

## TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES

Transportation is an important piece of your independence. We want to help you maintain your independence by thinking about alternative transportation solutions. There are many options to assist you with travel in your community.

**Before considering an option, be sure to research ahead of time to find the following:**

- What geographic area does the service cover?
- How much do rides cost?
- How far in advance should you make a reservation?
- Are vehicles accessible for a walker/wheelchair?
- Will the driver help you in/out of the car if you need assistance?
- Do you need curb-to-curb pick-up *or* door-to-door pick-up?

### COUNCIL ON AGING

Many towns offer discounted or free transportation options via the Council on Aging (COA); you may need to call ahead to register and/or schedule a pick-up appointment. Some towns also offer monthly shopping opportunities to local grocery/shopping centers.

### MASS.GOV

The Massachusetts state website has many helpful resources for ride scheduling. The following website will assist you with researching these options: <https://www.mass.gov/im-looking-for-transportation>

Ride Match can assist you with locating volunteer programs as well as other transportation options in your community. This website will match you with an appropriate transportation option based on criteria you decide on. The following website can assist you with a match: <https://massridematch.org/>

If you prefer a phonecall, you may speak with a specialist at MassOptions for personalized assistance. Call (800)-243-4636.

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### PUBLIC TRANSIT

The MBTA and 15 Regional Transit Authorities provide fixed-route and paratransit services. The MBTA offers transportation via bus, train, subway and ferry at discounted fares for older adults and people with disabilities. Contact the transit authority to ask about senior discounts. MBTA Customer Support is (617)-222-3200.

### MICRO TRANSIT

**Gatra GO** is a public, on-demand service that allows you to request a vehicle to pick you up with same-day service within a certain area. This services covers Plymouth, Pembroke, Mansfield, Foxborough, Plainville, Foxborough, Franklin, Norfolk and Wrentham.

However, Gatra also serves a fixed-route bus service for Attleboro, Taunton, Bellingham, Berkley, Carver, Dighton, Duxbury, Foxborough, Franklin, Hanover, Kingston, Lakeville, Mansfield, Marshfield, Medway, Middleborough, Norfolk, North Attleboro, Norton, Pembroke, Plainville, Plymouth, Raynham, Rehoboth, Scituate, Seekonk, Wareham, and Wrentham. All of these communities have demand response (Dial-A-Ride) services for people with disabilities and seniors. Call (800)-823-8828 or visit the website at [www.gatra.org](http://www.gatra.org)

**(THE RIDE)** is an option where you can request a ride via van. Rides are shared, and there may be multiple stops. Unlike public transit, this is **not** a fixed route, and will offer origin-to-destination service.

Services the towns of: Abington, Arlington, Avon, Bedford, Belmont, Beverly, Billerica, Boston, Braintree, Brockton, Brookline, Burlington, Cambridge, Canton, Chelsea, Cohasset, Concord, Danvers, Dedham, Everett, Hingham, Holbrook, Hull, Lexington, Lincoln, Lynn, Lynnfield, Malden, Marblehead, Medfield, Medford, Melrose, Middleton, Milton, Nahant, Needham, Newton, Norwood, Peabody, Quincy, Randolph, Reading, Revere, Salem, Saugus, Sharon, Somerville, Stoneham, Stoughton, Swampscott, Topsfield, Wakefield, Walpole, Waltham, Watertown, Wellesley, Wenham, Weston, Westwood, Weymouth, Wilmington, Winchester, Winthrop, and Woburn.

The **RIDE Flex** allows THE RIDE customers to sign up for subsidized trips on Lyft, Uber and Curb. You do not need to schedule in advance, and if you are eligible, you can make same-day bookings, receive lower prices and receive curb-to-curb service. Call (800)-392-6100.

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### STATEWIDE INFORMATION HOTLINES

- **Mass211** has information about transportation and other services. Call 2-1-1.
- **MassOptions** connects seniors and people with disabilities to services. Call (844)-422-6277.
- **Regional Elder Services** provides information on regional senior services. Call (800)-243-4636.
- **INDEX** provides information on services for people with disabilities. Call (800)-641-0249.

### TAXI SERVICES

**Uber** and **Lyft** are two transportation networking companies that hail rides via smartphone applications. You can download either the Uber or the Lyft application on your smartphone to book a ride within minutes.

If utilizing the smartphone is difficult or if you do not have a smartphone, GoGoGrandparent will help you book a ride. You can visit [www.gogograndparent.com](http://www.gogograndparent.com) or call (855)-464-6872.

You could also research local taxi services in your community.

### MASSHEALTH MEMBERS

MassHealth provides curb-to-curb transportation to and from medical appointments if you are eligible after completing a PT-1 form. MassHealth members will require a separate form for each service; you can submit a form online via the Customer Web Portal. This service allows you to bring one escort to help get in/out of vehicle or for translations.

To sign up online, go to the Masshealth Provider PT-1 Portal at <https://masshealth.ehs.state.ma.us/CWP/Default>

OR

Call (800) 841-2900 or email [providersupport@mahealth.net](mailto:providersupport@mahealth.net) for assistance.

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### LOCAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

Northern Essex Elder Transport, Inc. (NEET)—works with multiple Councils on Aging in Merrimack Valley to assist adults 60+ years with transportation (Amesbury, Boxford, Georgetown, Groveland, Haverill, Lawrence, Merrimac, Methuen, Newbury, Newburyport, North Andover, Rowley, Salisbury, West Newbury).

Call at (978)-388-7474.

NewMo for Newton residents is a ridesharing service that you can book rides from your phone to travel anywhere in Newton. Service hours are Monday-Friday 7am-6:30pm. Cost is \$2.00/ride, however, the first 5 trips are free for new users and possible subsidized to \$0.50/ride for qualifying low-income Newton residents on public assistance.

Download the NewMo app (search for NewMo Newton) or call (617)-655-8019 to get started.

TRIPPS (Transportation, Resources, Information, Planning & Partnership for Seniors) is a volunteer program that offers travel options in Brookline, MA:

- Brookline Senior Center Van (door-to-door transport to Senior Center for \$1/ride). Call 617-730-2750
- Brookline Elderbus (hourly circuit including Senior Center, elderly housing, shopping, and Longwood Medical Area for \$0.50/ride) Visit: <https://www.brooklinema.gov/248/Senior-Transportation>
- Brookline Elder Taxi System (BETS) for income-eligible residents at reduced rates. Call (617)-730-2750.

Catch Connect –A public curb-to-curb transportation alternative; this program is offered for free only within the town of Wellesley. The service operates Monday through Friday from 6:45am to 6:45 pm. You can fill out an application online at [www.mwrta.com](http://www.mwrta.com) or you can call (508)-283-5083.