with the customer and support people, if requested. If following the review, the suspension will be continued, a letter will be issued outlining the reason for the suspension, how long the suspension will be in effect for and steps required to rectify the suspension. In less serious incidents, operator reports will be investigated by the Paratransit Administration, but service will not be suspended during the review or until the customer has had an opportunity to appeal the suspension. The customer will be forwarded a letter advising of the results of the review. In the instance that a service suspension is recommended, the letter will advise when the suspension will start and end, and the appeal process that may be followed.
- e) Further incidents may result in longer-term refusal of service, with the length of service refusal to be determined by the Paratransit Administration.
- f) Service suspensions over 7 days for some infractions may be appealed to the AAC (See Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) – Section II-1).

### **3. APPEAL PROCESS**

The AAC hears and adjudicates on appeals. The following decisions may be appealed:

- i. registration denials.
- ii. requirements to have an attendant or to be met by an attendant.
- iii. suspensions (over seven days).
- iv. suspension of trips because of unacceptable behaviour.
- v. suspension of trips because of a number of no-show trips.

#### Process:

- a) Appeals must be filed in writing within 14 calendar days from the date of the decision letter from the Paratransit administration. Requests will be emailed to [clerks@regina.ca](mailto:clerks@regina.ca) or mailed or delivered to:

Secretary, Accessibility Advisory Committee  
c/o City Clerk's Office  
15th Floor, City Hall, 2476 Victoria Avenue  
Box 1790  
Regina SK S4P 3C8

- b) The AAC will hear the appeal at their next regular meeting or within 30 days of receipt of the appeal, whichever is earlier.
- c) The secretary to the AAC will notify appellants by mail or by phone of the date and location of the appeal.
- d) When held in conjunction with a scheduled AAC meeting, the appeal will be heard by the AAC prior to its meeting.
- e) During the appeal, AAC members are required to conduct themselves in accordance with the *Regina Code of Conduct and Disclosure Bylaw 2002-57*.
- f) Appellants and/or their advocate will be given an opportunity to make a presentation to the AAC without the Paratransit administration present. The Committee members may have questions for the appellant and/or advocate at the hearing. The Paratransit administration will speak to the appeal following the presentation from the appellant.
- g) Appellants wishing to use written materials during the appeal hearing are encouraged to send copies to the secretary of the AAC five working days prior to the hearing.
- h) If the appellant or their advocate does not show up for the appeal hearing, the hearing will be adjourned until the next meeting of the AAC. The appellant will be notified of the new hearing date. If the appellant fails to attend the second

hearing, the AAC may make a decision on the appeal in the absence of the appellant.

- i) The Paratransit administration and appellant/advocates will be excused at the end of the presentations so the AAC can deliberate the issues and make a decision.
- j) Supplementary information provided at the hearing may be accepted at the discretion of the AAC.
- k) Appellants who have decided to withdraw their appeal should notify the Secretary in writing prior to the hearing date.
- l) Appellants will be notified of the AAC's decision in writing within seven business days of the hearing.
- m) The decision of the ACC is final.
- n) Applicants whose applications have been denied may reapply for service if there has been a significant change in the applicant's restriction related to using fixed route transit.
- o) Subsequent appeals of an application denial will not be heard if there has been no significant change in the applicant's restriction related to using fixed route transit since the previous appeal.
- p) In a case where there is an appeal regarding suspension of service, requirement to have or be met by an attendant, or suspension of trips because of unacceptable behavior or no-show trips, service will be continued until the appeal process is completed, unless the safety or well-being of other passengers or operators is at risk.
- q) Certain types of suspensions are not eligible to be appealed for safety reasons e.g. the combined weight of the person and their mobility device exceeding the capacity of the bus lift. When a suspension of service is not appealable, the person who is issued the suspension will be notified.
- r) The AAC is bound by the Policy and Procedure Guide in making its decisions.

### **III. TRIP BOOKINGS**

#### **1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

- a) Customers call the booking line at 306-777-7007, or e-mail [paratransit@regina.ca](mailto:paratransit@regina.ca) to book trips. There is a 24-hour turnaround time for voicemail and e-mail bookings. If a return trip is required, it should be booked at

the time the pick-up is booked or a return trip may not be available. Bookings for one-way trips are accepted.

- b) Customers may leave information to make a booking 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by leaving a voice message or e-mail. Messages and e-mails will be returned within 24 hours.
- c) Same-day or demand trip requests involve short notice, same-day calls. Service is limited for these types of trips. Clerks are available to receive booking line calls for same day bookings:

Weekdays and Saturday	7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Sunday and Public Holidays	8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

- d) Clerks are available to receive booking line calls for advance, subscription and group bookings:

Monday - Saturday	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sunday	9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Public Holidays	No advance bookings

- e) Trip requests can be made up to seven days in advance of the trip date and are subject to available space. No trip bookings in advance of seven days will be accepted.

- f) The following information must be provided when booking a trip:

- i. First and last name.
- ii. The exact address where the customer will be picked up (if other than home), including the location of the accessible building entrance.
- iii. The exact address to which the customer is going.
- iv. The date and time by which the customer must reach his or her destination (by advising when the customer must be at his or her destination, the clerk will select the best pick-up time from those times available).
- v. The time the customer wants to return.
- vi. If the customer will be accompanied by an attendant and/or a companion, children, or a service animal.

- g) When calling to book a trip, customers are limited to one request per call if there are other people waiting to book trips. If there are no other people waiting, customers are allowed to book additional trips. Customers may call back multiple times to book trips.

- h) Typically, pick-up times on the outskirts of the city are on the top of the hour and pick-up times in the downtown are on the half hour.

- i) Demand for paratransit trips is high, so the trip requested might not be available. This is especially the case during peak travel times, Monday to Friday

from 7 a.m.- 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.- 5:30 p.m. The clerk will offer alternate times, if available.

## **2. PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF**

- a) When a trip is booked, a pick-up and drop-off address must be provided. Pick-ups and drop-offs are made to the inside of the first set of accessible doors. Operators do not escort customers to specific doctor offices, hospital wards, etc.
- b) Pick-ups and drop-offs are made at front doors, unless otherwise specified.
- c) Customers cannot book trips to places that are closed and expect to be left outside until the building opens as operators must ensure all customers are escorted through the first accessible door. If this happens, the customer will be returned to their point of origin.
- d) Drop-off location changes cannot be made by the operator. A call must be made to a clerk to determine if a different drop-off location can be arranged.
- e) When booking trips to or from facilities with several entrances, such as strip malls, customers must specify the door from which they are to be picked-up or dropped-off. Paratransit picks-up and drops-off customers at specific doors at shopping centres, hospitals and event complexes (See Designated Doors – Section IV-9).
- f) Paratransit uses a 20-minute pick-up window for trips. This means that vehicles can arrive 10 minutes before or after a scheduled pick-up time and be considered on time. For example, if a customer has a 9:20 a.m. pick-up time, the vehicle can arrive between 9:10 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.
- g) If the vehicle arrives more than 10 minutes past a scheduled pick-up time, it is considered late. If possible, paratransit will attempt to call and advise customers if the vehicle is going to be late. If the vehicle arrives more than 10 minutes before a scheduled pick-up window, it is considered early.
- h) Customers are expected to be at their pick-up location 10 minutes before the scheduled pick-up time. Customers are also expected to wait 10 minutes after the scheduled pick-up time.
- i) Operators will wait for five minutes. If customers are not ready after this five-minute wait, the operator will radio the clerk for approval to leave. If the operator is early, he or she will wait until 10 minutes before a scheduled pick-up time and then wait an additional five minutes. Some examples are:
  - i. A scheduled pick-up time is 10:30 a.m. The vehicle arrives at 10:15 a.m. The vehicle is early. It should not have arrived before 10:20 a.m. The

operator will wait until 10:20 a.m. and then wait five more minutes, after which the vehicle may leave at 10:25.

- ii. A scheduled pick-up time is 10:30 a.m. The vehicle arrives at 10:40 a.m. The vehicle is on time as it has arrived within the pick-up window. The operator will wait for five minutes after which the vehicle may leave. The bus will still wait for five minutes even if it is late

### **3. RETURN TRIPS**

- a) Customers needing to book a return trip should book it when they book the pick-up. This includes trips for medical appointments. If a trip is taken without booking a return and then a request is made for a trip home at a later time, paratransit cannot guarantee that a return trip will be available.
- b) Sometimes customers may need a return trip but are unsure of the exact time, e.g. a medical appointment. The time needed for the trip should be estimated and a return time booked.
- c) When arriving at an appointment, the customer should advise reception of the pick-up time.
- d) Customers who finish their appointments early may call a paratransit clerk. It may be possible to get an earlier pick-up time. Paratransit does not guarantee an earlier pick-up.
- e) Customers who know they are going to be late should call paratransit. Paratransit will try to arrange a later pick-up.

### **4. CHARTER SERVICE**

- a) Charter requests can be made by calling 306-777-7007 or e-mailing [paratransit@regina.ca](mailto:paratransit@regina.ca) .
- b) Charter service is available to individuals, groups and organizations that require accessible transport. At least one person needing the charter must be a registered customer unless the charter service is for a group of visitors with a requirement to use an accessible vehicle.
- c) The availability of charter service is limited to mainly evenings, mid-day, weekends, and in the summer. A limited number of vehicles are available during peak service times.
- d) The charter group has exclusive use of the vehicle. There is a guaranteed pick-up or drop-off time for the charter trip and there is a customized travel route.

- e) Charter service is operated on a cost-recovery basis. Rates are established by City Council. Half-price charter rates are available to individuals and community non-profit organizations for recreational purposes.
- f) Charters are limited to transportation within Saskatchewan.
- g) There is a minimum one-hour charge for charter service. Billing is calculated from the time the vehicle leaves the garage to when it returns to the garage.
- h) Charters must be booked a minimum of 72 hours in advance. They must be cancelled with at least 12 hours' notice or the charter fee will be charged.

## **5. GROUP TRIPS**

- a) Group bookings (three or more people) can be made by calling 306-777-7007 or e-mailing [paratransit@regina.ca](mailto:paratransit@regina.ca) . Group Bookings must be made a minimum of 72 hours in advance.
- b) Groups should be prepared to share the vehicle with other customers. This means that the pick-up times, the drop-off times and the locations of other customers are considered when scheduling the trips.
- c) The availability of group bookings is limited to mainly evenings, mid-day, weekends and in the summer. A limited number of vehicles are available during peak service times.
- d) The following information must be given when making a group booking:
  - i. The names of customers.
  - ii. The address and time for pick-up.
  - iii. The address to which the group will be going.
  - iv. The time the group wishes to return.
  - v. The number of attendants, service animals or children, if any, travelling with the group.
- e) The clerk may not be able to book the group at the time the request is made. The clerk will call back within 48 hours to confirm the arrangements made.
- f) The clerk will make every effort to take members of a group in the same vehicle. Depending on the travel needs of other customers, this may not always be possible.
- g) Groups must provide 12 hours' notice if:
  - i. The trip is no longer required; or
  - ii. The number of customers in the group becomes less than three.

- h) Groups failing to provide 12 hours' notice will be charged a cancellation fee equal to the cost of one hour of service. The person booking the group will be charged.

## **6. SUBSCRIPTION TRIPS**

- a) A subscription trip is a repeat booking scheduled for as long as required (minimum three-week time period). A subscription trip must be to and from the same address each time. An end date must be provided for the subscription trip if the request is for a program that does not continue throughout the year.
- b) Subscription trips are booked the same way as other trips. Customers must notify the clerk that they wish to make a subscription trip booking. If the subscription trip cannot be accommodated, and all criteria is met, the trip request will be put on a waitlist.
- c) In order to qualify for a subscription trip, customers must show a commitment to regularly scheduled trips. If customers have a history of inconsistently using trips, they may be requested to take the trip in public service for six weeks in a row to demonstrate the requirement for a subscription trip.
- d) Ten business days must be allowed for scheduling a subscription trip.
- e) The subscription trip can be temporarily cancelled when customers have vacation or days off. Customers with subscription trips are expected to provide as much notice as possible when providing subscription trip cancellations so that other trips can be accommodated. Paratransit must be notified when the subscription service is to be restarted again. Temporarily cancelling a subscription trip helps to provide trips for others who require service and is not considered when evaluating subscription trip usage. The maximum amount of time that a subscription trip can be suspended is two months.
- f) All subscription trips are cancelled on statutory holiday days and must be rebooked through the paratransit call centre if needed on a statutory holiday day.
- g) Customers who often change the trip destination or cancel the trip, will have their subscription bookings reviewed. Subscription trips must be used 70 per cent of the time or the subscription booking will be cancelled by the Paratransit administration. Customers will then have to book the trips as individual trips in public service.
- h) A monthly review of subscription bookings is conducted. Customers with subscription trips that are not being used 75 per cent of the time will be contacted by the Paratransit administration. When the customer is contacted, they will have the opportunity to decide to give up the subscription trip or have it monitored for one additional month to determine if it should be kept.

## **7. SCHOOL SERVICE AND CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS**

- a) At the request of the school divisions or children's program, and as space allows, school aged children not including pre-kindergarten, may be transported to and from school or children's programs on paratransit.
- b) The school divisions or children's programs provide a list of children that require paratransit. Guardians must complete a paratransit registration to ensure that paratransit has all required information on file.
- c) School and children's program schedules are made to accommodate trips that adhere to school division and children's program parameters and rules. For schools, changes to schedules and pick-up locations are made through the school division for Catholic School Division trips and through caregivers for Public School Division trips.
- d) School aged children under age 12 without an attendant are only allowed to travel on buses designated for school or children's programs. The school divisions are billed on a monthly basis. The non-subsidized rate is negotiated between the school divisions and Paratransit Administration.
- e) School trips that are not eligible for school division funding may also be accommodated if space is available.

## **8. TRIP CHANGES**

- a) Changes to trips must be made through a clerk in advance of the trip being taken. Requests made through operators while the customer is on the vehicle will not be accepted. The clerks have all the information available respecting individual trips and can determine the effect of a requested trip change on the schedule.
- b) The clerk will make every effort to accommodate trip changes. However, as a trip change is the same as booking a new trip it may not always be possible to accommodate the request.

## **9. CANCELLATIONS**

- a) Customers who want to cancel scheduled trips should do so as soon as it is known that the trips are not needed by calling 306-777-7007 Press #4 or e-mailing [paratransit@regina.ca](mailto:paratransit@regina.ca). This allows paratransit to provide trips for other passengers.
- b) Customers who provide less than two hours' notice when cancelling a trip or cancel their trip at the door, will be considered a late cancellation. Follow-up will

be done with customers who make late cancellations. Service suspension may result when customers often make late cancellations.

- c) Operators are not able to cancel trips on a customer's behalf.
- d) Customers who have subscription trips who are taking vacation or are not needing their trip for a period of time, must give paratransit as much notice as possible to cancel the trips so that the service can be repurposed.

## **10. NOT SHOWING UP FOR TRIPS**

- a) Vehicles arrive within a 20-minute pick-up window (10 minutes on either side of scheduled time). Operators will wait five minutes after arriving at the designated pick-up location. If customers are not at the pick-up location within these five minutes of the scheduled pick-up time, the operator will leave with approval from the clerk and the customer will be considered a "no show". This limited waiting time is necessary to ensure the service stays on time. If possible, the clerk will try to contact the customer by telephone prior to the five minutes expiring.
- b) When customers do not keep their bookings on the first part of the trip, the return trip is cancelled.
- c) If a customer has missed a pick-up but still needs a ride, a call can be made to the booking line to request another pick-up. Arrangements will be made to book the customer as soon as possible. Customers may have a considerable wait before another vehicle can be sent for them.
- d) Paratransit reviews records of customers who do not show up for their trips. Paratransit will contact customers who regularly miss their scheduled trips. Customers who often miss trips may be suspended from using the service. Suspension of service may be appealed (See Appeal Process – Section II-3).

## **11. INTERACTIVE VOICE RESPONSE (IVR)**

Paratransit has an IVR that works in conjunction with its scheduling system. The IVR allows customers to check on the status of their trips, receive a day before reminder call for scheduled trips, and be notified when the vehicle is arriving without contacting a clerk.

- a) Customers have the option of signing up to use the IVR.
- b) Customers who choose to use the IVR will use their customer identification number and a confidential password which will allow them to access the system and customize it for their needs. If they forget their password, a clerk will assist them to recover their password or select a new password.

- c) Customers may discontinue or change their status of the IVR at any time.

## **12. DENIED TRIPS**

- a) At times paratransit is not able to provide passenger trips for the time they request them. If a passenger phones in to paratransit requesting a trip and there is no time available or the time offered is declined, the trip is considered a denial.
- b) A record of all denials is kept.

## **13. EMERGENCY CONTACT**

- a) Customers are encouraged to provide the name, address and telephone number of a person or organization that will be contacted in the event of an emergency. If the emergency contact cannot be reached, the appropriate authorities will be contacted.
- b) Emergencies may include medical emergencies involving customers or vehicle accidents.

## **14. CHANGE OF INFORMATION**

- a) Paratransit must be contacted by calling 306-777-7007 or e-mailing [paratransit@regina.ca](mailto:paratransit@regina.ca) to advise of any changes to address, name, home and business phone numbers, attendant requirements, or contacts. Paratransit must also be informed of any changes to equipment as changes may affect the type of vehicle in which a customer can ride.
- b) Paratransit may also be advised of changes by writing the:

Regina Paratransit Service  
Box 1790  
Regina SK S4P 3C8

# **IV. TRAVELLING ON PARATRANSIT**

## **1. SERVICE HOURS**

Paratransit hours of service are:

Monday to Friday

6 a.m. to 11:15 p.m.

Saturdays	7 a.m. to 12 a.m.
Sundays	8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Public Holidays	8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

- a) Customers will not be picked up prior to the start of service hours. The last pick-up of each day is scheduled no later than one-half hour before the end of service, e.g. 10:45 p.m. Monday to Friday; 11:30 p.m. Saturday.
- b) The earliest that paratransit will pick up customers is at the time noted above, e.g. on weekdays 6 a.m.; on Saturday 7 a.m.
- c) In exceptional circumstances like special events where multiple people require service outside of service hours, paratransit may choose to extend service beyond operating hours. E.g. Christmas Day where service will be extended into the evening.

## **2. TRAVEL LIMITS**

Service is provided within city limits. Trips outside of city limits must be taken using charter service (See Charter Service – Section III-4). The only exception is for recreation trips which are provided up to a maximum of five kilometres outside of city limits.

## **3. TRAVEL TIME**

- a) Travel time on paratransit is comparable to fixed route transit. The goal of paratransit is to provide a travel time of 60 minutes or less for any one-way trip 99% of the time.
- b) Paratransit is a shared ride system; therefore, direct service cannot be accommodated.
- c) Trip times will vary depending on number of customers, pick-up/drop-off time and distance of trips.

## **4. FARES**

- a) Paratransit fares are the same as fixed route transit as approved by City Council and can be found on the City of Regina website Regina.ca. The fare payment system is used interchangeably on paratransit and fixed route transit.
- b) Customers must pay the exact fare for the trip when they board. This may be paid in cash, through the fare payment system, or by a fare payment card. Operators cannot make change for cash paying customers.

- c) Reloadable fare payment cards and may be registered. A registered card can be replaced if it is lost or stolen for an additional \$5 and the remaining balance transferred.
- d) Customers who have a fare payment account or a reloadable fare payment card may load additional passes or rides onto their card by visiting a transit agent or accessing the fare payment system. Payment must be received before an additional pass, rides or cash will be loaded onto the card.
- e) If a reloadable fare payment card is not working, it will be replaced at no charge and the customer will be allowed to ride for free until it is fixed. Cards that are not working because they have been willfully damaged are subject to a \$5 replacement fee.
- f) Rides and passes are sold by transit and their agents during their business hours of operation. A list of agents can be obtained by calling 306-777-7433 or by visiting the City of Regina website Regina.ca.

## **5. ATTENDANTS AND COMPANIONS**

- a) Customers may designate a person to travel with them as an attendant if additional assistance is required during the trip or at the destination. The role of the attendant is to assist the customer and not require assistance themselves.
- b) Customers must advise a clerk if they wish to travel with an attendant. One attendant is allowed to travel with a customer at no charge, if space on the vehicle is available.
- c) The attendant must travel with the customer from the start to the end of the trip.
- d) The attendant may be responsible for two or more customers.
- e) Attendants and companions can only be registered customers in special circumstances such as accompanying an individual experiencing a cognitive disability such as dementia. If the attendant is a registered paratransit customer, the person is required to pay a fare.
- f) Paratransit may require an attendant to accompany or meet a customer, based on the nature of the customer's needs. For example, paratransit may require an attendant to accompany a customer if the customer's conduct compromises the safety of themselves, other customers or operators.
- g) If space is available, an attendant is assigned a seat in the vehicle and is not allowed to stand. If no seat is available for the attendant, the customer trip will be declined, or they will be given the option of travelling without an attendant if travel with an attendant is not mandatory.

- h) If an operator arrives for a customer who must travel with an attendant and no attendant is present, the trip pick-up will be declined.
- i) If a customer must be met at a destination and no attendant is present:
  - i. The operator will escort the customer back to the vehicle and radio the clerk.
  - ii. The clerk will try to contact a member of the customer's family or caregiver to determine when arrangements can be made for the customer to be met.
  - iii. The customer may have to ride on the vehicle until plans can be made for the customer to be met by an attendant.
  - iv. If this reoccurs, the customer will be required to travel with an attendant or service will be suspended.
- j) Companions, who are friends or family members, not in the role of an attendant, may ride with a customer where space permits.
- k) Companions pay the regular fare. If space is available, a companion is assigned a seat in the vehicle and will not be allowed to stand.
- l) Attendants and companions must have the same pick-up and drop-off locations as the customer.
- m) If a customer's disability changes that he or she no longer must travel with an attendant or be met by an attendant, a written request must be filed with the paratransit administration requesting a change to the registration status.
- n) In some circumstances, a customer may need to travel with two attendants. If a customer requires two attendants for health or safety reasons, both attendants ride for free.

## **6. CHILDREN ON PARATRANSIT**

### Children as Registered Customers

- a) Children may travel on paratransit as registered customers.
- b) School aged children under age 12 (including kindergarten) may travel on a paratransit vehicle without an attendant on a vehicle designated for school or a children's program. Pre-Kindergarten children must travel with an attendant.
- c) School aged children 12 and older may travel independently in public service provided they do not require assistance or supervision. If they require an attendant, one must be provided.
- d) Children under age 12 must always be accompanied by an attendant when using service not designated for school or a children's program.

- e) The child's caregiver must provide an appropriate mobility assistive device or a Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Act (CMVSS-Sec. 213) approved child safety seat that can be safely secured in the vehicle if the child is less than 18kg (CMVSS sticker on seat). If a child safety seat is provided, the caregiver must do up the seatbelt restraints. The operator will be responsible for securing the seat in the vehicle. Children under 7 or less than 145cm or 36kg may use the integrated child safety seat provided in each paratransit bus. The caregiver is responsible for doing up the restraints.

### Children Travelling with Customers

- a) Children may travel on paratransit with registered customers but must pay a fare if fourteen years or older and not travelling in the capacity of an attendant.
- b) Caregivers are responsible for escorting their children to and from the vehicle at the trip origin and destination.
- c) Customers travelling with children must notify the clerk when booking a trip.
- d) Children must be seated and secured with a seatbelt while travelling in a vehicle.
- e) Children less than 18kg must be secured in a Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Act (CMVSS-Sec. 213) approved child safety seat provided by the caregiver (CMVSS sticker on seat). The caregiver must do up the seatbelt restraints. The operator will be responsible for securing the seat in the vehicle. Children under seven or less than 145cm or 36kg may use the integrated child safety seat provided in each paratransit bus. The caregiver is responsible for doing up the restraints.
- f) If the service is required to transport a customer's child to a childcare facility prior to the start of trips, satisfactory arrangements must be made with paratransit and the childcare facility to ensure that a childcare worker will escort the child to and from the vehicle. If the caregiver wishes to escort the child into and out of the childcare facility, they will need to book an additional trip(s) for the vehicle to come back to the childcare facility to pick the child up and continue on the trip. Vehicles will not wait for the caregiver to escort the child into or out of the childcare facility. If a customer transports his or her child to a childcare facility and then continues onto work or another place of business, it will be considered two trips and the customer will be charged accordingly.

## **7. SERVICE ANIMALS**

Regina Transit allows service animals, emotional support and comfort animals, and pets on transit and paratransit in accordance with this policy.

- a) No additional fee will be charged for bringing service animals, emotional support and comfort animals or pets on transit or paratransit.
- b) All animals travelling on transit or paratransit must:
  - i. be up to date on all necessary vaccinations and be free of any communicable diseases,
  - ii. be under the care and control of the customer at all times and leashed if possible, and
  - iii. be non-aggressive, well-behaved and respond to the instructions of the customer.
- c) Animals are not permitted to urinate or defecate on transit or paratransit. If this does happen, it will be the customer's responsibility to clean up.
- d) Customers with service animals who have been trained through an accredited program do not need to provide documentation unless an issue arises related to the animal's behavior.
- e) In the event an issue arises related to the animal's behaviour, the customer may be required to provide documentation that states the animal does not present any risk or threat to other customers and animals travelling on transit or paratransit.
- f) Customers with emotional support or comfort animals must apply to Regina Transit to bring their animal on transit and paratransit. Customers will need to:
  - i. complete an application form which can be obtained by calling 306-777 7007 press #2,
  - ii. provide a note from a physician stating the requirement for an emotional support or comfort animal (the note should not disclose information related to the person's disability, the reason why the animal is required, or the tasks the animal will be performing),
  - iii. provide a copy of a City of Regina animal license or note from a veterinarian verifying that the emotional support or comfort animal's vaccinations are up to date,
  - iv. provide an up-to-date picture of the animal
  - v. if available, provide certification indicating applicable training the animal has received.
- g) If approved, the customer will be provided with an identification card to show the bus operator that permits them to ride transit or paratransit with the emotional support or comfort animal.
- h) Pets are allowed on transit and paratransit provided they are in a closed carrier.
- i) Customers must advise that they will be travelling with a service, emotional support or comfort animal, or pet, when booking their trips. This is so

paratransit can ensure space is available on the bus. If a customer will always be travelling with an animal, a note can be put on the customer's file and the customer will not need to declare they will be travelling with an animal every time a trip is booked.

- j) Customers are allowed to ride on the lift with their animal provided that no safety concerns exist.

## **8. SEATBELTS**

- a) All customers travelling on paratransit vehicles must be seated and secured using seatbelts. Operators will ensure that ambulatory customers use a lap and shoulder belt. Operators will ensure that customers seated on mobility devices such as wheelchairs/scooters will be secured using a four-point tie down on their device and lap and shoulder belt, except where there is a prior written exemption agreement between paratransit and the customer or the customer's guardian, where applicable.
- b) Customers using scooters may have the option of transferring off their scooter and sitting in an ambulatory seat if space exists on the vehicle and their mobility makes it safe to do so. The scooter will be secured by the operator using a four-point securement system.
- c) Customers with a tray on their wheelchairs will be issued one lap and shoulder belt at the City's expense. These belts must be in place when the operator comes to pick the customer up. If a seatbelt breaks due to wear and tear, the City will replace the belt, or pieces of the belt, at no cost to the customer. Customers will be charged for a new lap and shoulder belt if it is lost or purposefully damaged.
- d) In addition to the seatbelts provided by the City, customers using wheelchairs and scooters must have a seatbelt attached to their mobility device. This personal seatbelt must be fastened prior to pick-up and kept fastened until through the destination entrance door. The operator will not assist with fastening and unfastening the seatbelt.
- e) Customers may obtain seatbelts through equipment suppliers. The supplier may be able to install the seatbelt. If a customer does not have the required seatbelt, then they will be given 15 business days to obtain one. If after 15 business days, the customer does not have the required seatbelt, service will be refused.
- f) Children less than 18kg must be secured in a Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Act (CMVSS-Sec. 213) approved child safety seat provided by the caregiver (CMVSS sticker on seat). The caregiver must do up the seatbelt restraints. Operators will be responsible for securing the seat in the vehicle.

## **9. DESIGNATED DOORS**

Paratransit provides trips to and from specific doors at shopping centres, hospitals and recreation sites. Customers will be advised of the door they will be picked-up and dropped-off at. If required for medical reasons, customers may request an alternate door.

## **10. FOOD AND DRINK ON VEHICLES**

- a) Customers may consume food and non-alcoholic drinks on paratransit vehicles.
- b) Customers are responsible for the safe handling of food and beverages.
- c) All garbage will be removed by customers consuming food and drink when exiting the vehicle.

## **11. EQUIPMENT AND PARCELS**

- a) Parcels transported on vehicles are limited to the amount that customers and their attendants can carry and must be safely stowed on the vehicle. Customers are not permitted to carry an excessive amount of bags on their walker or wheelchair that protrude into the aisle of the bus or make the mobility device unstable for safety reasons.
- b) Operators will assist ambulatory customers with a maximum of one bag of goods.
- c) Paratransit has no storage space for luggage and equipment. These items may not be carried unless customers are being transported to or from the Regina Airport, respite or out of town bus pick-up locations.
- d) Customers may not take any items that require storage or take up an additional seating location. The exception is customers who require an extra mobility device such as a walker to attend work, day or therapy programs or customers needing to transport recreational equipment such as a musical instrument or sport wheelchair.
- e) Customers needing to travel with oxygen tanks may do so but are required to have them secured on the vehicle. The operator will secure the oxygen tanks on the vehicle using securement equipment.
- f) Paratransit will only transport mobility devices such as wheelchairs or scooters if they are occupied by customers. The only exception is people using scooters transferring to an ambulatory seat.

- g) Customers who are unsure about the equipment or parcels that may be transported on paratransit, may contact the booking line at 306-777-7007.

## **12. LOST, FOUND AND DAMAGED ITEMS**

- a) Paratransit is not responsible for any items that are lost or stolen on vehicles. Customers are responsible for all personal items in their care and control that are damaged while travelling on paratransit.
- b) If a customer realizes immediately after leaving a vehicle that an item has been left in the vehicle, they should call the booking line number (306-777-7007). The clerk will have the operator check for the item at their next stop.
- c) When an item is lost or forgotten on a vehicle, Service Regina should be called (306-777-7000) to advise them of the time and date the item was lost. If possible, the specific vehicle the customer was travelling in should be noted (All vehicles are identified by numbers). Vehicles are inspected daily for lost items during clean up.
- d) Customers are responsible for having the item picked up.

## **13. SNOW REMOVAL**

- a) Customers are responsible for having their sidewalks, ramps and steps free of snow and ice when the operator comes to pick customers up. Paratransit cannot operate with the delays and risk of injury presented by snow and ice-covered steps and walks.
- b) In extreme circumstances where operator or customer safety is at risk, the operator may refuse to transport customers until the snow or ice is cleared.
- c) If City graders have left snow piles in front of sidewalks that make it difficult for customers, arrangements may be made with the City for snow removal. Service Regina (306-777-7000) may be called to request removal of the snow. Addresses are checked to ensure that this service is only provided to registered customers.

## **14. TRANSFERS BETWEEN VEHICLES**

- a) On occasion, customers may be transferred from one vehicle to another. The transfer will allow better scheduling of trips.
- b) Due to emergencies or other circumstances, vehicles may be running late on their routes or may have to leave the scheduled routes. In these situations, customers on the vehicles may be transferred to another vehicle. Transfers may

also be used for groups where a large number of people are picked up at one location but have to go to places that are quite far apart.

- c) The clerk may designate the transfer location or may request the operator of the two vehicles to arrange the transfer point.

## **V. OPERATOR AND CUSTOMER RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **1. OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

- a) Operators will transport customers in a safe, professional and courteous manner, and will follow all comments and instructions noted on the customer's trip.
- b) Operators will transport customers as safely, conveniently and lawfully close as possible to an accessible door. To minimize the amount of noise and fumes, when weather permits, vehicle engines will be turned off during customer pick-up or drop-off. Operators must also refrain from idling buses during breaks unless weather conditions make it difficult to do so (e.g. cold winter weather).
- c) Operators will not drive onto private single dwelling residential driveways or parking locations where backing the vehicle is required.
- d) When picking-up and dropping-off customers at public locations or multi-residential units, operators will avoid locations where backing the vehicle is required.
- e) Operators will knock on the door or ring the doorbell when they arrive at private homes. When they arrive at public buildings, they will enter the building and identify themselves as operators and call out the person's name they are picking up. Operators will display photo identification at all times.
- f) Operators collect fares from each customer and any companions. Attendants ride for free.
- g) Operators will assist customers, one at a time, at the place of trip origin and destination, in and out of the vehicles and between the vehicle, and the inside of the exterior set of accessible building entrance doors. At private residences, the operator will assist customers through an entrance door which allows customers to be left in a heated part of the residence. Unheated porches, covered decks and/or garages are not acceptable locations to leave customers. In other than private residences, operators will assist customers to and from a heated lobby or designated waiting area that is reasonably close to the outer accessible entrance door. Customers will not be left between a set of double entrance doors even when there is heat between the set of double doors. When a customer must be met by an attendant, the operator will ensure that

verbal and visual confirmation is received with the attendant prior to dropping the customer off.

- h) If a customer's residence has a lift, the operator will assist in operating the lift if the customer is unable to use it on their own. The operator is not responsible for any damages related to operating a home lift.
- i) Operators will not lock or unlock any doors at pick-up or drop-off locations.
- j) Operators will only leave customers outside if they are travelling to a destination which does not have a building such as the Farmer's Market or a park.
- k) Operators will push customers who use manual wheelchairs from inside the first accessible door to the vehicle if the customer does not wish to propel the wheelchair themselves. They will help customers onto the lift, apply brakes on the wheelchair, and fasten the safety straps before starting the lift. Operators will move customers to a wheelchair location on the vehicle, fasten brakes on the wheelchair, and secure the chair with wheelchair restraints and with a lap and shoulder belt. This is done in reverse when the destination is reached. All customers with mobility devices such as wheelchairs and scooters must have working brakes.
- l) Customers who use a motorized wheelchair or scooter may be required to position it on the lift. Operators will move the motorized wheelchair or scooter using the controls only if the customer is unable to do it safely themselves. Operators will ensure the device is turned off and fasten safety straps before starting the lift. The operator will ride on the lift with the customer if space allows. They will direct customers to a location and secure the wheelchair or scooter with wheelchair restraints and the person with a lap and shoulder belt. This is done in reverse when the destination is reached.
- m) Operators will not transfer customers into and out of their mobility devices. Customers using a mobility device (except those using scooters) must remain in their device for the duration of their trip and are not allowed to transfer to an ambulatory seat on the vehicle. People using scooters who wish to transfer to an ambulatory seat on the vehicle must do so independently.
- n) Customers using mobility devices must ride the lift with their back to the vehicle.
- o) Operators will escort customers who are ambulatory from inside the first accessible door to the vehicle. Operators will assist ambulatory customers including those using walkers up and down multiple exterior stairs. Operators will carry the walker up and down the steps if required. Operators will help customers into the vehicle, show them to their seat, and help them with their seatbelts. If customers need to use the lift, operators will ride it with them for their safety. This is done in reverse when the destination is reached. Operators will also assist ambulatory customers with carrying one bag of goods.

- p) Operators will ensure that all oxygen tanks and walkers are secured and personal items/bags of goods are safely stowed while travelling on paratransit.
- q) Operators may refuse to transport customers where a safety concern exists such as a ramp or walkway that is unsafe (e.g. ramp too steep or in disrepair, or broken pavement). If this occurs, a report will be provided to the paratransit administration who will investigate the incident. Customers will be advised of actions they must take, if any, to eliminate the safety hazard.
- r) Operators may refuse to transport customers with broken mobility devices where the safety of the operator, customer or other customers may be compromised. If this occurs, a report will be provided to the paratransit administration who will investigate the incident. Customers will be advised of actions they must take, if any, to eliminate the safety hazard.
- s) Operators will not leave vehicle doors open unnecessarily when the weather is cold to ensure that the vehicle remains warm.
- t) The operator will stow the lift and close the doors in between each customer to ensure that customers are not at risk of entering the lift when the operator is not present and that members of the general public cannot enter the bus unnecessarily.

#### Movement of Customers Using Manual Wheelchairs Up and Down a Step

- a) The Operator pushes customers using standard manual wheelchairs from the first accessible door to the vehicle. This will include moving the mobility device up or down a step at the pick-up and drop-off location. One step does not include the sidewalk curb or door threshold.
- b) Operators will not assist customers up or down any step where it may be unsafe for them or any other person. Conditions that may create an unsafe environment include but are not limited to: unusual characteristics, the weight of the chair and/or customer, the condition of the step due to structure, maintenance or weather.
- c) If the trip has been refused by the operator at the customer's residence, the operator will advise the clerk of the problem and the customer will be left at the residence. The situation will then be investigated as soon as possible by Paratransit Administration. Customers will be advised of actions they must take, if any, to eliminate the safety hazard. In the interim, paratransit will transport the customer if someone is present to move the customer up or down the steps.

## **2. RESPONSIBILITIES - CUSTOMERS**

Customers are required to:

- a) Be ready 10 minutes prior to the scheduled pick-up time.
- b) Make sure their mobility device is in good working order and does not need any repairs.
- c) Ensure footrests are on a mobility device. Customers with mobility devices will only be transported without footrests if a medical condition exists for safety reasons.
- d) Keep pets under control prior to the operator arriving.
- e) Keep steps and walkways clear of snow and ice.
- f) Have the fare ready when the operator arrives.
- g) Drive mobility devices in a safe manner.
- h) Stay seated with their seatbelt fastened until the vehicle stops.
- i) Listen to the operator when getting on and off the vehicle.
- j) Not speak to or distract the operator when the operator is driving.
- k) Wear proper clothes and footwear for the weather, unless an exception must be made for medical reasons.
- l) Not recline their motorized wheelchair unless an exception must be made for medical reasons.
- m) Speak with respect and not swear or use abusive words when speaking with operators, other customers and clerks.
- n) Not smoke in the vehicle including e-cigarettes.
- o) Not use scents such as aftershave and perfumes.
- p) Not use alcohol, cannabis, or non-prescription drugs in the vehicle. All alcohol and cannabis being transported must be closed and out of sight.
- q) Not touch the equipment in the vehicle.
- r) Not transport any hazardous materials.

- s) Not sell or pass out information without the approval of paratransit.
- t) Not touch other customers and operators.

Customers not adhering to the above may be subject to suspension of service.

## **VI. EMERGENCIES**

<b>1. EMERGENCIES</b>
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- a) In an emergency, the safety and well-being of customers is the top priority.
- b) Emergencies may include but are not limited to: medical incidents involving customers, intruders on the vehicle, accidents or fire in the vehicle.
- c) Operators can request 911 assistance through their radio if needed. The operator will use the emergency button to advise the clerk of the nature of the emergency. If required, the clerk will contact 911 on the operator's behalf and/or arrange for another vehicle and the transfer of customers.
- d) In a medical emergency, dependent on the circumstances, the clerk may advise the operator to take the customer to the emergency at the closest hospital. The clerk will phone ahead to the hospital to advise that the vehicle will be arriving.
- e) Also see Vehicle Difficulties – Section VII-4.

<b>2. EMERGENCY SERVICE REQUEST</b>
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- a) Paratransit is not an emergency medical service. If a customer is experiencing an emergency, 911 must be called.
- b) Any requests for emergency service will be declined by the clerk.

### **3. INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS**

The Transit Department has the discretion to temporarily discontinue or modify service in the case of severe weather conditions where customer or operator safety may be compromised. In these circumstances, no new trips will be provided and every attempt will be made to provide return trips as scheduled. Customers will be contacted by paratransit accordingly.

## **VII. VEHICLES**

### **1. VEHICLES**

- a) The City owned fleet of vehicles includes lift-equipped small buses.
- b) The City may modify the vehicles it uses to provide paratransit service at any time.
- c) Taxis may also be used to provide paratransit trips (See Taxis – Section VII-2.).
- d) Paratransit vehicles equipped with lifts are restricted to the following; 34 inches by 54 inches lift dimensions, 1000lb weight limit on the lift, and 500lb weight limit on the seats. Customers and their mobility devices must not exceed any of the above weight and size restrictions. If a customer is close in weight to these restrictions, paratransit may require regular verification that a customer is not exceeding weight limitations.

### **2. TAXIS**

- a) Paratransit may use taxis to provide a limited number of trips based on budget availability.
- b) Both taxis for ambulatory customers and those using mobility devices may be used. Ambulatory customers will be secured using the lap and shoulder belt and customers using a mobility device will be secured using a 4 point floor securement system and lap and shoulder belt.
- c) Taxis will charge paratransit the meter rate for each trip and bill the City directly. Customers will be asked to sign a taxi chit at the end of their trip. The amount written on the chit should match what is displayed on the meter.
- d) Customers cannot request a taxi for their trip.
- e) Customers needing intensive assistance, such as those travelling with an attendant and those who must be met by an attendant, are not eligible for taxi trips since paratransit cannot ensure the same service standards related to escorting customers.

- f) Paratransit may move a trip scheduled on a taxi to a bus and vice versa. Customers who are eligible to use taxis are expected to watch out for both types of vehicles.
- g) Customers pay for a taxi trip the same as a paratransit trip using a fare payment card or a cash fare.

### **3. CAMERAS ON VEHICLES**

All paratransit vehicles are equipped with a camera surveillance system which records the interior and exterior of the vehicle. This ensures the safety of customers, operators and the vehicles.

- a) The use of cameras is governed by the “Transit Surveillance Operational Policy.”
- b) All vehicles with a camera system will be identified with signs on the vehicles.
- c) Camera footage is kept on file in the vehicle for 10 days and cannot be viewed live.
- d) Camera footage will only be viewed by an authorized person if an incident or an accident occurs.
- e) All personal information that is collected is done so in accordance with *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Privacy Act* (The LAFOIPP Act).

### **4. VEHICLE DIFFICULTIES**

- a) Vehicles may have mechanical problems or become detained while in service. If so, paratransit will strive to resolve the situation as quickly as possible and customer comfort and safety will be the primary concern.
- b) If a vehicle has mechanical difficulty, the operator will call the clerk immediately. If the difficulty is minor and the vehicle is still safe for use, the vehicle will continue its route. If the difficulty is major, another vehicle will be sent immediately, and customers will be transferred. Other vehicles in service that day will be used, or an additional vehicle will be called into service.
- c) When a vehicle gets stuck, the operator will call the clerk immediately to arrange for the transfer of customers onto another vehicle. If this is not possible, an additional vehicle will be sent immediately by the contractor to facilitate the transfer.
- d) If cold weather conditions exist, the operator will provide emergency blankets to customers while they wait to be transferred.

- e) If the delay in getting customers to their destination is excessive, the emergency contact will be called by the clerk.
- f) If the health or safety of any customer is at risk, the vehicle may be evacuated, and emergency services will be contacted to assist.

## **VIII. CUSTOMER FEEDBACK**

<b>1. COMMENTS, COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS</b>
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- a) Complaints, compliments or service issues may be registered by phoning Service Regina at 306-777-7000. The customer service representative will record all of the details of the issue. Complaints or compliments can also be filed on the City of Regina website [Regina.ca](http://Regina.ca).
- b) Customers, or someone on their behalf who is reporting the complaint, should gather as much information as possible about the issue. Information such as the date and time of the problem, pick-up and drop-off location and the vehicle number are helpful.
- c) All issues are fully reviewed by the Paratransit Administration and a record/statistics of all complaints are kept.
- d) Customers will be contacted with a response to their complaints if they make the request and provide callback information.