

REDUCED FARE PERMIT

for senior and disabled persons



What is it?

The *Reduced Fare Permit* lowers the cost to travel for senior and disabled riders of public transportation around Walla Walla and College Place.

Applicant Information

Reduced Fare Permit

Who is eligible?

Any person who presents proof of one or more of the following conditions can obtain a Reduced Fare Permit:

- Is at least 65 years of age.
- Is now eligible for Social Security Disability Benefits or now receives Supplemental Security Income Benefits because of disability. (temporary)
- Is currently certified by the Veterans Administration at a 40 percent or greater disability level.
- Has a valid Medicare card issued by the Social Security Administration. (temporary)
- Has a valid ADA Paratransit card from another transit system.
- Has obvious physical impairments meeting one or more of the medical criteria listed on the Medical Eligibility Criteria page.
- Is certified by a Washington State-licensed physician (M.D.), psychiatrist, psychologist (Ph.D.), Physician Assistant (P.A.), Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (A.R.N.P.), or audiologist (certified by the American Speech and Hearing Association) as meeting one or more of the medical criteria listed on the Medical Eligibility Criteria page.

Where is it issued?

Any eligible person may apply for a Reduced Fare Permit at the Valley Transit Office at 1401 West Rose Street.

How long is it valid?

Permits issued to persons 65 or older and to persons permanently disabled will be valid indefinitely. No renewal is necessary. Persons with disabilities that will last between three months and one year may receive temporary permits. These permits, which carry an expiration date, may be renewed only if the disability continues beyond that date. Persons certified by approved health care providers as permanently disabled may receive permanent permits. We retain the right to ask for certification upon loss of a permit or at any other time.

What does it cost?

The first Reduced Fare Permit is provided to an individual at no cost. Replacement permits may be obtained for \$3.

How does it work?

The permit is an identification card used as proof of eligibility to pay a reduced fare. The permit has no cash value and may not be used as a transfer between buses. The permit holder must pay the amount of the reduced fare when they board a bus. A transfer will be provided if a trip requires two buses to reach your destination. Transfers are valid for the next bus to your destination, but may not be used to return to where you started from, or for extra stops along the route.

Questions?

If you have comments or questions regarding the Reduced Fare Permit, please contact the Customer Service Office at 509-525-9140, or info@valleytransit.com.

Health Care Provider Medical Eligibility Criteria

SECTION 1. NON-AMBULATORY DISABILITIES

1. **Wheelchair-User.** Impairments which, regardless of cause, confine individuals to wheelchairs.

SECTION 2. SEMI-AMBULATORY PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

1. **Restricted Mobility.** Impairments which cause individuals to walk with difficulty including, but not limited to, individuals using a long leg brace, a walker or crutches to achieve mobility, or birth defects and other muscular/skeletal disabilities, including dwarfism, causing mobility restriction. Persons currently undergoing chemotherapy or radiation treatment are considered eligible for a reduced fare permit under this subsection.
2. **Arthritis.** Persons who suffer from arthritis causing a function motor defect in any two major limbs. (American Rheumatism Association criteria may be used as a guideline for the determination of arthritic handicap; Therapeutic Grade III, Functional Class III, or Anatomical State III or worse is evidence of arthritic handicap.)
3. **Loss of Extremities.** Persons who suffer anatomical deformity of or amputation of both hands, one hand and one foot, or lower extremity at or above the tarsal region. Loss of major function may be due to degenerative changes associated with vascular or neurological deficiencies, traumatic loss of muscle mass or tendons, bony or fibrous ankylosis at unfavorable angle, or joint subluxation or instability.
4. **Cerebrovascular Accident.** Persons displaying one of the following, four months post-CVA:
 - a. Pseudobulbar palsy, or
 - b. Functional motor defect in any two extremities, or
 - c. Ataxia affecting two extremities substantiated by appropriate cerebellar signs or proprioceptive loss.
5. **Respiratory.** Persons suffering respiratory impairment (dyspnea) of Class 3 or greater as defined by "Guidelines to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment: The Respiratory System," Journal of the American Medical Association, 194:919 (1965).
6. **Cardiac.** Persons suffering functional classification III or IV and therapeutic classifications C, D, or E cardiac disease as defined by Diseases of the Heart and Blood Vessels – Nomenclature and Criteria for Diagnosis, New York Heart Assoc. (6th Edition).
7. **Dialysis.** Persons who must use a kidney dialysis machine in order to live.
8. **Disorders of Spine.** Persons disabled by one or more of the following:
 - a. Fracture of vertebra, residuals or, with cord involvement with appropriate motor and sensory loss; or
 - b. Generalized osteoporosis with pain, limitation of back motion, paravertebral muscle spasms, and compression fracture of vertebra; or
 - c. Ankylosis or fixation of cervical or dorsolumbar spine at 30 degrees or more of flexion measured from the neutral position and one of the following:
 - i. Calcification of the anterior and alteral ligaments as shown by x-ray; or
 - ii. Dilateral ankylosis of sacroiliac joints and abnormal apophyseal articulation as shown by x-ray.
9. **Nerve Root Compression Syndrome.** A person disabled due to any cause by:
 - a. Pain and motion limitation in back of neck; and
 - b. Cervical or lumbar nerve root compression as evidenced by appropriate radicular distribution of sensory, motor and reflex abnormalities.
10. **Motor.** Persons disabled by one or more of the following:
 - a. Faulty coordination or palsy from brain, spinal or peripheral nerve injury; or
 - b. A functional motor deficit in any two limbs; or
 - c. Manifestations significantly reducing mobility, coordination and perceptiveness not accounted for in prior categories.
11. **HIV Disease.** A person disabled by HIV disease who meets Social Security eligibility criteria or who meets Washington State (GAU/Welfare) medical criteria.

SECTION 3. VISUAL DISABILITIES

1. **Persons disabled because of:**
 - a. Visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with correcting lenses; or
 - b. Contraction of the visual field:
 - i. So the widest diameter of visual field subtending an angular distance is no greater than 20 degrees; or
 - ii. To 10 degrees or less from the point of fixation; or
 - iii. To 20 percent or less visual field efficiency.
2. Persons who, by reason of a visual impairment, do not qualify for a Driver's License under regulations of the Washington State Department of Motor Vehicles.

SECTION 4: HEARING DISABILITIES

1. Persons disabled because of hearing impairments manifested by one or more of the following:
 - a. Better ear pure tone average of 90 dB HL (unaided) for tones at 500, 1,000, 2,000 Hz; or
 - b. Best speech discrimination score at or below 40% (unaided) as measured with standardized testing materials.
2. Eligibility may be certified by a physician licensed by the State of Washington or by an audiologist certified by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

SECTION 5: NEUROLOGICAL DISABILITIES

1. **Epilepsy**
 - a. Persons who have suffered any seizure with loss of awareness within the last six months.
 - b. Persons exhibiting seizure-free control for a continuous period of more than six (6) months duration are not included in the statement of epilepsy defined in this section.
2. **Neurological Handicap.** A person disabled by cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, or other neurological and physical impairments not controlled by medication.

SECTION 6: MENTAL DISABILITIES

1. **Developmental Disabilities. *Permanent Permit.*** Persons disabled due to mental retardation, autism or other conditions found to be closely associated with mental retardation or to require treatment similar to that required by mentally retarded individuals and:
 - a. The disability originates before such individual attains age 18,
 - b. The condition has continued, or can be expected to continue, indefinitely,
 - c. The condition substantially limits one or more major life activities on an ongoing basis.
2. **Adult Cognition Impairments. *Permanent Permit.*** Persons whom by reason of traumatic brain injury, illness or other accident occurring after age 18 experience ongoing impairment(s) in cognition that substantially limit(s) one or more major life activities, including individuals who meet SSA, SSI, or SSDI eligibility criteria.
3. **Serious Persistent (Chronic) Mental Illness. *Permanent Permit.*** Individuals with a mental illness with symptoms chronic in nature who experience a significant limitation in their ability to take part in major life activities and who meet one of the following:
 - a. Having a mental disorder diagnosis based on criteria in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM);
 - b. Living in a group/boarding home setting, receiving state or federal financial assistance and participating in a state or federally funded work activity center or workshop;
 - c. Permanently placed in a supervised or supported living arrangement;
 - d. Addressing mental health needs by participating in any training/ rehabilitation program or therapy established under federal, state, county, Regional Support Network (RSN) or city government agency.
4. **Serious Mental Illness (Acute at-risk). *Temporary Permit.*** Individuals with a mental illness who are currently experiencing a significant limitation in their ability to take part in major life activities **and** who meet one of the following:
 - a. Having a mental disorder diagnosis based on criteria in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM);
 - b. Living in a group/boarding home setting, receiving state or federal financial assistance and participating in a state or federally funded work activity center or workshop;
 - c. Living at home under supervision and participating in a state or federally funded state or federal work activity center or workshop;
 - d. Addressing mental health needs by participating in any training/ rehabilitation program or therapy established under federal, state, county, Regional Support Network (RSN) or city government agency.

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