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Pueblo Transit ADA General Boarding and Seating Policy

Boarding Assistance for Passengers without Mobility Devices

While some passengers may not require lifts or ramps to board or alight buses, they may still have difficulty in stepping onto or off buses due to a disability. Pueblo Transit requires operators to use the bus's kneeling feature or to deploy the bus ramp for ambulatory passengers upon request. Use of kneelers, combined with pulling as close to the curb as possible (when there is a sidewalk), allows certain passengers greater ability to use fixed-route buses. Operators shall position the bus to make boarding as easy as possible for everyone, minimize the slope of the ramp, and use the bus kneeling option as needed. When required, bus operators shall provide assistance to passengers to negotiate ramps and/or inclines when boarding or deboarding. Before leaving a stop, operators shall ensure that passengers are safely boarded.

Boarding Order for Passengers with Mobility Devices

Pueblo Transit has adopted a policy that all passengers using mobility devices shall be boarded and deboarded before additional passengers are boarded. All passengers are encouraged to deboard from the rear of the bus. Operators must keep securement areas open for their use. This does not mean giving boarding priority to riders with disabilities above other riders. For example, if riders with disabilities are waiting at a bus stop and a bus at full capacity arrives at the stop, drivers do not need to (and are advised not to) compel other riders to get off the bus in order to accommodate waiting riders. Conversely, policies that give lower boarding priority to riders who use mobility aids because they would occupy more space on the vehicle, or for any other reason, would also be discriminatory. This does not preclude passengers from temporarily deboarding to allow the boarding of a mobility aid or requesting passengers to move to another area of the vehicle not designated as a securement area.

Mobility Aid Securement

Mobility aids must be properly secured whenever possible. Bus operators shall use their best efforts to correctly use four securement points.

Other Mobility Devices

Persons with mobility disabilities may use devices other than wheelchairs to assist with locomotion. Canes, crutches and walkers, for example, are often used by people whose mobility disabilities do not require use of a wheelchair. These devices must be accommodated on the same basis as wheelchairs. Pueblo Transit does not accommodate devices that are not primarily designed for use by individuals with mobility impairments. This includes items such as shopping carts, bicycles and skateboards. However,

according to the FTA, the definition of wheelchair is not intended to include a class of devices known as "other power-driven mobility devices" (OPMDs). OPMDs are defined in Department of Justice ADA rules as "any mobility device powered by batteries, fuel, or other engines – whether or not designed primarily for use by individuals with mobility disabilities – that is used by individuals with mobility disabilities for the purpose of locomotion, including golf carts, Segway[s]®, or any mobility device designed to operate in areas without defined pedestrian routes, but that is not a wheelchair Pueblo Transit does not permit other types of assistive devices to be used in ways that depart from or exceed their intended uses. For example, Pueblo Transit does not permit riders who use walkers with built-in seats to ride in securement areas while seated on their walkers, meaning that transit agencies can require these individuals to transfer to a vehicle seat.

Portable Oxygen Use

Pueblo Transit operators shall not prohibit an individual with a disability from traveling with a respirator or portable oxygen supply, consistent with applicable Department of Transportation rules on the transportation of hazardous materials. Oxygen supplies must not obstruct the aisle

Priority Seating and Mobility Aid Securement Areas

Each vehicle shall contain sign(s) which indicate that seats in the front of the vehicle are priority seats for persons with disabilities, and that other passengers should make such seats available to those who wish to use them. At least one set of forward-facing seats shall be so designated. When an individual with a disability enters a vehicle, and because of a disability, the individual needs to sit in a seat or occupy a mobility aid securement location, an operator shall ask the following persons to move in order to allow the individual with a disability to occupy the seat or securement location:

- Individuals, except other individuals with a disability or elderly persons, sitting in a location designated as priority seating for elderly and handicapped persons (or other seat as necessary).
- Individuals sitting in a fold-down or other movable seat in a mobility aid securement location.



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