



# TRAVEL TRAINING



The Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) is a regional transit system that services 37 communities in Central Massachusetts with a fleet of over 50 fixed-route buses and 50 paratransit vans.

The second largest regional transit authority in Massachusetts, WRTA offers reliable, comfortable, and safe transportation for traveling to work, shopping, school, medical appointments, and leisure activities. Paratransit services are provided to seniors aged 60 and over as well as individuals with disabilities.

## TRAVEL TRAINING

WRTA offers a Travel Training program that is designed to educate those who are interested in learning how to navigate the fixed-route bus system. Travel Training is not available for Paratransit services.

WRTA Travel Training sessions provide firsthand experience navigating the community using WRTA's fixed-route buses. Training techniques and time devoted will vary based on individual needs.

Participants of the program will work with the WRTA Travel Trainer to identify solutions that best fits their situation, abilities, and needs. Travel Training starts with a series of steps from initial one-on-one instruction to less assistance from a trainer, leading to achieving the individual's travel goals.



## PLAN YOUR TRIP



## LEARN YOUR ROUTE



## HOP ON BOARD

Travel Trainees must be at least 13 years, or have permission from a guardian to participate. The program is available to all riders at no cost!

There are two types of Travel Training available:

**Destination:** You learn to travel to and from a specific destination.

**General:** You learn to travel using the WRTA's entire fixed-route bus system in greater detail, without a specific destination in mind.


WRTA Travel Training can enhance your lifestyle and make it easier to travel using the WRTA's fixed-route bus system. Enjoy increased independence with access to appointments, restaurants, entertainment, events, and more!

All WRTA buses comply with the American Disabilities Act regulations. All rides are currently fare free.

## CONTACT



**Karen Andersen Walsh**  
Travel Trainer

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# FAQS

## AM I OR MY LOVED ONE READY FOR TRAVEL TRAINING?

Travel training is most successful for an individual when they are motivated and interested in learning new things, mastering a task or achieving personal goals. Hop on board if you or your loved one are willing to learn what it takes to travel independently using public transportation. Travel training can be conducted in both individual and group settings, to best suit the needs of the rider(s).

## DO I OR MY LOVED ONE MEET THE WRTA TRAVEL TRAINING PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS?

All individuals at least 13 years old, who are not visually impaired or legally blind are eligible for the travel training program. Permission from a parent or guardian is required for those under the age of 18. Individuals who are legally blind or visually impaired will be referred to the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind to receive travel training from a Certified Specialist.

## WHAT SKILLS DO I OR MY LOVED ONE NEED TO POSSESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TRAVEL TRAINING PROGRAM?

Travel Trainees who are open to learning new things, and are comfortable to receive verbal or physical cues from the Travel Trainer, community helpers or others will have a successful experience. It is possible to learn to ride the bus independently without reading, writing or speaking English, as long as the Trainee is comfortable and willing to ride WRTA fixed-route buses. Trainees are encouraged to be open to trust the Travel Trainer and support team, and understand that their well-being and safety is at the forefront of the program.

### ***Not sure if you or your loved one is ready?***

Please contact our travel trainer, Karen at (508) 453.3451 or [kandersenwalsh@therta.com](mailto:kandersenwalsh@therta.com)



# LET'S CONNECT

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