



Riders Guide Update

ATTENTION IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

General Question

What is a “wheelchair”?

- Section 37.3 of the DOT regulations implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) (49 CFR Parts 27, 37, and 38) defines a “wheelchair” as a mobility aid belonging to any class of three- or more-wheeled devices, usable indoors, designed or modified for and used by individuals with mobility impairments, whether operated manually or powered. This does not exclude electric wheelchairs.

Are transportation operators required to retrofit their vehicles to accommodate larger and heavier wheelchairs?

No. 49 CFR Part 38 continues to require that lifts have a minimum design load of 600 pounds and the lift platform accommodates a wheelchair measuring 30 inches by 48 inches.

What kinds of securement equipment must be provided in buses and vans?

Section 38.23(d) of the DOT ADA regulations require all ADA-compliant buses and vans to have a two-part securement system, one to secure the wheelchair, and a seat belt and shoulder harness for the wheelchair user. Section 38.23(a) requires vehicles over 22 feet in length to have enough securement locations and devices to secure two wheelchairs, while vehicles 22 feet and under must be able to accommodate at least one wheelchair. **Beaumont Zip Para Transit Fleet is under 22 Feet in length.**



The ramp is manufactured to carry an approximate load capacity of 600LBS (including wheelchair operator and the wheelchair device in use).

The designated area space developed in compliance with The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and First Transit Administration (FTA). This designated space for passengers occupying wheelchairs is approximately a 5FT x 4Ft opening (60inch by 48inch).

May a transit operator deny boarding to a rider whose wheelchair is difficult to secure?

No. If the transit operator has a policy that requires securement, or if a rider asks that the wheelchair be secured, Section 37.165(f) of the DOT ADA regulations require transit personnel to use their best efforts to secure the device. Section 37.165(d) states that transit operators cannot refuse to accommodate a wheelchair because the device cannot be secured to the driver's satisfaction. Given the diversity of wheelchairs, transit operators should consult with the owner of the wheelchair to determine the best means of securement.

Beaumont Para Transit is equipped for two wheelchair accessible parties. But, only when the design of the wheelchair and contributing factors related to person/persons occupying the wheelchair and designated ADA are not presenting a hazard to the operators and bus for accommodation. **By no means will Transportation be denied, but simply altered for the safety and benefit of all riders. Beaumont Transit Operators/Supervisors/Administrators will assess and inform a reasonable accommodation.** It is advantageous to inform Beaumont transport of your design of wheelchair in advance so personnel may have appropriate accommodations for you at our inconvenience and not yours. Beaumont Zip Para Transit is dedicated and appreciative of the opportunity to provide transit services for The City of Beaumont, continuously striving to meet the needs of the community.