Eligibility Determination

Transit agencies should develop a comprehensive list of skills needed and tasks required to use the fixed-route service.

Task List

Tasks required to access the fixed-route transit service with a reasonable level of effort and risk, such as: • going to and from the stop • going throughout the service area • traversing various surfaces	A rider **must** be able to perform the tasks under a **variety of conditions,** such as: • low or bright light • snow, ice, rain, heat • background noise • interruptions or distractions

Functional Evaluation

The ADA Paratransit application process may include functional evaluation or testing applicants. An evaluation may observe an applicant attempting to perform functional tasks that simulate a fixed-route trip, such as: climbing steps, crossing a street, walking a measured course, and taking cognitive tests.

Physical Factors:	Cognitive Factors:	Sensory Factors:
• Walking Speed • Balance • Endurance • Coordination • Strength • Range of Motion • Dexterity	• Orientation to person, place, and time • Short- and long-term memory • Ability to stay on task • Ability to seek and act on directions • Problem solving • Ability to process information • Behavioral skills	• Directional Wayfinding • Ability to detect changes in surface • Ability to detect/hear environmental cues • Ability to self-regulate following jarring sensory input

Other Factors: some disabilities cannot be evaluated by functional assessments, such as seizure disorders and psychiatric disabilities. These conditions may rely on other forms of documentation for eligibility determination.

Safety & Safety Skills	Public safety is not a consideration in determining ADA Paratransit eligibility. A route that travels through a high-crime-rate area is not considered an eligibility factor; however, personal safety skills must be considered in eligibility determinations.
Age Limits	Age limits imposed to use paratransit service must be in line with age limits on the fixed-route system.

The FTA identified instances where children under a certain age were not allowed to travel alone on paratransit, whereas similar limitations were not made on the fixed-route system. Age limitations **must be consistent** across fixed-route and ADA Paratransit systems.

Eligibility Determination

Supporting Documentation

Applicants may provide any information or documentation that will help to show that they are eligible because they cannot use the fixed-route system. Include information on any secondary conditions, such as:
- disorientation
- fatigue
- difficulties with balance

Think about the variety of environments across different routes.

Examples of Documentation

Documentation from Community Supports: a detailed statement from a disability service provider, independent living specialist, rehabilitation counselor, support broker, case manager, employment support specialist, or other support person.

Medical Documentation: a detailed statement from a medical professional - a physician, psychologist, mental health therapist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, or counselor.

The statement should explain how the disability prevents the applicant from using the fixed-route system.

Examples of Accessibility Barriers:

No curb cuts	No sidewalks	No pedestrian signals	Lack of snow removal	Hilly terrain

Extremely busy intersection with fast "walk/don't walk" cycle	Weather that makes negotiating the distance impossible

Transportation Initiative

CCDD COMMONWEALTH COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

UK Human Development Institute