



# Rider Guide

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*CARTS is for EVERYONE...*

*Ride with us.*

*We're going your way!*



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## Welcome to CARTS!

This guide was developed to help provide riders with the information they need to successfully ride CARTS.

## What is CARTS?

Central Area Rural Transit System, Inc. is the public transportation provider for the Central Kenai Peninsula.

CARTS provides safe, convenient public transportation services within the cities of Soldotna and Kenai, the communities of Funny River, Kasilof, Nikiski and Sterling, and all areas in between. We operate seven days a week from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. and we provide rides for work trips seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Call us for a ride today. **We're going your way!**

## Contact Us!

Central Area Rural Transit System, Inc.  
43530 Kalifornsky Beach Road  
P.O. Box 993  
Soldotna, AK 99669  
Email: [carts@alaska.net](mailto:carts@alaska.net)

## Important Phone Numbers

Office .....262-8900  
Cancellation Line .....262-3838  
Fax.....262-6122

## **Door-To-Door Service**

CARTS provides door-to-door service – this means you must meet the driver at the main door, main level or first floor of a building for an escort to the vehicle.

Please be ready to board the vehicle upon arrival. For safety and security reasons, drivers are not to leave sight of their vehicle by entering private homes and buildings, or go to rooms to pick up riders. Facility staff should be ready to assist the individual in and out of the building, if necessary.

Drivers do not carry people, mobility devices or packages. If this level of assistance is required an escort should be provided by the passenger.

If your condition is very fragile and you require specialized care in transit, you must provide a personal care attendant. CARTS drivers are not trained as paramedics.

## **Boarding Wheelchairs and Other Mobility Devices**

CARTS will make every attempt to accommodate your wheelchair.

Wheelchairs larger or that exceed the weight or size limits of our wheelchair lifts may be denied service aboard CARTS accessible vehicles. Please be sure that wheelchairs, or other mobility devices, are clean, safe and in good working condition before traveling.

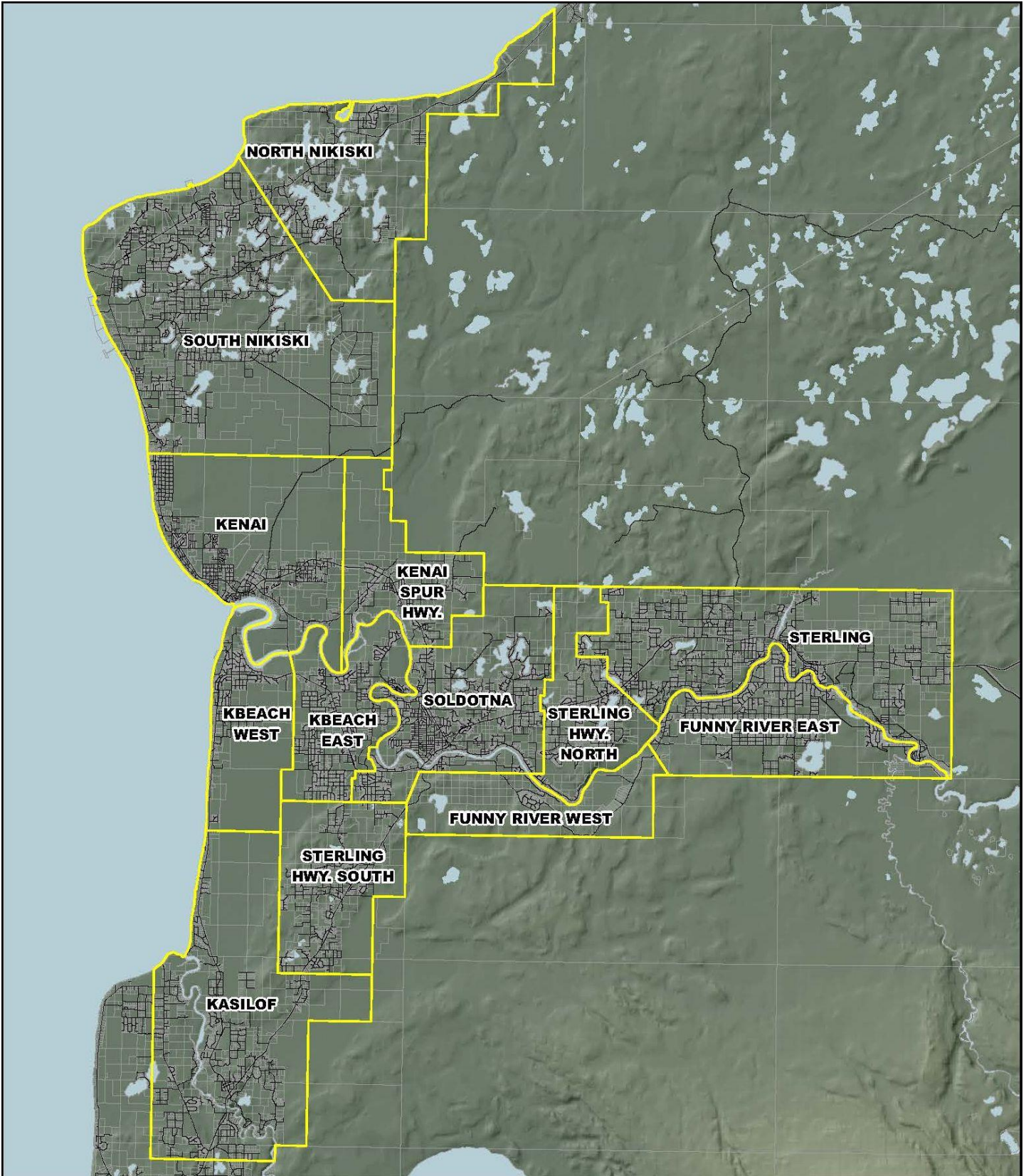
## Service Area

CARTS service area includes Kasilof, Kenai, Soldotna, Sterling, Nikiski and all points between.

### **There are thirteen zones:**

- North Nikiski.....Mile 29 to end of road
- South Nikiski.....Nile 15 to Mile 29
- Kenai .....4 Lane to Mile 15
- Kenai Spur Highway .....Churchill Avenue to 4 Lane
- Sterling Highway North ...Whisper Lake to Boundary St.
- Sterling Highway South ...Skyview to Irish Hills
- Sterling.....Bings Landing to Whisper Lake
- Funny River Road West ...Soldotna City Limits to Mile 8
- Funny River Road East ....Mile 8 to end of road
- Soldotna .....Boundary to College Loop
- KBeach East .....College Loop to Bridge Access
- KBeach West .....Bridge Access to Mile 8 KBeach
- Kasilof .....Irish Hills to North End Cohoe Loop

**\*Note:** The information listed above is for descriptive purposes only and may not be exact. For more information contact the CARTS office.



**\*Note: The information depicted in this map is for a graphical representation only and may not be exact. For more information contact the CARTS office.**



## Ride Cost

Passengers are charged one punch for each zone traveled through. Quick stopovers (post office, bank etc.) can be made, and will be charged equal to one zone.

## Methods of Payment

All fare payments can be made using the following methods:

**Punchcards** are available in three denominations:

- Five punches .....\$12.50
- Ten punches .....\$25.00
- Twenty punches .....\$50.00



You can stop by the CARTS office on K-Beach to pick up punchcards, or cards can be purchased on our website and through the mail.

**Drivers DO NOT sell punchcards.**

## **Ticketless Fare Account**

For passenger convenience, CARTS offers “Ticketless Fare Account”. This allows pre-payment of the fare and avoid the need to carry a punchcard or token. Customers can purchase any number of punches in person at the office, through the mail or through our website. Those punches are in your ride bank. When a trip is booked, the appropriate fare will be encumbered. When a trip is performed, the fare will be deducted from the “Ticketless Fare Account”. If the trip is cancelled or not delivered, the fare is returned to your account. When scheduling rides CARTS Customer Service can tell you if you have enough punches in your bank for travel or if you need to reload it.

## **Ride Delivery Hours**

CARTS provides rides between the hours of 6 a.m. and 11 p.m. Monday through Sunday, except for trips back and forth to work, which are delivered 24 hours a day, seven days a week except for observed holidays.

## **Scheduling and Ride Reservation Hours**

CARTS office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Rides need to be scheduled by close of business the day before. Remember, if you need a ride to work on Saturday or Sunday, or need a ride on Monday, your reservation needs to be made by 5 pm on Friday.

If you are riding for the first time, you will need complete a registration form so you can be entered in to our scheduling system. Registrations can be done over the phone or in person, and punchcards can be purchased through the mail. Once you are in our system, you can schedule your rides.

There is no need to call daily to schedule your rides. In fact, you can schedule a week, a month, even a year in advance. This is very convenient for passengers traveling to school or work. If you do schedule ahead, remember to cancel rides you do not need!

## **CARTS Vehicles**

CARTS operates a variety of vehicles including 13-passenger vans, wheelchair accessible mini vans, and wheelchair accessible narrow body buses.

CARTS vehicles are equipped with the latest technology in wheelchair restraints, ramps and lifts. Our drivers are thoroughly trained in wheelchair restraint and passenger assistance in order to handle any passenger need.

## Cancellation & No-Show Policy

A “No-Show” occurs when a rider who has a confirmed ride scheduled does not use the transportation within five minutes of the vehicles arrival.

If you reserve a ride and decide not to travel, you must call to cancel your service at least two hours before your requested travel time. Any cancellation received less than two hours before the scheduled pick up time will be considered a “No-Show”. ***If the first scheduled trip is logged as a “No-Show” the return trip is automatically cancelled.***

No-Shows are very costly to CARTS. Before you place a ride reservation, be certain that you really plan to travel. Excessive No-Shows are considered an abuse of the system and will result in penalties and/or suspension of service.

### ***The following is CARTS No-Show Policy:***

*Your transportation is scheduled in the CARTS system to meet your specific needs. You will not be able to make last minute pick-up or return time changes. If you absolutely need to make a change, please call 262-8900 immediately. You will only be allowed Two (2) No Shows. After this point, a review will be done regarding the reasons for missing your rides. CARTS transportation has the right to decline your transportation rides. If your punch cards are purchased through an agency, we will contact your case manager if problems arise such as no shows or last minute cancellations.*

- *One No-Show results in a Serious Warning.*
- *Two No-Shows will result in a one-week Suspension from CARTS.*
- *Three No-Shows will result in a one-month Suspension from CARTS.*



***CARTS has a Cancellation Line that is operational Monday through Friday from 6 am to 8 am and from 5 pm to 8 pm.***

The phone line is also on from 6 am to 3 pm Saturday, Sunday and holidays the office is closed but services are still operating (observed holidays are listed on **page 17**). Just call 262-3838 and a customer service representative will help you. Remember, the cancellation line is only for ride cancellations, any other issues please call 262-8900 during regular business hours.

## Service Closures

It is CARTS policy that scheduled transportation services may be altered and/or canceled due to a declared emergency, hazardous road or environmental conditions. CARTS may not operate under unsafe or hazardous conditions. If service is canceled or delayed all those with scheduled rides will be notified by phone as soon as practical.

### Definitions

**A. Declared emergency:** A localized, community wide, state wide or nationwide catastrophic or hazardous event in which a local, state or federal governmental agency decrees a state of emergency and/or a decreed disaster area.

**B. Hazardous weather conditions:** Adverse road and/or environmental conditions that make it unsafe to operate the CARTS vehicles as advised by the National Weather Service, Alaska Department of Transportation or Alaska State Troopers.

### Procedures

In a state of emergency, CARTS will cancel all scheduled rides until conditions allow restored transportation services. If the emergency is within a localized area, those rides may be canceled. Priority will be given for life sustaining purposes (such as necessary medical treatment) and service will be restored as resources allow. CARTS will make every effort to contact passengers affected by the emergency. However, the nature of the emergency may not allow phone use. Passengers should be aware that under emergency situations, their ride may be canceled or altered without prior notification.

In an adverse weather closure, CARTS will notify passengers, if possible, and cancel trips that have not begun. Priority will be given for life sustaining (necessary medical treatment) and return trips. Passengers with scheduled rides are advised to listen to local radio stations for notification of transportation delays or cancellations. Passengers should be aware that under adverse road conditions, their ride may be canceled or altered without prior notification.

If the vehicle is not able to get to the curbside, or a mutually agreed pick up point, the trip may be canceled. If the driveway is not accessible by the vehicle, and/or the driver is unable to get to the door, door to door services may not be provided. It is the responsibility of the passenger to ensure that door to door service is accessible to the CARTS vehicle and driver.

## Rider Suspension Policy (other than No-Shows)

CARTS has made a commitment to provide quality public transportation services to anyone in the central Kenai Peninsula that needs a ride. CARTS will make every reasonable effort to accommodate riders various conditions. However, there are rare occasions where the service is abused by individual riders. When this occurs on a repeated basis, it may be necessary to deny service to those individuals.

### Criteria for the suspension of service

- **Verbal or physical abuse** towards a CARTS employee or passenger.
- **Behavior** which represents a clear and present danger to an individual's health or safety or of others within the vehicle. Such behavior includes conduct which is violent, seriously disruptive, or illegal.
- **Lateness** not being ready at the scheduled pick-up time. Rules require passengers to be ready 15 minutes before the scheduled pick up time as the vehicle has a 15-minute pick up window on either side of your scheduled time. Be prepared to leave when the vehicle arrives. Drivers are required to wait only five minutes upon arrival. If you have not boarded within the five minute arrival time, you will be assessed a no-show.
- **Cancellation** trips which are repeatedly canceled less than two hours before the scheduled pick up time may result in those trips being considered a no-show.

## Procedure

The following procedure will be followed before denying any transportation for any individual. All communications to the individual will be in an appropriate accessible format.

1. CARTS staff may immediately refuse service to an individual when necessary to protect the health and safety of other passengers or CARTS employees.
2. Incidents will be carefully and completely documented.
3. CARTS staff will provide notice of each infraction. This notice will include an explanation of the policy which the passenger has failed to follow. Notice will be provided of any proposed action, or suspension of service resulting from the infraction.
4. With the exception of an infraction involving behavior which presents a danger to the individual or others using CARTS, passengers will receive three notices of infraction prior to the suspension of service.

The second notice will be a warning of impending suspension of service following the next occurrence of the infraction.

5. If corrective action does not occur, a third notice will be given to officially notify the individual of the suspension of service, and the date and duration of the suspension of service.

## Rules of the Road

- Everyone is eligible.
- Rider does not pay driver - charges are paid with pre-purchased punch cards.
- Punch cards are like cash - IN THE EVENT PUNCH CARDS ARE LOST OR STOLEN, CARTS DOES NOT BEAR RESPONSIBILITY IN REPLACING THEM OR REFUNDING MONEY. CARTS WILL, HOWEVER, REPLACE THE CARD OR CARDS AFTER 90 DAYS IF THEY HAVE NOT BEEN USED.
- Punch cards are assigned to specific riders. Rides authorized with this punch card are to be taken only by the individual whose name is on the card.
- All rides are scheduled a day or more in advance.
- Cancel trips no longer needed at least two hours in advance.
- Children under the age seven cannot ride alone, but do ride free with a caretaker.
- A ride may be in a taxi, a volunteer in a private car, a senior or other agency van or a CARTS van.
- Passengers will probably share the vehicle with others.
- Passengers may be asked to reschedule, for group rides.
- Passengers may have to wait for a while, and be ready.
- Stops must be quick, since others are waiting. ALWAYS be considerate of others.
- Smoking is not permitted on any CARTS vehicle.
- Riders may not eat or drink on CARTS vehicles. Food and beverages will be allowed only in unopened containers.

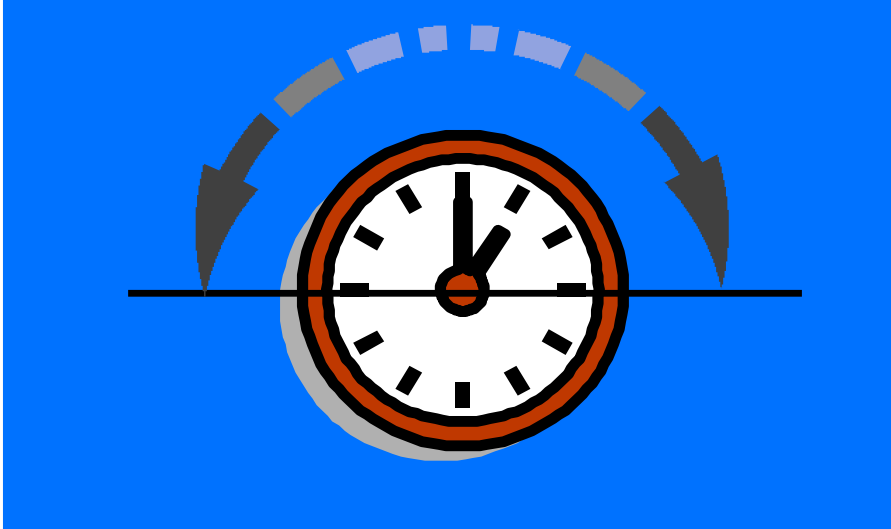


- Firearms and hazardous items such as uncovered glass, gasoline and other flammables and explosives are never allowed on public transportation vehicles or properties. Only law enforcement officers may bring weapons on public transportation vehicles or property.
- All passengers and drivers are required to use a seat belt or approved child safety device. Drivers will not move the vehicle until everyone is safely secured. Young children riding CARTS must follow the State of Alaska seat belt law, which requires an approved child safety device (car seat or toddler booster seat). Specifically,
  1. A child less than one year of age or a child one year of age or older who weighs less than 20 pounds shall be properly secured in a rear-facing child safety seat.
  2. A child one or more years of age but less than five years of age who weighs 20 pounds or more shall be properly secured in a child restraint device.
  3. A child over four years of age but less than eight years of age who is less than 57 inches in height and weighs 20 or more pounds but less than 65 pounds shall be properly secured in a booster seat that is secured by a seat belt system or by another child passenger restraint system.
- The child's accompanying adult must provide a child restraint device for the child. The adult must secure the restraint device to the seat and ensure the child is secured before the vehicle moves. The driver may deny rides to children without appropriate restraint devices.
- Offensive language or behavior that is disruptive or unsafe for other riders or the driver is not allowed.
- Radios, audio devices and musical instruments cannot be operated unless earphones are used and the noise cannot be heard by the driver or by other passengers.

- Driveways and walkways must be plowed and shoveled to allow for safe access and a reasonable turnaround area. If your driveway is not plowed, you will be asked to walk out to meet the vehicle.
- CARTS provides door-to-door service for passengers from the entry doorway to the vehicle. The driver can only go as far as the entry of a building. If a person requires assistance beyond an entry to a building, the passenger needs to provide their own attendant.
- A Personal Care Attendant is someone who is physically and mentally able to assist a passenger when they require assistance beyond door-to-door service or needs to travel with the passenger for safety and health reasons. Both the PCA and the rider must be picked up and dropped off at the same address. Attendants ride free of charge with CARTS.

## CARTS Pickup Window

### Flexibility is the Key



#### **15 minutes before 15 minutes after**

Please be ready 15 minutes before your scheduled pick up time as the vehicle has a 15-minute pick up window on either side of your scheduled time. Be prepared to leave when the vehicle arrives. Drivers are required to wait only five minutes upon arrival. If you have not boarded within the five minute arrival time, you will be assessed a no-show.

Remember that other riders will probably ride in the same vehicle with you, or the vehicle may be scheduled to pick up another passenger right after you reach your destination. Be sure to allow enough time when scheduling in the winter to allow for poor road conditions.

If the vehicle will be more than 15 minutes late, a CARTS staff member will try to notify the rider. If the vehicle is late, the rider should call 262-8900. The dispatcher should be able to approximate an arrival time for the vehicle.

Trip length depends on a variety of conditions, i.e. number of passengers on the vehicle, day care stops, road conditions, etc.

## Text Ride Reminder

CARTS offers you the opportunity to receive an automated text message the day before your trip to remind you of your trips scheduled for the next day.

If you wish to opt in for this reminder service please let the customer service staff know that you are happy to receive information via SMS text message and we can amend your registration accordingly.

Please note it is your responsibility to keep CARTS informed of any changes to your personal details and to ensure we have the correct mobile phone contact information.

We will also use this system to notify customers with a scheduled ride about weather closures or delays.

*\*\*The text message will originate from a phone number in the state of Washington.*



## Office Holidays

The following is a list of holidays observed by CARTS:

**New Year's Day .....No services, office is closed.**

MLK, Jr. Day ..... Services operate, office is closed.

Presidents Day ..... Services operate, office is closed.

Seward's Day ..... Services operate, office is closed.

**Memorial Day .....No services, office is closed.**

**Independence Day No services, office is closed.**

**Labor Day .....No services, office is closed.**

Alaska Day ..... Services operate, office is closed.

**Thanksgiving .....No services, office is closed**

Day after Thanksgiving Services operate, office is closed

**Christmas Day .....No services, office is closed.**

New Year's Eve ..... Services offered, office is closed.

## Medical Emergencies

CARTS drivers are certified in passenger assistance, however they are not certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's). In the event of an emergency, drivers will radio the dispatcher to call 911 for assistance and will wait for paramedics to arrive. For minor injuries or illnesses, drivers will take the passengers to the most appropriate location for care or assistance. Current emergency contact name and telephone numbers are required for all CARTS passenger files.

## **Lost Items**

CARTS is not responsible for lost or stolen items. When exiting the vehicle, please be sure to check around your seat to make sure you have all your belongings. If you do leave something on the vehicle please call the office as soon as possible.

## **Parcels**

CARTS will make every effort to accommodate passengers that have parcels. If you are expecting to be carrying a large amount of things with you please let the office know when you schedule your ride. If there is any problem, it can be addressed at that time.

## **Tipping**

CARTS drivers may not accept tips. We appreciate the thought and encourage you to fill out a comment card or make a donation to the program instead.

## **Animals**

Animals, except for service animals, are not permitted on vehicles unless housed in closed containers. Service animals must be under the control of the passenger at all times.

## **Per Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Requirements, Central Area Rural Transit System, Inc. (CARTS) service at a minimum will provide the following:**

- a. Service animals may accompany individuals with disabilities in vehicles and facilities. The DOT ADA regulations define a service animal as any animal individually trained to work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability, including but not limited to guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items. It is discriminatory to require a person with a disability to certify or register a service animal. Policies or practices that have the effect of limiting service animal use are prohibited.
- b. The USDOT ADA regulations define a wheelchair as any class of three- or more-wheeled mobility devices, usable indoors, designed or modified for and used by individuals with mobility impairments, whether operated manually or powered.
- c. Where necessary and upon request, personnel will assist individuals with disabilities in the use of securement systems, ramps and lift. Personnel must leave their seats if it is necessary to provide the assistance.
- d. Passengers may be required to allow their wheelchair to be secured and may be denied service if they refuse.
- e. Passengers will be transported when the securement system cannot accommodate the rider's wheelchair. Requirements concerning wheelchair equipment or specifications, such as brakes or wheel locks will not be established.
- f. Passenger may be asked, but not required, to transfer from a wheelchair to a seat.
- g. The lifts or ramp will be deployed upon request for persons who do not use wheelchairs, including standees.

- h. Vehicle operators and other personnel will make use of accessibility related equipment and features.
- i. Public information and communications must be made available in accessible formats.
- j. Service will not be denied individuals using respirators or portable oxygen.
- k. Staff must ensure adequate time for individuals with disabilities to board or disembark a vehicle.



## Your Rights Under Title VI

CARTS operates its programs and services without regard to race, color or national origin in accordance with Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Any person who believes that he or she has been aggrieved by any unlawful discriminatory practice under Title VI may file a complaint with our agency.

Any such complaint must be in writing and filed with this agency within 180 days following the date of the alleged discriminatory occurrence. For information on our nondiscrimination obligations or how to file a complaint, please contact CARTS by any of the methods listed below.

Central Area Rural Transit System, Inc. (CARTS)

P.O. Box 993

Soldotna, AK 99669

907-262-8900

907-262-6122 fax

[cartsinfo@ridecartsak.org](mailto:cartsinfo@ridecartsak.org)

If this information is needed in another language, please contact us.

## Keeping in Touch

In order for CARTS to serve the community better, we work to constantly upgrade and improve our services. The public is always invited to call us to inquire about any of our services. We are here to serve the public, and no question is too big or too small! We welcome all questions and suggestions.

## Special Thanks

CARTS would like to thank everyone that uses public transportation, and encourage your continued support. Only by keeping transportation in the public eye can we hope to insure the future of public transit in our area.

CARTS would also like to thank the Kenai Peninsula Borough, the City of Soldotna, the City of Kenai, plus all the local agencies and organizations that help us in our endeavor to provide public transportation to the central Kenai Peninsula.

Last, but certainly not least, CARTS would like to thank our dedicated employees, and contract providers. They are the heart of the service!





**Check out our website at <http://ridecarsak.org>**

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*Central Area Rural Transit System, Inc.*

*P.O. Box 993*

*Soldotna, AK 99669*