REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Car-Free Seniors Program – Fact Sheet & FAQs

When does it start?
Tuesday, October 13, 2026

What is the Car-Free Seniors Program?
A fare-free MBTA pass across all MBTA bus, subway, Commuter Rail, and ferry services for eligible Massachusetts residents age 75+

Who is eligible?
Massachusetts residents who meet all three requirements:

- Age 75 or older
- Hold a Massachusetts ID Card
- Do not hold a Driver's License from Massachusetts or any other state

How can residents apply?
- Online through the MBTA MyCharlie portal or by visiting MBTA.com/CarFreeSeniors
- In person at the Charlie Service Center located at 296 Washington St, Boston, MA 02108. Phone: 617.222.3200

Can residents apply at an RMV Service Center?
No. RMV Service Centers issue the Massachusetts ID Card only. The Car-Free Seniors Card comes from the MBTA.

Can part-time Massachusetts residents apply?
Eligible participants must have a Massachusetts ID Card issued by the RMV. If someone has a Massachusetts ID Card and lives in another state part of the year, that person is eligible.

What services are included?
MBTA fixed-route services only: bus, subway, Commuter Rail, and ferry. Fixed-route services have a regular route and schedule (such as bus or subway).

Paratransit, such as THE RIDE, is not fixed-route and is not included. However, RIDE customers who enroll in Car-Free Seniors can receive discounts on ADA standard and premium trips.

If a resident does not live in the city, can they get one for their regional transit authority?
Currently, this program only covers MBTA subway, bus, Commuter Rail, and ferry operations.

How is this different from the Senior CharlieCard?

The Senior CharlieCard is available to people age 65+ and provides reduced, not free, fares. It is valid for 8 years and can be loaded with cash value: $10 7-Day LinkPasses, or $30 monthly LinkPasses.

Can a companion or caregiver ride free with the resident?

No. The pass covers the Car-Free Senior Program cardholder only.

Does the RMV share resident information with the MBTA?

The RMV does not share information with the MBTA without the resident's consent. When a resident applies, the MBTA will get their consent.

Will the resident benefit from this based on where they live?

It depends on where they live: **inner core service area** OR **outer core service area** OR **other MBTA-served communities** (see list of cities on next page to guide customer appropriately).

- If they live in the **inner core service area** (Boston and nearby cities), they would have free access to the full MBTA bus and subway network, plus Commuter Rail and ferry service.
- If they live in the **outer core service area**, they would have free bus and subway service where it runs near them, and free Commuter Rail into Boston and other stops on the line.
- If they live in one of the **other MBTA-served communities**, their main benefit is probably free Commuter Rail.

Inner Core Service Area	Outer Core Service Area	
Arlington	Bedford	Needham
Belmont	Beverly	Norfolk
Boston	Braintree	Norwood
Brookline	Burlington	Peabody
Cambridge	Canton	Quincy
Chelsea	Cohasset	Randolph
Everett	Concord	Reading
Malden	Danvers	Salem
Medford	Dedham	Saugus
Milton	Dover	Sharon
Newton	Framingham	Stoneham
Revere	Hamilton	Swampscott
Somerville	Hingham	Topsfield
Watertown	Holbrook	Wakefield
	Hull	Walpole
	Lexington	Waltham
	Lincoln	Wellesley
	Lynn	Wenham
	Lynnfield	Weston
	Manchester-by-the-Sea	Westwood
	Marblehead	Weymouth
	Medfield	Wilmington
	Melrose	Winchester
	Middleton	Winthrop
	Nahant	Woburn
	Natick	

Chart continued on next page

Other Served Communities		
Abington	Hanson	Plymouth
Acton	Harvard	Plympton
Amesbury	Haverhill	Princeton
Andover	Holden	Raynham
Ashburnham	Holliston	Rehoboth
Ashby	Hopkinton	Rochester
Ashland	Ipswich	Rockland
Attleboro	Kingston	Rockport
Auburn	Lakeville	Rowley
Ayer	Lancaster	Salisbury
Bellingham	Lawrence	Scituate
Berkley	Leicester	Seekonk
Billerica	Leominster	Sherborn
Bourne	Littleton	Shirley
Boxborough	Lowell	Shrewsbury
Boxford	Lunenburg	Southborough
Bridgewater	Mansfield	Sterling
Brockton	Marlborough	Stoughton
Carlisle	Marshfield	Stow
Carver	Maynard	Sudbury
Chelmsford	Medway	Sutton
Dracut	Merrimac	Taunton
Duxbury	Methuen	Tewksbury
East Bridgewater	Middleborough	Townsend
Easton	Millbury	Tyngsborough
Essex	Millis	Upton
Fall River	New Bedford	Wareham
Fitchburg	Newbury	Wayland
Foxborough	Newburyport	West Boylston
Franklin	North Andover	West Bridgewater
Freetown	North Attleborough	West Newbury
Georgetown	North Reading	Westborough
Gloucester	Northborough	Westford
Grafton	Northbridge	Westminster
Groton	Norton	Whitman
Groveland	Norwell	Worcester
Halifax	Paxton	Wrentham
Hanover	Pembroke	