

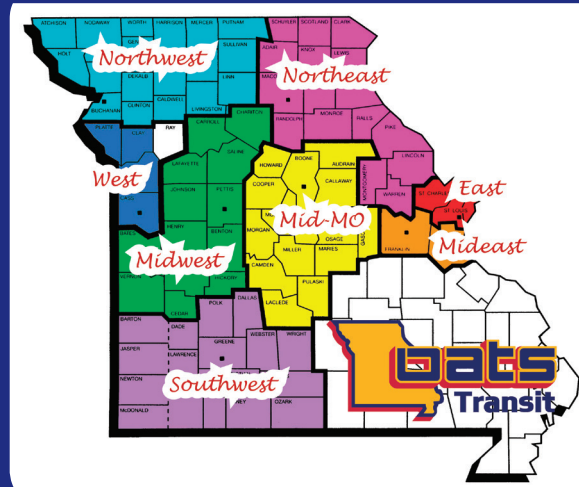
**Our #1 goal is  
to get you  
safely to your  
destination!!**



For more information  
about our safety policies  
go online to:  
[www.oatstransit.org](http://www.oatstransit.org)

**Our Mission:**

*Enhancing quality of life  
by providing safe, caring & reliable  
transportation services.*



**○ SAFE  
○ CARING  
○ RELIABLE**

**HOME OFFICE**  
2501 Maguire Blvd., Ste 101  
Columbia, MO 65201

Phone: (573) 443-4516  
or 888-875-6287  
[www.oatstransit.org](http://www.oatstransit.org)



*Operating Above the Standard*



**Safety Guide for  
OATS Transit Passengers**

The number one goal of OATS Transit has always been to safely transport our riders to their destination. To help us achieve this goal, the following guidelines have been set:



**Seatbelts:** All OATS Transit drivers and passengers are required to fasten their safety belt before the vehicle is moved. The driver will assure that usable seat belts are available for all passengers and that everyone is properly belted in before the vehicle moves. OATS Transit will not be held responsible for injuries occurring as a result of passengers unfastening or loosening their seatbelts to the extent the rider is no longer considered strapped in safe after the driver assured they were fastened.

**Child Seats:** Conventional seat belts are safe for use by children only if they weigh more than 40 lbs. Children smaller than 40 lbs. may ride only if the person scheduling the ride provides an "approved" child seat which can be secured with a conventional seat belt. It is not legal for other riders to hold a child or infant on their lap while the vehicle is in motion.



**Portable Assistive Devices:** There are a variety of different types of assistive devices used by those with mobility impairments. When the rider has been seated and buckled in, the driver must assure that devices such as canes, walkers, braces, etc. are safely stowed where they will not present a tripping hazard to other riders and tied down so as not to become a projectile in the case of a sudden stop or accident. The driver will return the assistive device to the rider prior to making any attempt to assist the rider in leaving the vehicle.

**Lifts/Ramps:** Lift and Ramp equipped vehicles were designed to board passengers who use mobility devices. It is recommended all ambulatory riders board the vehicles by using the steps with assistance from the driver. It is the rider's responsibility to let the driver know before they board the vehicle if they prefer another option, and allow the driver to assist them in getting into the vehicle safely.

**Wheelchairs:** The lift platforms on OATS Transit vehicles are 30 inches wide and 48 inches long. OATS Transit lifts are factory-set by the manufacturer not to exceed 800 lbs. Mobility devices must be in secured area on the vehicle, and cannot extend into the aisle after being secured. Aisles must be clear in case of an



emergency evacuation. It is best practice that wheelchair passengers be secured with a torso pad supplied by OATS Transit or by the wheelchair's own seatbelt system as this assures they are secure in their seat for both loading and unloading and during the ride. This torso pad will be placed on the rider by a trained driver at the time of pick up.

**Scooters:** Three-wheeled scooters present a major safety risk when being transported because of their propensity to tip. This is due to the size and center of gravity of a scooter with a client



seated on it. The safest way for riders who use scooters to board an OATS Transit vehicle is to board the vehicle on foot with assistance from the driver. It is OATS Transit policy to request that riders using scooters transfer to a regular seat to ensure you are safely secured using a seatbelt. The scooter can then be secured without the fear of passenger injury from tip over. OATS Transit strongly recommends no rider be transported while seated on their scooter.