

Public Transportation

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT), Bureau of Public Transportation, oversees and financially supports bus, train and ridesharing services for the citizens of Connecticut. These services include urban fixed-route bus services, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) paratransit services, non-ADA paratransit services (dial-a-ride), commuter express bus services, rural transit services, rail-bus Commuter Connection services, and ridesharing services. Information can be found at www.ct.rides.com.

All state-subsidized buses are accessible to people with disabilities. Elderly riders and people with disabilities are eligible for reduced fares.

ADA Paratransit

The federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires operators of fixed-route bus services to provide paratransit services to individuals who are unable to use the bus because of a qualifying disability. Trips must have an origin and a destination within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of the fixed bus route. Information is available at www.ctrides.com.



2-1-1 is the statewide information, referral, and crisis intervention service.

Dial-A-Ride

Dial-A-Ride provides town-specific and geographically limited transportation for people 60 years of age or older and people with disabilities who are unable to access public transportation. For a list of Dial-A-Ride providers by town, please call INFOLINE at 211.



Ridesharing

ConnDOT Commuter Services supports and implements programs that promote carpooling, vanpooling, mass transit, and other strategies to reduce the number of single occupancy vehicles on the roads. There are Park-and-Ride lots available to customers for carpooling and vanpooling. More information can be found at www.ctrides.com.



Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC)

The Department of Social Services (DSS) and ConnDOT work together to improve employment opportunities for low-income individuals and TFA/TANF eligible individuals.

Bus service enhancements are supported across the state of Connecticut. Other services, which vary by region, may include

- Public transportation services, such as a free monthly bus pass for job search or getting to work for the first month; information/ training on how to use bus systems for individuals, case managers, and job developers; and child care transportation programs; and
- Car-based solutions ranging from car repair to gas cards and mileage reimbursement.

Regional transportation contacts for these programs are:

- Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board, Waterbury (203) 574-6971 x 1448
- Regional Growth Connection, New Haven (203) 624-1493 x 245
- Capitol Region Council of Governments, Hartford (860) 522-2217 x 33
- The Workplace, Inc., Bridgeport (203) 610-8544
- Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board, Franklin (860) 859-4100 x 22

Taxi Voucher Programs

Two Connecticut municipalities have developed taxi voucher systems, both called **Share-the-Fare**.

The City of Stamford has created a program in which the passenger pays \$5.00. The rest of the cost is paid by the City. For more information, call (203) 977-4029.

The Town of Greenwich Commission on Aging offers \$10.00 coupon books that may be purchased for \$6.50. For more information, call (860) 622-3992.



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Independent Transportation Network (ITN)

The ITN began in Portland, Maine and provides rides to seniors and people who are visually impaired to any destination 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Connecticut's ITNs are expected to provide rides for seniors and people with vision impairments.

ITN NorthCentral CT
786F Enfield St
Enfield, CT 06082
(860) 253-6394

- Serving Bloomfield, East Granby, East Windsor, Enfield, Granby, Somers, Suffield, South Windsor, Windsor, and Windsor Locks

ITN Central CT
100 Riverview Center, Suite 202
Middletown, CT 06457
(860) 347-5661

- Serving Cromwell, Durham, East Hampton, Middlefield, Middletown, Portland, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield

ITN uses both volunteer and paid drivers. Participants open an account with their local ITN, and a small fee is taken out for each ride. Seniors who donate their cars to the program have the car's value credited to their account.

Commuter Tax Benefit

The Commuter Tax Benefit is Connecticut's response to a federal tax law allowing employees to set aside pre-tax income to pay for transportation costs.

As of January 2009, employees may set aside up to \$120 a month of their salaries before taxes to pay for transit and vanpool fares. Employees may set aside up to \$230 a month to pay for qualified parking expenses. Qualified parking is at or near an employer's worksite, or at a facility from which an employee commutes via transit, vanpool or carpool.

The Commuter Tax Benefit is only available through an employer-sponsored commute benefit program and is easy to set up. The program requires commuters to authorize a simple payroll adjustment that designates tax-exempt status for the transportation fringe benefit. To enroll, ask your employer's Human Resources department about Connecticut's Commuter Tax Benefit program, or visit www.commutertaxbenefit.org. Currently there are over 100 participating companies in Connecticut.



Travel Training

Travel training teaches people with disabilities and seniors how to use the local bus and rail system. For information, contact The Kennedy Center at 203-365-8522. The Board of Education and Services for the Blind provides travel training for individuals who are visually impaired. Contact BESB's Orientation and Mobility Specialist at (800) 842-4510.

Additional Resources

Getting on Board Accessible Transportation Guides provide commuters with information on how to get around. The guides include information about bus, train, paratransit, and ridesharing. Additional information can be found at www.ctrides.com.

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- Earn rewards from great companies
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