

Midland Public Transit Passenger Handbook

GOALS OF PASSENGER HANDBOOK

Midland Public Transit is a transportation provider for **Clay, Howard, Merrick, Nuckolls and Webster Counties**. This service has a set of policies and procedures that passengers are required to follow. It is to the benefit of all passengers that all policies and procedures outlined in this handbook are followed.

All policies will be enforced in a consistent and fair manner. If passengers perceive they have been treated unfairly, they have the option of filing an appeals complaint with **Midland Public Transit** as outlined on Pages 1-7.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION AND COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Midland Public Transit complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other federal equal opportunity laws. Midland Public Transit serves a diverse population of individuals with varying ages, physical challenges, economic status, and ethnic backgrounds. **Midland Public Transit** shall ensure that no person shall be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity undertaken by Midland Public Transit solely based on his/her race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or any other characteristic protected by law.

Title VI complaints of alleged discrimination and inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies of **Midland Public Transit** may be directed to **Pam Arterburn**. Complaint forms are available at

2727 W. 2nd St, #440

Hastings NE 68901

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

Midland Public Transit provides the following public transportation services to residents of **Clay, Howard, Nuckolls, Merrick and Webster counties**.

SERVICE AREA

Midland Public Transit provides public transportation services in the following areas:

All residence of Clay, Howard, Merrick, Nuckolls and Webster Counties.

DAYS AND HOURS OF SERVICE

Midland Public Transit is open 8-4 Monday- Friday

Public transportation services are not provided on Federal Holidays.

FEE SCALE per County:

Clay County:

\$5 in County

\$8 Hastings/ Aurora/ Geneva/ Henderson

\$12 York/ Grand Island

\$20 Lincoln/ Kearney

***Destination plus 2 stops (out of town) are included in this rate. Extra stops will be charged at \$1 per boarding after that.**

Howard County:

In town- \$1 per boarding

In County- \$5

Grand Island- \$8

Hastings/ Kearney \$20

Lincoln \$40

Omaha \$60

***Destination plus 2 stops (out of town) are included in this rate. Extra stops will be charged at \$1 per boarding after that.**

Nuckolls County:

In town- \$1 per boarding

In county- \$5

Hastings- \$15

Grand Island- \$20

Lincoln- \$50

Omaha- \$70

***Destination plus 2 stops (out of town) are included in this rate. Extra stops will be charged at \$1 per boarding after that.**

Merrick County:

In town- \$1 per boarding

In County- \$5

Fullerton/ Aurora- \$6

Grand Island- \$12

Hastings- \$18

Kearney- \$20

Lincoln- \$40

Omaha- \$60

***Destination plus 2 stops (out of town) are included in this rate. Extra stops will be charged at \$1 per boarding after that.**

Webster County:

In town (Red Cloud) - \$1 per boarding

In County, out of town- \$5

Superior- \$5

Franklin- \$5

Hastings/ Minden- \$20

Kearney/ Grand Island- \$20

Lincoln- \$50

Omaha- \$70

***Destination plus 2 stops (out of town) are included in this rate. Extra stops will be charged at \$1 per boarding after that.**

SERVICE TYPES: Fixed Route, Nonemergency Medical, Out of Area, Shopping

SCHEDULING RIDES

Contact **Midland Public Transit at 1-888-997-1655** to schedule your ride. The transit dispatcher may require the following information:

1. Passenger Name
2. Date of Birth
3. Address
4. Phone Number

5. Destination Name & Address
6. Expected Arrival Time
7. Any additional destinations

CURB-TO-CURB SERVICE

Midland Public Transit provides “curb-to-curb” service only. The following policies further define this service:

1. Private Homes:

- Passengers must enter and depart the transit vehicle at the designated pick-up and drop-off points.
- Drivers will not enter private homes for any reason.
- Drivers may assist passengers to and from the vehicle only.
- Drivers are not permitted to lift passengers.
- Drivers are not permitted to maneuver a mobility device up or down stairs.

2. Business/Medical Facilities/Public Buildings:

- Drivers may assist passengers into and from the inside door. Due to extreme temperatures in entryways, drivers may assist passengers through the second entry door when necessary. Drivers will not assist passengers further into the building.
- When picking up passengers from a business or medical facility, drivers may go through the first door. Drivers will not go past this point.
- It is the individual’s personal care attendants’ responsibility to ensure that passengers are waiting inside the door for their ride.
- Drivers will not enter nursing homes, medical facilities, shopping centers or businesses to locate passengers. Passengers must be waiting at the designated pickup point at least 15 minutes before their scheduled pick-up time or the no-show policy will apply.

CANCELLATION POLICY AND NO SHOWS

Passengers are encouraged to cancel scheduled pick-ups in a timely manner. Cancellations can be made by contacting transit dispatch at **1-888-997-1655** between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm, Monday thru Friday.

Cancellations should be made 24 hours in advance or as early as possible. Cancellations will be accepted up to one (1) hour prior to scheduled pick-up times without penalty. Any cancellation received later than one (1) hour prior to the scheduled pick-up will be considered a late cancellation and will be noted as such by the dispatcher in the passenger’s record. Three or more late cancellations in a 90-day period will be considered excessive and the passenger will receive written notification of such via the U.S. Postal Service. Passengers having additional late cancellations

during the next 90-day period will be assessed a \$5.00 late cancellation fee, payable at the next boarding call.

A no show is defined as any instance in which a passenger does not keep their scheduled ride and fails to notify **Midland Public Transit** at least one (1) hour prior to scheduled pick-up time. Upon arrival at the scheduled pick-up point, the transit driver will wait for the passenger for ten (10) minutes. After ten (10) minutes, the driver will continue on his/her route and the ride will be marked as a no show.

PASSENGER READINESS

Passengers should be prepared for transit vehicles to arrive 15 minutes before or after your scheduled pick-up time. Schedule rides accordingly to arrive at your destination for appointments.

TRANSPORTING SERVICE ANIMALS & ACCOMODATION OF OTHER ANIMALS

Midland Public Transit allows service animals to accompany owners as per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. ADA's revised regulations define a "service animal" as a dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. Where reasonable, miniature horses are also allowed as service animals. A transit driver may ask if an animal is a service animal or ask what tasks the animal has been trained to perform, but cannot require special ID cards for the animal or ask about the persons disability. A service animal may not be excluded unless the animal is out of control and the animal's owner does not take effective action to control it or the animal poses a direct threat or safety of others.

The task(s) performed by the service animal must be directly related to the person's disability. Under the ADA, "comfort," "therapy" or "emotional support animals" do not meet the definition of a service animal.

For more information about the rules and regulations regarding service animals, go to ADA's website at www.ada.gov

Animals other than service animals as described above are allowed to ride the transit vehicle only in a secured pet travel carrier.

PERSONAL ASSITANTS/GUESTS

Personal care attendants are persons who are directly involved in the mobility assistance of the attendee and will be allowed to ride free of charge while accompanying their attendee. Generally, the following conditions would warrant a fare free attendant: communication impairment, disorientation, immobility, and non-comprehensive. Any other person riding with a passenger will be considered a guest and will be required to pay full fare.

Personal care attendants are required to specifically assist the passenger. This assistance includes, but is not limited to, the following duties:

- Assisting the passenger from his/her door to the bus and back
- Opening doors

- Pushing wheelchairs to and from the vehicle
- Transfer assistance from mobility device to a seat
- Carrying packages
- Communicating with the driver (if passenger is unable)

PASSENGER SAFETY AND SECURITY

It is required that all passengers wear an approved safety device while riding on the bus. Passengers utilizing mobility devices will be required to have their mobility device properly secured.

A passenger who cannot enter the vehicle using the stairs or ramp, but who does not use a wheelchair, will be allowed to enter the vehicle using the lift.

Drivers have the discretion to assign seats and determine wheelchair placement when necessary for the efficiency and/or safety of the passengers.

The driver may recommend that a passenger transfer from his or her mobility device into a vehicle seat. In this instance, the passenger has the final decision as to whether a transfer is appropriate.

State laws apply toward child passengers. Car seats are **NOT** provided.

GENERAL PASSENGER RULES

The general rules listed below are not intended to be all-inclusive but are considered a guideline for proper passenger behavior.

1. Riders shall wait until the transit vehicle has come to a complete stop before attempting to board or disembark. All riders shall stay seated until the vehicle stops.
2. No roller skates, roller blades, ice skates, etc., are to be worn in the bus.
3. All passengers are to be clothed and wearing some form of protective footwear.
4. While waiting for the transit vehicle at the designated pick-up point, riders shall stay off the traveled roadway at all times. Riders shall not walk along the side, directly in front of or behind the bus for any reason.
5. All passengers will remain seated while the vehicle is in motion and for the duration of their ride.
6. Riders shall be considerate of others at all times. Threats, hitting, tripping, shoving, kicking, spitting, foul language, horseplay, teasing or any other improper or disruptive behavior towards anyone or themselves will not be tolerated.
7. Devices such as radios or I-Pods can only be used with headphones.
8. Passengers carrying or using alcoholic beverages and/or illegal substances will not be permitted in the transit vehicle
9. Riders shall keep hand(s), head or any other body part inside the bus and within their seated area at all times.

10. Riders shall obey the driver willingly and report any problems to the bus driver or dispatcher promptly.
11. Riders shall assist in keeping the transit vehicle clean by using sanitary practices. Any offensive odors to others or any type of unsanitary practices are to be avoided.
12. Eating or drinking beverages in the vehicle is not permitted.
13. Use of tobacco products is strictly prohibited.
14. Lighting matches, lighters, or any other type of flammable material is not permitted on the vehicle.
15. Any items that the driver assumes may be explosive or any type of weapon is not permitted on the vehicle.

CHILD RIDER POLICY

Midland Public Transit has established rules, roles and responsibilities in the transportation of children under the age of 16. Therefore, the following policies will be followed:

1. All children must follow the transit rules, regulations, and policies. Violations of these rules by either the child or parent may lead to service suspension.
2. All prior paperwork will be completed by the parent or guardian before children are allowed to ride.
2. No child under the age of three (3) is permitted to ride alone on **Midland Public Transit**
3. All children under the age of eight (8) must wear an approved safety restraint. Parent or guardians are responsible for providing an approved safety restraint.
4. Children under the age of sixteen (16) must be accompanied by an adult. Exceptions to this policy for children over the age of three (3) include:
 - a. Agency to agency transportation, such as from the Y.M.C.A. to a Public School.
 - b. Transportation where the parent or guardian provides supervision for the child at both the pick-up and destination of the child's trip.
5. Children under sixteen (16) will be transported only to the destination scheduled by the parent or guardian. Children are not allowed to change scheduled rides.
6. Due to safety considerations, children under sixteen (16) will be transported within the city limits of their trip origin, unless accompanied by an adult.
7. Parent or guardians must notify Midland Public Transportation at the time of trip scheduling the child's age.
8. If no adult is at the destination location to accept the child (under 16 years of age), the child will NOT be left at the drop off location. Drivers will be instructed to deliver the child to the local police station, and parents will be notified.

PACKAGES AND PERSONAL ITEMS

Passengers shall limit their carry-on packages to not more than the equivalent of five brown paper grocery sacks or ten plastic bags per person. Oversized packages will be refused for transport. No one package shall weigh more than 20 pounds. An attendant may travel to assist with the loading/unloading of packages. Drivers can assist with bringing items to a passenger's door but not further. Drivers are not permitted to run errands on behalf of a passenger such as shopping or exchanging currency. Drivers are not allowed to carry or hold passenger belongings such as purses.

An oxygen tank must be portable and secured in some fashion so it cannot fall or roll. Securement can be with a seat belt or tank holder on the wheelchair.

Drivers are not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items.

SEVERE WEATHER POLICY

Passengers are responsible for snow removal so their driveways and sidewalks are accessible to transit vehicles.

If extreme weather conditions make travel unsafe, services will be discontinued until conditions are more favorable. Passengers with scheduled trips will be notified as soon as possible. In the event that transit service is closed due to a weather event, it will be announced on **KHAS TV**.

Winter Riding Tips:

- Be aware of weather conditions which may affect transit services.
- Allow extra time to reach your destination.
- Be prepared for sudden stops while riding the bus.
- Wear appropriate winter clothing.

VIOLATIONS OF POLICY

Any violation of the policies, rules, and procedures outlined in this handbook will result in the following:

First Offense: A warning letter will be issued immediately.

Second Offense: A second letter will be issued which will result in rides being discontinued for one week.

Third Offense: A third and final letter will be sent and rides will be discontinued indefinitely.

Midland Public Transit reserves the right to terminate services immediately.

COMPLAINT/GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

As a recipient of State and Federal funds administered by the Nebraska Department of Roads, **Midland Public Transit** hereby attests that it will abide by the eligibility guidelines and service priorities as stipulated by all applicable laws, rules and regulations. The process for submitting a Title VI complaint is outlined in the Nondiscrimination section of this handbook. For all other

complaints or for a copy of the complaint form contact **Pam Arterburn**, Transit Manager, at 402-463-4565 ex. 316

Upon receipt of the complaint, **Midland Public Transit** representative will request written detail of the complaint or take an oral statement from the complainant. The complaint should include all details regarding the situation including date, time, driver, problem, etc. All complaints or statements should be signed or, if by telephone, the actual complainant should be the individual calling. Complaints received by telephone will be investigated and resolved prior to ending the call. A written response will not be required if complainant is satisfied with the resolution. Upon completion of the investigation, a decision regarding the complaint will be rendered and a written response issued to the complainant no later than 10 days after receipt of the complaint. A copy of the complaint and action taken will be forwarded to the Nebraska Department of Roads, Transit Section, and a copy will be kept on file at **Midland Public Transit**.