

Contents of Transportation Module

1. Public and Community-Based Transportation Programs

Winnipeg

- City of Winnipeg Transit
- Seniors Resource Councils and Senior Centres

Brandon

- City of Brandon Transit
- Seniors Resource Council and Senior Centre

Rural Communities

- Seniors Resource Councils
- Mobility Disadvantaged Transportation Program (MDTP) for Municipalities

Transit Pass Tax Credit

Travel Assistance Program for Persons with Disabilities

2. Vehicle and Senior Driver Programs

- Parking Permit Program
- Manitoba Public Insurance
- Safety Services Manitoba

Transportation

Transportation is a major concern for many seniors. This module contains information for

- individual seniors
- families or caregivers
- municipalities

Many older adults lose their independence because of limited transportation opportunities. Some may still drive under unsafe conditions because they feel they have no other way to get around. They may ask for information about other issues when they really want help on transportation issues. Here are a few questions that may help find out what the senior needs.

- Do you live in your own home or do you rent your living space?
- How do you get around? Do you drive your own vehicle?
- Do you have concerns about driving in the evening?
- Do you drive during the winter?
- Do you have people who help you? What do they do for you?
- Do you feel you need more help getting around?
- Would you like to go to more events in your community if transportation were easier?
- How hard is it to get from your doorway into a vehicle?
- How easy is it for you to get to a bus?
- Do you feel you need someone with you when you go out?
- Do you use taxis?

1. Public and Community-Based Transportation Programs

Winnipeg

- **City of Winnipeg Transit**
 - ▶ Reduced Bus Fares
 - ▶ Easy Access buses
 - ▶ Handi-Transit
- **Seniors Resource Councils and Senior Centres**
- **Seniors Cab Clubs**
- **Tenant Resource Co-ordinators**

Brandon

- **City of Brandon Transit**
 - ▶ Reduced Bus Fares
 - ▶ Handi-Transit
- **Seniors Resource Council and Senior Centre**

Rural Communities

- **Seniors Resource Councils**
- **Mobility Disadvantaged Transportation Program (MDTP) for Municipalities**

Transit Pass Tax Credit

Travel Assistance Program for Persons with Disabilities

Winnipeg Transit

Reduced Bus Fares for Seniors (as of November 2006)

Cash	\$ 1.65
10 tickets	\$ 9.30
Monthly pass	\$ 35.65
Superpass for 1 week - Monday to Sunday	\$ 9.30

Note: Rider must show driver a Federal Government Blue Senior Card or Transit Photo ID.

Easy Access Buses - with low floors and no steps so passengers can just walk in

- on most routes Monday to Saturday (some buses may not be easy access during rush hours) and **all** routes on Sunday
- Some buses have ramps and seating areas for wheel chairs.
- **To check if a bus on a route is easy access, or has a ramp, contact:**

Telebus 287-7433

InfoLine 986-5700

Web site www.Winnipegtransit.com/schedulesandmaps

Winnipeg Transit Handi-Transit

Program:

- shared-ride door to door transportation for people who
 - ▶ are legally blind
 - ▶ have disabilities that prevent them from using regular transit
- helps passengers from a ground floor door at the beginning of the trip to a ground floor door at the end of the trip
- covers the same area as regular buses

Rate: \$2.00 per ride. Tickets also available

Operating Hours:	Monday to Friday	5:45 a.m. to midnight
	Saturday	6:45 a.m. to midnight
	Sunday	7:45 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Eligibility Criteria:

- A medical doctor, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, nurse or chiropractor must complete a section of the application form to prove that service is needed
- CNIB Registrants do not require this form if they have a CNIB number
- If the application is denied, appeals may be made through the Handi-transit Operations Advisory Committee at 986- 5728

Application:

- Phone 986-5722 for an application form to be completed by the rider and a health professional as noted above. (Sample attached)
- Each client is given a registration number to book a handi-transit bus.

Contact: **City of Winnipeg Handi-transit**
414 Osborne Street
Winnipeg MB R3L 2A1
Phone: 986-5722

Brandon Transit

Reduced Bus Fares for Seniors (as of November 2006)

Cash	\$ 1.50
10 tickets	\$ 12.50
Monthly pass	\$ 47.00
Off-peak hours monthly pass	\$ 35.00
Monday to Friday - 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. to midnight	
Saturday - all day	
add \$1.00 per ride during peak hours	

Note: Rider must show driver a Federal Government Blue Senior Card.

Brandon Handi-Transit – same area as regular transit

- shared-ride door to door public transportation service for people who
 - ▶ are legally blind
 - ▶ have disabilities that prevent them from using regular transit
- provides help to and from accessible building entrances

Rates: \$3.50 per ride. Tickets: 10 for \$35.00

Attendant: a person who is responsible to care for the passenger on the trip **travels free**

Escort: a person who travels as a companion, but does not need to help the passenger **pays the fare**

Operating Hours: 7 a.m. – 11 p.m. Monday to Saturday

Eligibility Criteria:

- Application signed by a doctor to prove the service is needed
- Picture identification will be provided by Brandon Transit

Application: Get an application form from Brandon Transit Information Office or from the web site. (Sample attached)

Contact: **Brandon Transit Information Office**
8th & Rosser Avenue
Brandon MB R7A 0J8
Phone: 729-2300
<http://www.citybrandom.mb.ca/>

Winnipeg Seniors Resource Councils and Senior Centres

Some Seniors Resource Councils and Seniors Centres co-ordinate seniors transportation services. Consult the grid at the front of this manual to see which ones do this

Seniors Cab Clubs

The Seniors Transportation Working Group (STWG) is made up organizations that want to make seniors transportation easier.

Taxis are good for seniors because

- they provide safe door to door service
- cars are already warm
- drivers may help passengers in and out of their house or apartment building.

The Working Group is working with the Winnipeg Taxi Board and taxi companies on the idea of "Cab Clubs".

The idea of seniors cab clubs includes:

- shared rides - minimum 2 people per cab
- cost of rides shared among riders
- systems for collecting fares and pick up and drop off arrangements

The STWG is working with some Seniors Resource Councils and Seniors Centres to set up cab clubs.

Contact: Senior Resource Council or Seniors Centre listed on the grid at the front of this Manual

Seniors Special Shuttles

Some Seniors Resource Councils and Seniors Centres coordinate "shuttle vehicles" to take people to and from shopping and special events. Contact Resource Councils to ask about these services.

Manitoba Housing Tenant Resource Coordinators

Tenant Resource Coordinators in Manitoba Housing 55 Plus apartment building may coordinate transportation services.

Rural Communities

Seniors Resource Councils

See the grid at the beginning of the Resource Manual for councils that have service. Some are provided free of charge, some have a fee for service arrangements. Contact the local seniors resource council for details.

Mobility Disadvantaged Transportation Program

Program: Help for municipalities to provide transportation services for mobility disadvantaged people, including seniors

Funding support includes

- one-time capital grant to help buy a handivan
- annual operating grant

Eligibility Criteria:

Local municipalities must sponsor the program and show a commitment to keep the service once it is started.

Over 60 rural communities currently have handivan services.

Contact: **Mobility Disadvantaged Transportation Program**
Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs
Municipal Finance and Advisory Services
500 - 800 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg MB R3G 0N4
Phone: 945-2569

Transit Pass Tax Credit

Program: a non-refundable tax credit for the cost of monthly, or longer, public transit passes

Eligibility: for travel after June 30, 2006

Process:

- keep expired passes to support claim on Income Tax return
- Expired pass must tell
 - ▶ that the pass is for one month or longer
 - ▶ the date or period when the pass is valid
 - ▶ name of transit authority issuing the pass
 - ▶ the cost of the pass
 - ▶ the name of the rider or unique number
- If the pass doesn't have this information, keep receipts, cancelled cheques or credit card statements to support the claim

Contact: **Revenue Canada**
Phone Toll-free: 1-800-959-8281
www.cra.gc.ca

Travel Assistance Program for Persons with Disabilities

Program: allows an adult attendant traveling with a disabled person who can not travel alone, to travel at no cost on participating motor coach and Via Rail

Reduced fares are also available for the person with the disability.

Airlines are not part of the program and each must be contacted directly about their policies.

Eligibility: Must qualify for a Disability Travel Card.

The attendant must be able to help the person with services not usually provided by the vehicle operator, such as eating, administering medication or using the washroom.

Ticket fares are based on regular fares, not excursion fares, unlimited travel tickets or through to the United States.

Application:

Complete the application for a Disability Travel Card. (Sample attached)

A registered health care provider must sign the application form. The applicant must be a regular client or patient.

Send the application to the address below.

Contact: **Society for Manitobans with Disabilities Wheelchair Services**
1111 Winnipeg Avenue
Winnipeg MB R3E 0S2
Phone: 975-3241
Toll-free: 1-800-836-5551
<http://www.smd.mb.ca/>

2. Vehicle and Senior Driver Programs

Parking Permit Program

Manitoba Public Insurance

- Driver Licensing for Older Adults
- Driver Assessment and Management Program
(in partnership with Health Sciences Centre)
- Changes to Vehicles for People with Physical
Limitations
- Combat Auto Theft (CAT)

Safety Services Manitoba

- The Mature Driver

Parking Permits for People with Mobility Problems

Program: A provincial program to let people who have trouble walking use special parking places close to building doors

Eligibility Criteria:

- must have a doctor or therapist certificate proving need for a full time wheelchair, walker, crutches or cane
- The permit can be used in any vehicle carrying the permit holder.
- People with a permanent disability get a 3-year permit.
- People with temporary disabilities may get short-term permits.
- New Manitobans must get a permit within three months of becoming a permanent resident.

Cost:

- \$12.50 for a three-year permit

Application: (Sample attached)

- Application forms can be picked up from
 - ▶ Doctors' offices
 - ▶ Municipal offices
 - ▶ Driver and vehicle licensing offices
 - ▶ Society for Manitobans with Disabilities

Contact: **Parking Permit Program**
 Society for Manitobans with Disabilities
 1111 Winnipeg Avenue
 Winnipeg MB R3E 0S2
 Phone: 957-3257
 Toll-free: 1-800-856-5551

Driver Licensing for Older Adults

Program: Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI), through their Driver and Vehicle Medical Records and Driver Improvement and Control department has several ways of addressing risks of unsafe driving.

1. Manitoba Legislation requires a doctor to report someone with a medical condition that may affect their driving ability.
2. A concerned individual may report a person who exhibits unsafe driving behaviour.
3. MPI will investigate a medical condition in response to a private written concern within certain guidelines.
4. Drivers may self disclose and their situation will be assessed.

Contact: **Driver and Vehicle Licensing Medical Records**
 Box 6300
 Winnipeg MB R3C 4A4
 Phone: 985-1900

Driver Assessment and Management Program

Program: An evaluation of driving ability for people with neurological and physical disabilities, including those related to aging

Eligibility Criteria:

A doctor must refer a person in writing.

Program Components:

At Health Sciences Centre

- clinical pre-screening assessment by an occupational therapist
- on-road evaluation
- the occupational therapist reports with recommendations to
 - ▶ Driver Licensing and Medical Records at Manitoba Public Insurance
 - ▶ the referring doctor
 - ▶ Health Sciences Centre Rehabilitation Engineering Department

At Manitoba Public Insurance

- decisions are made on licensing the driver

Contact: **Driver and Vehicle Licensing Medical Records**
Box 6300
Winnipeg MB R3C 4A4
Phone: 985-1900

Changes to Vehicles for People with Physical Limitations

Program: Changes to vehicles to help drivers who have physical limitations
Includes farm equipment and tools to help get into vehicles

Eligibility Criteria:

- A person may get services
 - ▶ by direct contact
 - ▶ through a rehabilitation agency
 - ▶ through a therapist or doctor
- Technical engineers assess abilities and custom design equipment to meet a client's needs.
- A person who needs changes to a motor vehicle they drive on public roadways must have a valid Manitoba Driver's license.

Contact: **Health Sciences Centre**
 Rehab Engineering Department
 Electronic and Mechanical Assistive Technologies Division
 59 Pearl Street
 Winnipeg MB R3E 3L7
 Phone: 787-2366
 <http://www.hsc.mb.ca/re/>

Combat Auto Theft (CAT)

Program: Free vehicle stickers to help avoid theft

- The sticker on a vehicle says the vehicle is not usually on the road between 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m.
- If the vehicle is stolen, police will notice the decal and act.
- The sticker should deter a thief during those hours.

Cost:

No cost

Application:

- Registration packages are at any Manitoba Public Insurance Office, Autopac Dealer or police station. (Sample Attached)
- Register vehicle or vehicles and pick up sticker(s).

Contact: **Manitoba Public Insurance**
 Road Safety
 802-234 Donald Street
 Winnipeg MB R3C 4A4
 Phone: 985-7199
 Toll-Free: 1-888-767-7640
 <http://www.mpi.mb.ca/>

The Mature Driver

Program: Driver education program to help older drivers drive safely

Classes focus on

- updating driver knowledge
- teaching ways to compensate for normal changes that happen with aging and affect driving ability

Contact: **Safety Services Manitoba**
 3 - 1680 Notre Dame Avenue
 Winnipeg MB R3H 1H6
 Phone: 949-1085