

NORMAN

# **WELCOME** TO EMBARK PLUS

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EMBARK Plus Norman is an origin-to-destination, shared-ride transportation service for individuals with disabilities who are unable to independently use the EMBARK fixed-route bus system.

You will find all the information you need to use EMBARK Plus Norman within this guide. Please review the service information carefully and call 405-235-RIDE (7433) with any questions.

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# CONTACT INFORMATION

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EMBARK Plus Norman  
2000 S. May Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73108  
405-235-RIDE (7433).  
[mobilitymanagement@okc.gov](mailto:mobilitymanagement@okc.gov)

last updated 12/2020

# ELIGIBILITY & ENROLLMENT

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## Certification

Paratransit eligibility is based on the person's functional ability to independently use fixed-route transportation. Eligibility is not based solely on a medical diagnosis. We will utilize information provided on your application and medical information provided by your physician to make an eligibility determination. Once a complete application and physician information are received, EMBARK will provide you with an eligibility determination within twenty-one (21) days.

Documents and applications will be made available in one or more accessible formats, on request. Plus applications may be obtained on our website at [embarkok.com](http://embarkok.com) or by calling 405-235-RIDE (7433).

## Recertification

Approved EMBARK Plus Norman customers are required to recertify their eligibility every three (3) years. Customers will be notified approximately forty-five (45) days prior to the expiration date of their Plus eligibility of the need to recertify. Customers who do not recertify prior to their expiration date risk service disruption. In addition, EMBARK reserves the right to review a customer's eligibility at any time. In such cases, additional or corroborating information maybe required to maintain eligibility.

Customers are responsible for keeping EMBARK informed of any changes in functionality that may affect their eligibility status including: changes in residential address; home or work telephone numbers; and emergency contact person(s); significant improvement or deterioration of mobility skills; the presence of a communicable or contagious disease; or, the use of adaptive devices or mobility aids. If a person designated to act on a customer's behalf is added or changed from the first eligibility certification, that information must be submitted to EMBARK.

## ELIGIBILITY & ENROLLMENT

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### Appeals Process

You have the right to appeal any decision concerning your eligibility status. The details of your right to appeal and the appeal process are outlined in the eligibility determination letter you receive. Upon receipt of the applicant's written notice of appeal, management will conduct a review of the initial determination and provide you a written review decision within thirty (30) days. You have the right to appeal the management review decision through the EMBARK Appeals Review Committee (ARC). Information on the ARC appeal process will be provided with your written review decision. You have the right to appear before the ARC and provide additional information or testimony. You may bring additional witnesses to the ARC meeting, and you will receive ARC's final decision in writing.

Plus customers who are determined to no longer be eligible during the recertification process and who appeal before their service expires may continue to use Plus until a final decision is made. Applicants who do not appeal within sixty (60) days of their recertification notice may be required to complete a new application.

## FARES & SERVICE

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### Service Zones and Fares

EMBARK Plus Norman has two service zones. Fares are currently free in Norman.

A Personal Care Attendant (PCA) or children under the age of 6 can accompany a Plus customer for no additional cost. Other companions, or guests may ride for the same price as the customer, if space is available.

## Plus Service Hours

Plus Norman Paratransit service is provided as a complement to EMBARK’s regular fixed-route bus service, and mirrors the fixed route service hours and days. Plus operates in Zone 1 from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday to Friday, and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Zone 2 is operated from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

## How to Contact EMBARK Plus Norman

	Day of The Week	Time of Day	Number to Call
<b>To Schedule a Trip</b>	Monday - Friday	8 AM - 5 PM*	405-235-PLUS (7587)
<b>To Cancel a Trip</b>	Seven Days A Week	8 AM - 5 PM with voicemail available 24 hours a day	405-235-PLUS (7587)
<b>EMBARK Information</b>	Monday - Saturday	8 AM - 5 PM	405-235-RIDE (7433)

\*If calling on Sunday for a Monday trip, please use voicemail to request your trip by providing your name, requested pick-up time, and a phone number. A staff member will return your call early Monday morning to confirm your trip. You may also use voicemail 24-hours a day to cancel a trip if an operator is not available.

## Holidays

Plus service is NOT available on the following holidays:

- New Year’s Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day

In addition, Plus service is not provided when EMBARK’s fixed-route service is not operating due to weather or other circumstances.

# HOW TO USE PLUS

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## Scheduling a Ride

EMBARC makes every effort to schedule your trip for the time requested. In the event the specified time requested is not available, you may be asked to consider an alternate time within one hour before or after your requested time. Trip reservations are accepted from one (1) to seven (7) days in advance of the desired travel date. EMBARK Plus does not provide same day reservations.

Before calling to schedule a ride, please have the following information available for each trip:

- Travel date(s) and time(s)
- Trip origin and destination addresses
- Gate or security code, and any other special instructions
- Mobility device and service animal information
- Personal Care Attendant (PCA), companion or child traveling with you

## Ready Window & Customer Responsibilities

Plus operates within a thirty-minute ready window and vehicles arriving during the window are considered on-time. The ready window is fifteen (15) minutes before and fifteen (15) minutes after your scheduled pick-up time. For example, if your pick-up time is 10:30 a.m. you should be ready for the Plus vehicle to arrive between 10:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Customers are expected to be prepared to board the Plus vehicle anytime within the ready window. A Plus vehicle arriving within the ready window will wait five (5) minutes for you to board the vehicle.

## Changing or Canceling a Reservation

Please notify us immediately if your plans change or you need to cancel a scheduled trip. Trip cancellations must be done at least one (1) hour in advance. Plus customers are subject to the EMBARK Plus No-Show and Late Cancellation Policy, which was provided to you with your eligibility determination letter. A scheduled trip is recorded as a no-show if the customer is not at the pick-up location within five (5) minutes after the vehicle arrives within the ready window. A Late Cancellation occurs when a customer does not call Plus to cancel their trip reservation at least one (1) hour before the agreed upon pick-up time. To cancel a trip reservation, call 405-235-PLUS (7587). You may leave a message to cancel your trip.

# HOW TO USE PLUS

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## Mobility Device Requirements

EMBARC will accept any wheelchair or mobility device on its vehicle, provided that the combined weight of the wheelchair and passenger does not exceed the maximum specifications provided by the lift manufacturer. Lifts will accommodate chairs 30 inches wide and 48 inches in length measured 2 inches above the ground, and if the combined weight of chair and passenger does not exceed 600 pounds. If you are concerned that your mobility device may exceed these limits, please call us at 405-235-RIDE (7433). EMBARK may require an in-home assessment of an oversize mobility device prior to providing transportation services to ensure the safety of all customers and our employees.

## Customer Safety

Customers traveling with children aged 5 or less will be required to provide an approved car safety seat. The customer will be responsible for securing the car safety seat and EMBARK Plus Norman operators are NOT PERMITTED to provide car seat securement assistance. Children cannot be transported in strollers, ride on a lap, and two or more children are not allowed to occupy one seat. All Plus customers and their mobility devices must be safely and appropriately secured using available lap belt and floor securements. Vehicle operators will appropriately secure wheelchairs and scooters. All passengers in a Plus Norman paratransit vehicle not secured in a mobility device are required to wear seatbelts. Plus drivers are not medically trained.



# HOW TO USE PLUS

## Personal Care Attendants, Guests, and Companions

A Personal Care Attendant (PCA) may travel with any Plus customer who, without the assistance of such an attendant, would be unable to complete the trip successfully or safely. It is the customer's decision if they will need a PCA for a particular trip. Please let reservation staff know if you will be traveling with a PCA, guest or companion.

Your PCA may accompany the customer at no cost and is responsible for providing any medical and/or personal care for the patron before, during, and after Plus travel. PCA's must board and disembark at the same location(s) as the Plus customer and complete the trip with the Plus customer.

Guests/Companions may accompany the customer on any trip subject to space availability and will pay the same fare as the customer. PCA's, guests, and companions are subject to the EMBARK Rider Conduct & Exclusion Policy.

## Visitor Eligibility & Travel

For PLUS customers, your paratransit eligibility is valid at other transit agencies throughout the country with some limitations. You will need to contact the transit authority in the city you plan to visit to clarify their paratransit visitor policy. EMBARK is happy to provide the agency with documentation of PLUS eligibility. Should you require assistance in determining paratransit services at your travel destination, please contact us at 405-235-RIDE (7433) for assistance.

Visitors to Oklahoma City or Norman can receive complementary EMBARK PLUS paratransit service for 21 days of service (days of service availability, days may be non-consecutive) out of any 365-day period. Visitor eligibility is granted immediately upon request receipt; however, we suggest advanced planning to facilitate a worry-free travel experience. If paratransit is available in your home city, please contact EMBARK Plus at 405-235-RIDE (7433) for assistance in documenting your eligibility. Visitors without documented eligibility from another transit service provider can self-certify the disability verbally with EMBARK staff. Receiving PLUS paratransit service beyond 21 days requires an application and an eligibility determination.

# HOW TO USE PLUS

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## Customer Conduct

EMBARC has established the Rider Conduct & Exclusion Policy to promote the safety and comfort of its customers, to facilitate the proper use of transit facilities and services, to protect transit facilities and employees, to assure the payment of fares and to ensure that transit vehicles and facilities are safe, welcoming and provide equitable access for transit customers.

Failure to follow Plus Paratransit service policies or an operator's safety instructions, or engaging in violent, seriously disruptive, or illegal conduct by PLUS customers or persons associated with Plus customers is prohibited. In response to prohibited conduct, EMBARK shall take appropriate and immediate action as outlined in the Rider Conduct & Exclusion Policy, up to and including the temporary suspension or possible termination of Plus services. All customers receive a copy of the Rider Conduct & Exclusion Policy with their eligibility determination letter, and all service suspensions are subject to an appeals process. The policy is available for download at [embarkok.com](http://embarkok.com), by calling 405-235-RIDE (7433), or upon request at the EMBARK Norman Offices.

## Traveling with Animals

Service animals trained to assist with activities of daily living or to perform tasks for persons with disabilities may ride on any EMBARK vehicle when aiding customers with disabilities. The customer is responsible for ensuring the animal has received appropriate vaccinations and for the animals' conduct while on board. Please let staff know when scheduling your trip that you will be traveling with a service animal. Small pets not classified as working or service animals must be small enough to be held on the lap of the customer, must be under full control of the passenger, and must be in a cage or pet carrier small enough to fit on the customer's lap.

*Note: If the Plus operator determines that an animal is not under the owner's control, or that the animal may pose a direct threat to any passengers, Plus has the right to refuse service to that animal.*

# HOW TO USE PLUS

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## Carry-On Items

While our goal at EMBARK is to provide accessible transit service, the safety and comfort of our passengers is our primary concern. Passengers should restrict carry-on items to those that will neatly fit in the space either on the floor between their feet or on their lap. Carry-on items must not be allowed to intrude into the seating or floor area of other passengers and they must remain under the control of the passenger or PCA who brought them on board.

### ***Grocery Bags***

No more than three medium sized grocery bags and no more than 20 pounds for each bag or package. Customers are responsible for loading/unloading packages. *Limit to 3 medium size bags.*

### ***Shopping Carts or Baskets***

37" high from floor to top of handle. Basket area 13" side to side, 11 1/2" front to back, 20 1/2 " top to bottom. Metal or plastic grocery store-style shopping carts are not permitted. *Limit to 1 medium size cart or basket.*

### ***Strollers***

We recommend using small, folding, umbrella type strollers on EMBARK Plus vehicles. All strollers must be folded and stowed securely during the trip. *Limit to one (1).*

### ***Luggage***

Luggage that can be stowed in front of or on the lap of the passenger is allowed. This luggage must comply with the same guidelines used by commercial airlines. *Limit to 1 carry-on size 22"x9"x14".*

# HOW TO USE PLUS

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## Subscription Service

Subscription service may be available for trips with a repeating weekly pattern within the Zone 1 service area. Customers should refer to the current EMBARK Plus Norman subscription policy guide for guidelines on the subscription services available in Norman, call 405-235-RIDE (7433) to request a subscription service guide and application. Once approved for subscription services in Norman, subscription trips are automatically scheduled each week and reservation calls are not necessary.

Subscription service is considered a premium service and is offered only in our Zone 1 service area. Any changes to an approved subscription trip such as a new trip address or time change will require a new subscription application. Customers are responsible for following the No-Show and Late Cancellation Policy for all trips on EMBARK Plus, including subscription trips. **Plus will cancel subscription trips to any center/agency that reports to us they will be closed for one or more holidays or due to weather.**

## Reasonable Modification

EMBARK will make all reasonable modifications to policies and procedures to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy its programs, services, and activities. Anyone who requires a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of EMBARK, should submit a request via [embarkok.com](http://embarkok.com), by email to [mobilitymanagment@okc.gov](mailto:mobilitymanagment@okc.gov), by phone at (405) 235- RIDE (7433) or TTY 711, or by mail to:

ADA/Reasonable Modification Coordinator  
2000 S. May Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73108