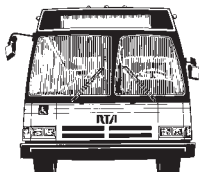

BUS



PASSENGER SAFETY TIPS

**A guide on
how to use
the bus safely.**



GREATER CLEVELAND
REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

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SAFETY FIRST

RTA wants your ride to be a safe and pleasant one. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the information in this brochure. By following these tips, you can greatly reduce your chances of being injured while riding the bus. Pass this information on to other members of your family and friends who use the bus. We want all of our riders to learn how to use the RTA transit system - SAFELY.

WHEN HELP IS NEEDED

Every RTA bus is equipped with a two-way radio. When an emergency occurs that requires response by Police, Fire or Emergency Medical Services, the operator can call for assistance immediately.

The RTA Traffic Radio Control Center operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and provides communication between RTA Operators, supervisory and maintenance vehicles, and emergency response personnel.

If you observe an incident that could jeopardize someone's health and safety, report it to the bus operator immediately. Your swift action could possibly prevent serious injury to someone or prevent damage to either RTA or private property.

USING THE BUS

The following information will help provide an extra measure of safety and security when you use the bus.

WAITING FOR THE BUS

Determine your route of travel ahead of time. You should know where to board the bus and what time it will be at your stop. The RTAnswerline, 621-9500, can help plan your trip. If possible, during hours of darkness select a stop that is lighted, and arrange for your wait to be no more than 10 minutes.

During inclement weather, especially snow and ice, be careful and watch your step. It is wise to wear rubbers or boots at these times. They will not only keep your feet warm and dry, but they will add more traction that will help prevent slips and falls.

BOARDING THE BUS

Allow passengers to leave the bus before you attempt to board. If the bus is not close to the curb, be careful when climbing the first step because it may be higher than you realize. Be sure to use the handrails.

Please show any passes or identification cards clearly to the bus operator.

ON BOARD

As a courtesy, allow the elderly and people with disabilities to use the priority seating in the front of the bus. If a passenger in a wheelchair boards the bus and you are seated at a wheelchair lock-down location, please move to another area.

Hold on to the railings and steady yourself to prevent falls when standing or walking through the bus. Stand clear of doorways whenever possible. Always stand behind the line that is located on the floor opposite the driver.

Do not talk to the bus operator while he or she is driving. Wait until the bus has stopped so that you do not distract the operator.

Do not extend your legs or other personal belongings into the aisle. This can present a tripping hazard.

Do not put any part of your body outside the bus window.

Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings. Relax and enjoy your ride but do not fall asleep or become so distracted that your purse or other belongings become unguarded. People-watching is one of the benefits of riding transit, but there are some types of behavior that should be watched with suspicion.

Smoking is not permitted on RTA vehicles. Use the proper receptacles to extinguish and dispose of cigarettes or other smoking materials prior to boarding the bus. Do your part to prevent fires and littering. Also, flammable liquids are not allowed on RTA vehicles or in RTA facilities.

Radios and tape recorders may be used for your listening pleasure, but earphones must be used and the volume should be low enough so that others cannot hear it.

Eating and drinking is not permitted on RTA buses or trains. This policy helps reduce trash and discarded food, which are a nuisance to other riders and can attract roaches and other pests.

Pull/push the stop request bell to signal the bus operator of your intention to get off the bus. Do this well in advance of your stop.

GETTING OFF THE BUS

Be sure to use the handrails when going down the steps. Be especially careful when stepping off the last step and onto the curb or street. If you intend to cross the street after you get off the bus, watch for traffic moving around the bus. If possible, go to the sidewalk and wait for the bus to leave the area. Cross streets only in designated crosswalks, and be sure to obey all traffic signals.

GENERAL SAFETY

The use of recreational equipment such as skateboards, roller skates or roller blades is not permitted on RTA property including buses and trains.

If you are jostled in a crowd, be aware that pickpockets may be responsible. Hold your purse tightly, close to your body. Keep your wallet in a front or inside coat pocket, or in a buttoned hip pocket.

You may want to consider carrying a whistle. If you are in trouble, use it.

If you are traveling with small children, it is important that they are well supervised. To prevent separation from children, be sure to board together. Strollers should be folded prior to boarding. Always leave the bus with children in front of you, never behind you.

HELP COMBAT CRIME

The RTA is your transit system. We want to keep it safe and clean for you. RTA will prosecute those who willfully defraud, vandalize or threaten the transit system in any way, or those who engage in disorderly conduct. Under the Ohio Revised Code, anyone convicted of these actions can be fined up to \$1,000 and sentenced up to 6 months in jail.

Report any suspicious or unlawful activity to the bus operator, an RTA Supervisor or Transit Police Officer, or call the RTA Transit Police at 566-5163.

PHONE NUMBERS TO KNOW



Transit Police (216) 566-5163
24-hour assistance

Emergency Medical Service,
Fire and Police 911

TDD/TTY
Emergency Number for
Hearing Impaired (216) 771-1368

RTAnswerline (216) 621-9500
Route and timetable information

Lost Property (216) 566-5272