

## safety & comfort tips for all Port Authority riders

For the comfort and safety of everyone, please keep in mind:

- Smoking, drinking and eating are not permitted on Port Authority vehicles.
  - Smoking is not permitted in the subway.
- Only radios with earphones are permitted for use on vehicles.
  - Please do not litter. Trash receptacles are provided at most transit stations.
- Only baby strollers that are folded are permitted on vehicles.
  - Please move to the rear of the vehicle when boarding.
- Seats toward the front of vehicles are reserved for senior citizens and patrons with disabilities or wheelchairs. Please respect their needs.
  - Always stand behind the safety line while the vehicle is in motion.
- Digital message boards and audio announcements are provided in key LRV stations. Please remain alert to messages, as they provide important system information.
  - Bicycles are only permitted on LRVs during off-peak hours.
- Bicycles are only permitted on buses equipped with front bumper-mounted bike racks.
  - Objects that pose a hazard due to size or physical composition are not permitted on vehicles.
  - Hazardous materials are not permitted on vehicles.

## suggestions & comments

Suggestions that may help to improve safety on Port Authority's system should be directed to :

Port Authority of Allegheny County  
Director of System Safety  
345 Sixth Avenue  
Third Floor  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222-2527



# SAFE RIDING WITH PORT AUTHORITY



your safety  
as a Port Authority  
customer is our  
top priority

As one of the largest public transportation systems in the country, Port Authority prides itself on its safe record and in the training of its employees to make sure that your ride is as safe as possible. Great effort has been taken in designing and incorporating numerous safety features in Port Authority vehicles and facilities.

There are several passenger-oriented safety features with which you should be familiar. A simple checklist to keep in mind as you ride could come in handy in the event of a breakdown, incident or other unusual occurrence. Please become familiar with the information in this brochure so that your trip is a safe, convenient and enjoyable experience.

Port Authority primarily operates two modes of public transit service—bus and light rail. There are many safety features designed into both modes.

# safety features

## bus emergency exits

### window exits:

#### large buses—

Most passenger windows open outward for use in case of emergency. A label located at each window gives these instructions: PULL DOWN on red handle and PUSH OUT on bottom of window or LIFT UP on window ledge and PUSH OUT on bottom of window.

#### mini buses—

Emergency window exits are marked with red decals and a red light above the window. LIFT BOTH handles and PUSH OUT on bottom of window.

### roof hatch exits:

All buses, except mini buses, have two emergency roof hatches that push open as emergency exits.

### door exits:

The front and center passenger doors on large buses and the front passenger door on mini buses can be used as emergency exits. Instructions on how to open the door in case of an emergency are located at each door.

## other bus safety features

- All buses are equipped with a fire extinguisher near the operator's compartment.
  - Many newer buses are equipped with a fire extinguishing system in the engine compartment that is designed to quickly extinguish an engine compartment fire.
- Bus exterior and interior elements are designed and constructed using flame-retardant and flameproof materials.
  - All buses are equipped with two-way radios with a direct line to Bus Traffic Operations (BTO) Dispatchers. By contacting BTO, the operator is able to notify police and medics in a matter of seconds should the need arise. If there is a problem on any vehicle, alert the operator, who will immediately notify the proper authorities.

## light rail vehicle(LRV) emergency exits

### all vehicle doors can be used as emergency exits—

- A posted decal, located at the top of each door, details how to open the door in an emergency.

## other LRV safety features

- When boarding or leaving an LRV, be alert for a buzzer that activates just prior to the doors closing.
  - All LRVs are equipped with two-way radios with a direct line to the Operations Control Center (OCC). By contacting OCC, the operator is able to notify police and medics in a matter of seconds should the need arise. If there is a problem on any vehicle, alert the operator, who will immediately notify the proper authorities.

# safety while using Port Authority services

## on board vehicles

- No passengers are permitted to stand in front of the safety line located on the floor near the operator's compartment while the vehicle is in motion, as they may block the operator's vision or cause a fellow rider to be injured should a sudden stop occur.
  - Vehicles are equipped with stanchion bars and straps for standing passengers. Upon entering the vehicle, secure a handhold as soon as possible, as the vehicle may move unexpectedly.
- Please leave room in the aisle for entering and exiting passengers.
  - **Never** stand in stairwells or within the swing-path of the doors, as they may open unexpectedly.

## at light rail stations

- Subway stations at Gateway Center, Wood Street and Steel Plaza were designed with safety in mind. Stations are well lit, contain open space and clear visibility and are equipped with video cameras on all levels that are monitored by the Port Authority Police and Security Services Department. Port Authority Police officers also patrol the subway stations.
  - Yellow call boxes, marked "Emergency-Port Authority Police," are conveniently located in all stations. Call box phones are directly connected to the Port Authority Police.

## along the rail system

- LRVs travel above ground through densely populated neighborhoods in the South Hills. When driving a car or walking near light rail grade crossings, be alert for LRVs, which you may not hear as they approach.
  - Crossings on the system are marked with railroad crossing signs and flashing red signals.
- Signs are also posted along streets before the crossings to alert motorists of the tracks ahead.

## busways

- Yellow call boxes, marked "Emergency-Port Authority Police," are conveniently located in all stations, except those along the South Busway. Call box phones are directly connected to the Port Authority Police.
  - Marked crosswalks are provided at all stations. Remain on the curb while waiting to cross, cross only at marked crosswalks and only after looking both ways.
- Patrons are restricted to the station area.

## bus lanes

- Special bus-only lanes are located in Oakland and Downtown Pittsburgh. Buses traveling in the bus lanes operate in reverse flow of the automobile traffic.
  - Remain on the curb while waiting to cross, cross only at marked crosswalks and only after looking both ways.

# pedestrian safety tips

## around the lightrail system

- **Never** walk on light rail tracks, as you may not hear an LRV approaching. There are also switches located in the tracks that operate automatically. If you are attempting to cross in a non-designated area, you are putting yourself at risk of being struck by a rail vehicle or having your foot caught in a switch or in the trackway.
  - Only use designated crosswalks to access the opposite station platform.
- Always look both ways for oncoming vehicles.
  - Make sure you have a clear path before crossing all light rail tracks. (This is especially critical at transfer points between buses and LRVs, as there may be confusion due to crowds or large numbers of vehicles.)

## around the busways and bus system

- **Never** cross in front of the bus.
  - Be particularly careful if you must cross the road after getting off a bus.
- Be alert for any vehicles that may be passing your bus while it is stopped.
  - Remain on the curb while waiting to cross.
- Be sure to look both ways before crossing the street and always use designated crosswalks.

# emergencies

## incident on an LRV or bus

- If there is an incident on an LRV or bus, follow the directions of the operator, calmly leave as directed, assisting senior citizens and any persons with disabilities whenever possible. If needed, all vehicles are equipped with a fire extinguisher in the operator's compartment.

## incident in subway

- If there is an incident in the subway, follow the walkway to the nearest emergency exit that leads directly to street level. As you pass through the subway, blue lights, located on the tunnel wall, indicate the presence of an emergency telephone. Also, fire extinguishers are strategically positioned on the wall adjacent to the walkway and at all stations.

## incident in lightrail vehicle and busway tunnels

- In the Mt. Lebanon, Mt. Washington and Berry Street tunnels, blue lights are also present. In these tunnels, the emergency telephones and fire extinguishers are placed together. In the event of evacuation, walk to the nearest unrestricted opening.

## LRV/Bus emergency

If an emergency occurs on a bus or LRV, please follow these steps.

- Follow operator instructions; he/she will use the two-way radio to seek assistance.
  - Remain on the vehicle or leave the vehicle as instructed by the operator.
- Assist senior citizens and any persons with disabilities whenever possible.
  - Do not move injured patrons. Let arriving medics assess injuries and attend to the injured. Port Authority personnel periodically conduct drills with community emergency response units to better prepare for such incidents.
- On buses, open emergency window exits or roof hatches, if necessary. All buses are equipped with a fire extinguisher near the operator's compartment.