

OmniRide Stands Against Racism

A Message from OmniRide's Executive Director

In light of the protests against racial prejudice and inequality that we've witnessed over the past few weeks, OmniRide publicly stands in solidarity with those who are fighting for equality and justice for all. Our hope is that this movement will be a catalyst for meaningful conversations about racial justice and the end of racism, bigotry and prejudice. Those dialogues can be difficult but there's tremendous value in opening that door and taking the time to speak honestly and listen. If we're not willing to open our eyes, ears and hearts, nothing will change.

Bob Schneider
OmniRide Executive Director

Face Coverings Required on OmniRide Buses



Until further notice, **ALL** passengers are required to wear face coverings while riding OmniRide buses. This requirement is in compliance with the Governor's orders on wearing face coverings on all public transit. The face coverings DO NOT have to be medical grade masks, but should cover both nose and mouth. Examples include bandanas, scarves, or homemade masks.

We thank you for your cooperation.



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OmniRide Increases Service Levels

Safety Top Priority



OmniRide resumed operating all routes and increased service levels on OmniRide Express buses on June 22, 2020. Weekday Express service to destinations in Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C., is running on a Friday schedule, which is one step down from full-service. The increase in service levels is based on the improving COVID-19 conditions, and the Governor's order to begin reopening the state.

"With the state beginning to reopen we anticipate that many regional workers will be ready to begin commuting again," said Prince William County Supervisor Margaret Angela Franklin, who also serves as Chair of the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission which oversees OmniRide.

"We realize that many riders are concerned about their health while riding public transportation. I want to assure the public that OmniRide is following a strict protocol for cleaning and disinfecting buses to help keep riders and the general public safe and healthy. The safety of our passengers, bus operators, and staff is our top priority," Franklin said.

Passengers on Express buses must pay fares with a SmarTrip card because cash is not being accepted at this time. OmniRide's Metro Express and local buses have continued operating throughout the pandemic, and fares on those buses are currently free.

"The last thing we want to see is increasing numbers of positive COVID-19 cases, so it's important that everyone remains vigilant," said OmniRide Executive Director Bob Schneider.

Among the precautions taken by OmniRide are stringent cleaning and sanitizing of the buses' interiors twice daily – midday and evening – and enhanced cleaning once a week on all buses with hospital-grade cleaning products.

OmniRide reminds riders to follow CDC and the Governor's guidelines:

- Wash hands frequently
- Stay home if you have flu-like symptoms
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing
- Avoid contact with sick people
- Wear a face covering (mask, bandana, scarf, etc.)
- Do not ride the bus if you have tested positive for COVID-19.

For more information on routes, schedules, and safety precautions, visit OmniRide.com or contact Customer Service at 703-730-6664.

Paratransit Service has Arrived to Western Area Local Routes

Pilot Project Could Expand to Eastern Prince William County



OmniRide introduced a separate paratransit service in the Manassas and Manassas Park areas this winter as part of a one year pilot project.

The OmniRide Access paratransit service provides transportation specifically for people who are unable to use public transit due to disability. Paratransit service is provided in vans with a maximum of eight passengers, and riders will need to be certified in order to use the service. Visit [OmniRide.com/access](https://www.omniride.com/access) to learn more about the certification process.

Since the paratransit service began, Manassas and Manassas Park OmniRide Local buses no longer make off-route trips. If the pilot project is a success, OmniRide Access may be extended to serve residents in eastern Prince William County as early as 2022.

Paratransit offers door-to-door service for riders with disabilities. Eliminating off-route trips improves on-time performance for OmniRide Local buses, because the routing will not vary and extra time won't be built into the schedule to accommodate off-route trips.

Paratransit vehicles pick up and drop off passengers within 3/4 mile of the regular western OmniRide Local bus route, the same distance that's now in place for off-route trips as required by the federal law.

The cost for a one-way paratransit trip is \$3.10—double the current local bus fare—which may be paid with cash or with special paratransit tokens, at least during the pilot phase.

OmniRide plans on analyzing the new local fixed routing and paratransit service this fall. Changes to the fixed route services may occur this winter.

Look for more information about OmniRide Access paratransit this fall.

Thank You OmniRide First Providers

OmniRide understands that even in a pandemic reliable transit service is vital to the community. Nobody here at OmniRide understands that more than our outstanding bus operators, dispatchers, mechanics, security and frontline operations staff. They are some of our regions first providers.

Our region's essential workers – doctors, nurses, grocery store employees, and restaurant workers – are saving lives and putting food on America's tables. Essential workers HAVE to get to work. Our OmniRide first providers have been working hard to get the region's essential workers where they need to go. Here at OmniRide we consider them, along with the region's essential workers, HEROS!

Despite difficult circumstances, OmniRide's first providers have still shown up every day to serve our community. We couldn't be prouder of or more grateful for their dedication to keeping our services on the road.

Please join us in saying THANK YOU to our bus operators, dispatchers, mechanics, security and frontline operations staff for a job well done. We can't say it enough - THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to everyone who contributes to getting OmniRide's services on the road!

The Chair of PRTC's Commission, OmniRide's governing body, issued an Op-Ed thanking OmniRide First Providers. Read it at [OmniRide.com/news](https://omniride.com/news).

