PARATRANSIT ELIGIBILITY AND HOW TO APPLY

How do I know if I am eligible for service?

To be eligible for Paratransit service you must be determined eligible under one of the following categories:

Category I: Inability to independently navigate the fixed route system

Any individual with a disability who is unable as the result of a physical or mental disability (including a vision impairment) and without the assistance of another individual (except the operator of a wheelchair lift or other boarding assistance device) to board, ride, or disembark from any vehicle on the system which is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.

<u>Category II: Transit system's lack of accessible vehicles, stations or bus stops on</u> <u>the fixed route system</u>

Any individual with a disability who needs the assistance of a wheelchair lift or other boarding assistance device and is able, with such assistance to board, ride, and disembark from any vehicle which is readily accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities. If the individual wants to travel on a route of the system during the hours of operation of the system or within a reasonable period of such time, when such a vehicle is not being used to provide designated public transportation on the route.

<u>Category III: The inability to reach a boarding point or final destination on the</u> fixed route system

Any individual with a disability who has a specific impairment related condition which prevents such individual from traveling to a boarding location or from a disembarking location on the fixed route system.

How do I apply to become a Paratransit rider?

- Call GPTC's ADA Coordinator at (219)884-6100 extension 113 or extension 106 to request a Paratransit application.
 - Or on line at: **gptcbus.com** and click on the ADA Complementary Paratransit page (download and complete application).
- As the applicant, complete Part I of the application. Ask the licensed or certified professional most familiar with the limitations imposed by your disability to complete Part II of the application.
- Send your completed application to:

ADA Coordinator
Gary Public Transportation Corp.

2101 West 35th Avenue

Gary, IN 46408

Apply in person at:

ADA Coordinator
Gary Public Transportation Corp.
2101 West 35th Avenue
Gary, IN 46408

NOTE: There is no cost for processing the application

When will I know if I can use the service?

Within 21 days of the date your completed application is received you will be notified in writing of approval or disapproval of your application. If your application is approved, you should visit the GPTC's Transportation Office at 2101

W. 35th Avenue weekdays between 8:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m. to obtain a GPTC ADA Complementary Paratransit Photo ID Card.

Certified Paratransit riders who are able to use GPTC's fixed route bus service may present their ADA photo ID card to drivers on GPTC's local and express routes and ride for the reduced fare afforded to seniors, Medicare, temporarily, conditional or permanently disabled riders.

Steps in the ADA Application Eligibility and Determination Process

Applicants request an application for ADA Paratransit Service



Applications are submitted to GPTC (Application is date stamped on the day it is received)



Applications are reviewed to ensure completeness of information and medical verification



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COMPLETE APPLICATIONS

Complete applications are analyzed to determine ADA eligibility. Professional verification is requested as needed.



INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS

Applicants are notified (via mail and/or phone) and additional information is requested.



Applicants are notified of eligibility determination within 21 days of receipt of a **COMPLETE** application







ELIGIBLE applicants are notified of category and conditions. Applicants receiving limited (conditional) service can appeal decision.



Presumptive Eligibility

Applicants are granted this eligibility when ADA determinations take over 21 days from receipt of completed application.



Applicants DENIED eligibility will be notified via mail with information

about the appeals process.



APPEALS HEARING

A decision on the appeal must be completed within 30 days of the hearing or presumptive eligibility is granted.



APPEALS REQUEST Applicants denied eligibility can file an appeal request within 60 days from the date of denial.