

TRANSIT SERVICES COMMISSION
Operational Policy No. **03-012023**
Nevada County Connects Passenger Policies
Adopted – **March 20, 2023**

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the policy is to provide general guidance to Transit Services Division staff and the public regarding expectations for passenger conduct while on transit vehicles or at transit facilities, including bus stops, and to identify items or possessions which are acceptable for transport aboard Nevada County Connects and Nevada County Now vehicles.

POLICY:

General

1. Passengers shall provide the appropriate cash fare or current valid pass when boarding the vehicle.
2. Passengers shall wear appropriate clothing and footwear when boarding the bus. Shirt, shoes, pants/shorts, skirts must be worn at all times aboard the vehicle.
3. Passengers may board with strollers, backpacks and small personal shopping carts as long as they are able to board and alight without assistance and the items do not block the aisle when seated.
4. Service animals (dogs) are allowed. A service animal is a dog trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. A service animal is NOT a pet.
5. Service animals (dogs) are not allowed on vehicle seats and must be always under the passenger's control.
6. Small pets may be transported in a standard, leak proof, carrying cage if space is available. Owners are responsible for all animal "accidents".
7. Passengers may not operate, interfere with, enter, or climb on or in the property, facilities, or vehicles owned or operated by Nevada County Transit Services without the permission or approval of the Nevada County Transit Services.
8. Passengers may not interfere with the operator or operation of a transit vehicle or impede the safe boarding or alighting of passengers.
9. Passengers may not extend any portion of the body through any window in a manner that may cause harm or injury.
10. Passengers may not throw any object from the vehicle.
11. Passengers may not commit any act or engage in any behavior that may, with reasonable foresee ability, cause harm or injury to any person or property.
12. Passengers may not Violate any notice, prohibition, instruction, or direction on any sign that is intended to provide for the safety and security of transit passengers, or the safe and secure operation of the transit system.

Bicycles and Scooters

Bicycle Loading and Unloading

Passengers are responsible for loading, securing and unloading their bikes. When loading a bike onto the rack, stay on the curb until the bus makes a complete stop and the bus operator is aware of your presence. Upon arrival at your destination, remind the bus operator that you are retrieving your bike. Once you remove your bike, if there are no other bikes on the rack please raise and lock the rack in the upright position.

Bike Rack Space

If the bike racks are full, passengers wishing to travel with their bike will need to wait for the next bus. However, on the last run of the day if the bike rack is full bus operators may allow bikes on board the bus. These bikes must be secured by the passenger and may not obstruct the aisle way or doorways.

Electric Bicycles

Electric bicycles are allowed if they weigh 55 lbs. or less and the tires fit within the rack tray. Because electric bicycles often weigh more than 55 lbs. each e-bike must be certified by Nevada County Transit staff prior to loading onto the bike rack. See the Certification section for more information.

Certification: The maximum allowable weight of any bicycle on the bike rack is 55 lbs. To have Nevada County Transit staff certify your bike size and weight prior to loading it onto a bike rack, please call

Nevada County Transit at (530) 477-0103 to make an appointment. Once a bike is certified, the passenger's name, phone number and bike type will be documented for future reference.

Bike Rack Restrictions

The following bicycles are not allowed on the bike racks:

Bikes that cannot fit into the tire slots like fat tire bikes

- Tandem bikes
- Recumbent bikes
- Tricycles
- Children's bikes
- Gas powered bikes
- Bikes with excessive luggage attached – luggage must be removed and brought on board
- Bikes with child carriers or other equipment that could significantly obstruct the bus operator's vision
- Bikes that cannot be secured using the installed securement system without extra measures like bungee cords
- Bikes over 55 lbs.
- Folding Bicycles
- Folding bikes are not allowed to be carried on the bus.

Scooters

Non-motorized and small electric scooters may be brought onto the buses but must not be ridden on the bus and must not obstruct aisle ways and doorways. Motorized scooters with internal combustion engines (gas powered) are not allowed on the bus.

The transit system does not transport the following materials:

1. Hazardous Materials

Under the Federal Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, hazardous materials are defined as those which might create an "unreasonable" risk to health and safety or property when being transported.

The transit system does not permit the transportation of hazardous materials on a transit bus that represent an unreasonable risk and are within the following Federal Department of Transportation classes of hazardous materials. Examples include, but are not limited to:

Class 1 - explosives

- 1) Dynamite
- 2) Plastic Explosives
- 3) Ammunition
- 4) Fireworks

Class 2 - hazardous gases and cryogenic liquids

Class 3 - flammable and combustible liquids

- 1) Methanol
- 2) Nitroglycerine
- 3) Gasoline
- 4) Kerosene
- 5) Paint thinners and cleaners
- 6) Parts cleaners
- 7) Degreasing solutions
- 8) Alcohol (Not for human consumption)
- 9) Ketone, Acetone, etc.

Class 4 - flammable and combustible solids

Class 5 - oxidizers

Class 6 - poisons
Class 7 - radioactive materials

Class 8 - corrosives
1) Battery and cleaning acids
2) Caustic solutions

Class 9 - miscellaneous hazardous materials
1) Asbestos or any of its derivatives
2) Insulation materials for structures

2. Hazardous Equipment

The transit system does not permit the transportation of hazardous equipment on a transit bus that represent an unreasonable risk and that are generally within the following categories. Examples include, but are not limited to:

Pressurized containers

- 1) Oxygen (Except for medical purposes with respect to an individual passenger and within specific guidelines relative to the way the tank is transported and the existence of appropriate safety valves and gauges).
- 2) Paint
- 3) Engine starter fluid
- 4) Nitrogen
- 5) Acetylene

Lead/Acid batteries (except as part of an operating electric personal mobility device)

Equipment containing hazardous fuels

- 1) Lawn mowers
- 2) Lawn edgers
- 3) Hedge trimmers
- 4) Chain saws
- 5) Portable gas stoves and lights with pressurized and non-pressurized gas containers

Sharp objects (such as hatchets, axes, and hunting knives)

3. Weapons

Weapons of any type (knives, pistols and rifles, etc.) are not permitted on transit system vehicles unless carried by persons lawfully permitted to carry such weapons, which includes law enforcement and security personnel.