

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and of 2008

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) prohibits discrimination and ensures equal opportunity and access for persons with disabilities. It provides the general framework and approach for ending discrimination for persons with disabilities. The stated national goals of the ADA are to guarantee that persons with disabilities have equality of opportunity, a chance to fully participate in society, ability to live independently and be economically self-sufficient.

Section 223 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 requires that public entities that operate non-commuter **fixed-route transportation service** also provide complementary paratransit service for individuals unable to use the **fixed-route system**. The regulations define minimum service characteristics that must be met for this service to be considered equivalent to the fixed-route service it is intended to complement. ADA complementary paratransit standards are provided for in 49 CFR Sec. 37.123 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

In general, the law prohibits public transit systems from denying individuals with disabilities the opportunity to use public transportation services, when they are available. It prohibits public entities from providing services that discriminate against persons with disabilities. The ADA requires the development of programs that will ensure the integration of all persons into the public transportation system, and thus all of the opportunities transportation makes possible. The goal is to ensure non-discriminatory, equitable, accessible and safe public transportation, enhancing the social and economic quality of life for people with disabilities.

Specific actions must be taken by public transit agencies to avoid discrimination. For example, the law requires that:

- All newly purchased or leased vehicles used in fixed-route service must be accessible to persons with disabilities.
- Public agencies which provide fixed-route public transportation service also must offer similar complementary paratransit services to individuals with disabilities who are unable to use the fixed-route system.
- New facilities must be accessible.
- Alterations to facilities must include features to make them accessible.

Service Provided by the Whitfield County Transit Service

Whitfield County Transit Service (WCTS) operates a **demand-response bus service** from 6:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., Monday through Friday. Demand-response indicates the service is an “origin to destination” service that takes individuals from their current location to a destination of choice, provided it is within the serviced area. The WCTS **does not** operate a fixed-route system, nor does the service own/maintain any public facilities. The service maintains a fleet inventory of eleven (11), 16-passenger buses, all of which are wheelchair accessible.

Current riders pay \$4.00 per one-way trip, or may purchase a ticket book for \$30.00, that supplies the rider with ten (10) trips. Rates may vary for Department of Human Services and Medicare/Medicaid clients. Please contact WCTS for more information at **(706) 278-3606**.