



# Your Guide to Public Transportation

**JCC of Central New Jersey Edition  
Includes Map of Scotch Plains, Fanwood & Westfield**

## **Introduction**

---

New Jersey, and Union County in particular, enjoys the benefits of an excellent public transportation system. NJTIP @ Rutgers has developed Your Guide to Public Transportation to help older adults in Union County understand available transportation resources.

Public transportation is a safe and economical way to visit family and friends and to travel to stores, restaurants, doctors' offices and many other destinations. Public transportation helps us to be independent. We can make our own travel decisions without having to rely on other people. For those who drive, public transportation may be a way to save money, utilize travel time or serve as an alternative.

We wish to thank the Union County Division on Aging and Resource Connection and local organizations who helped develop this Guide including the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ, YM-YWHA of Union County and the JCC of Central New Jersey.

NJTIP @ Rutgers has received funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) under the New Freedom Program for a travel training program in Union County.



**Table of Contents**

---

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Introduction                            | 1  |
| Local Bus Service in Union County       | 3  |
| NJ TRANSIT Reduced Fare Program         | 4  |
| Bus Routes in Union County              | 5  |
| Local Transit Map                       | 7  |
| Rail Service In Union County            | 9  |
| Access Link                             | 10 |
| Union County Paratransit                | 11 |
| Municipal Services                      | 12 |
| Transportation Management Assn's (TMAs) | 13 |
| Driving Safety                          | 14 |
| Walking Safety                          | 15 |
| Transit Tips                            | 16 |
| Resources                               | 17 |

---

## **Local Bus Service in Union County**

---

Many local NJ TRANSIT bus routes travel through Union County, NJ. A list of routes in Union County is on Page 5 and 6.

Most operate seven days a week, but schedules are different on weekends.

NJ TRANSIT buses have accessible features:

- They “kneel” to lower the height of the first step
- Lifts for any riders who cannot use steps
- Audible inside & outside announcements
- Priority seating close to the operator and doors

Passengers must ask the bus operator (driver) to kneel the bus or use the lift.

### **NJ TRANSIT “mybus”**

The mybus service tells customers when the next buses are scheduled to arrive at local bus stops.

#### **To Use “mybus”**

Call (973) 275-5555 and follow the prompt to dial the mybus stop ID #. Mybus will then tell you when the next bus is estimated to arrive at your stop.

**The map in this guide shows  
local bus & train routes.**

**NJ TRANSIT Reduced Fare Program**

---

Individuals age 62 and over as well as people with disabilities can save at least 50% on NJ TRANSIT by using the Reduced Fare Program.

To receive the reduced fare there are two options:

- Show the bus operator or train conductor an ID that is proof of your age (driver’s license or Medicare card) and ask for “the reduced fare”
- You may also apply for a Reduced Fare ID Card by calling NJ TRANSIT at (973) 491-7112

**What are “Fare Zones”?**

Your bus fare is determined by zones, which are the distances that you travel. Zones are shown on the bus schedules with a special line and notation so you know your fare in advance. You may also call (973) 275-5555 to confirm bus fares and other travel information. The bus operator will tell you how much your fare is when boarding.

| <b><i>NJ TRANSIT Local Bus Fares</i></b> |               |                |                 |
|--|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
|  | <b>1 Zone</b> | <b>2 Zones</b> | <b>Transfer</b> |
| Full Fare                                | \$1.50        | \$2.35         | \$0.70          |
| Reduced                                  | \$0.70        | \$1.05         | \$0.35          |

**Exact Fare Only—Coins & \$1 Bills Accepted**

**Bus Routes in Union County**

| Route | Terminal                  | Terminal       |
|-------|---------------------------|----------------|
| 26    | Elizabeth                 | Irvington      |
| 40    | North Arlington           | Jersey Gardens |
| 48    | Woodbridge/Perth<br>Amboy | Elizabeth      |
| 52    | Springfield               | Elizabeth      |
| 56    | Elizabeth                 | Winfield       |
| 57    | Elizabeth                 | Linden         |
| 58    | Union County College      | Elizabeth      |
| 59    | Dunellen                  | Newark         |
| 62    | Newark Penn Station       | Elizabeth      |
| 65    | Bridgewater Com-<br>mons  | Newark         |
| 66    | Union County College      | Newark         |
| 70    | Newark Penn Station       | Livingston     |
| 94    | Union/Linden              | Bloomfield     |
| 99    | Hillside                  | Newark         |

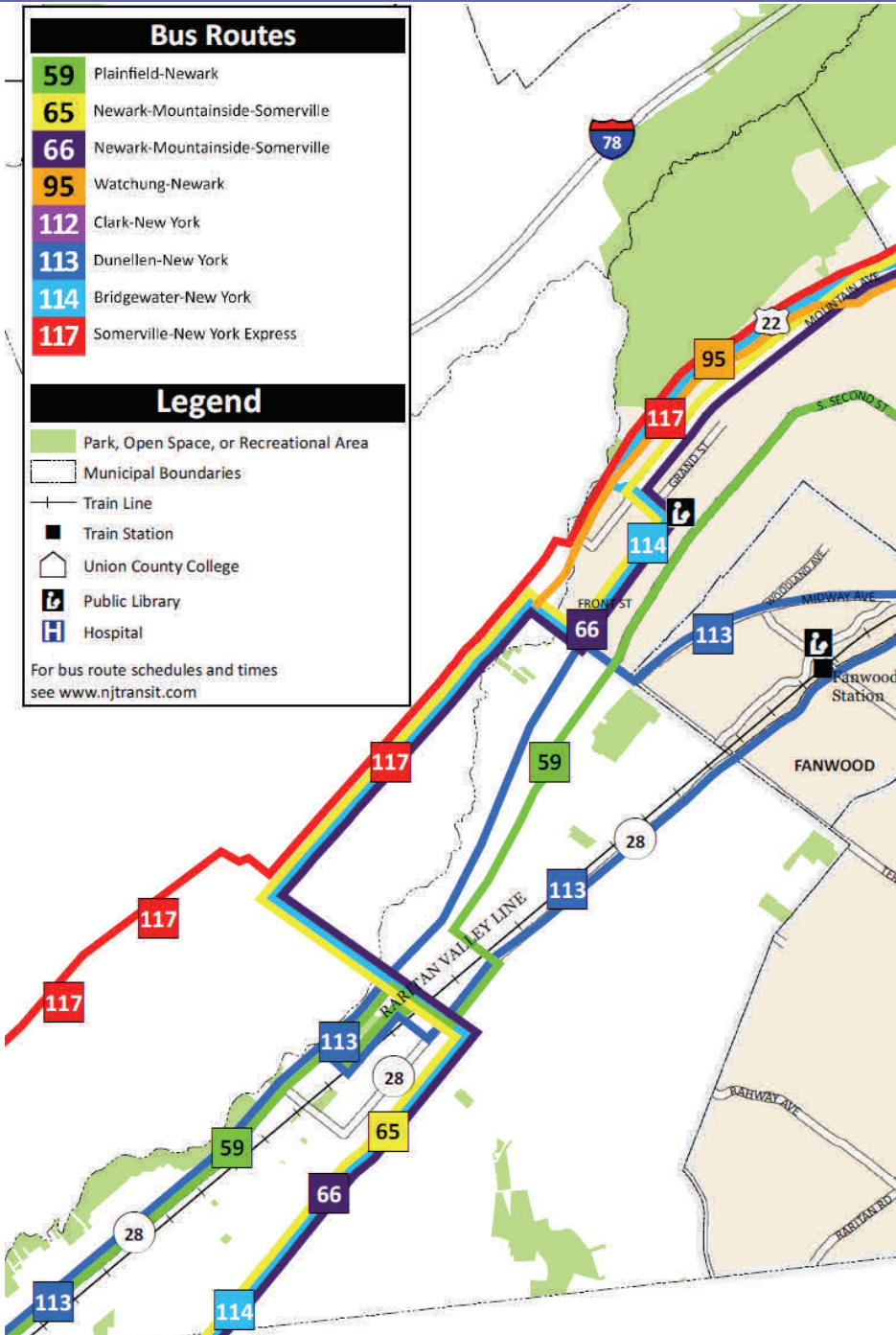
## Union County Bus Routes to NYC

Many NJ Transit bus routes with service to Port Authority Bus Terminal in New York serve Union County. Travel time from points in Union County to New York City range from 45 minutes to 1.5 hours. Buses run once an hour during off peak times. Individuals over age 62 or with disabilities with ID or Reduced Fare Card are eligible for Reduced Fare. Fares can be paid to the bus operator in NJ. Tickets must be purchased before boarding in New York City.

### Buses to New York

**Note:** Departure gates at Port Authority are subject to change. For assistance in the Bus Terminal dial 54 on any in-house phone.

| Route | Terminal                                      |
|-------|---|
| 111   | Jersey Gardens                                |
| 112   | Clark or Roselle, Union County Vo Tech School |
| 113   | Dunellen                                      |
| 114   | Bridgewater Commons, Somerville               |
| 115   | Avenel or Rahway                              |
| 116   | Perth Amboy                                   |
| 117   | Bridgewater Commons                           |







**NJTIP @ Rutgers**  
Expanding Mobility  
for People with Disabilities and Seniors

**RUTGERS**  
Edward J. Bloustein School  
of Planning and Public Policy

## **Rail Service in Union County**

---

Union County has many rail lines and train stations that are served by NJ Transit Commuter Rail. Below is a list of accessible rail stations in Union County.

- **Northeast Corridor/North Jersey Coast Line**

  - Accessible Stations in Union County

    - North Elizabeth
    - Elizabeth
    - Rahway
    - Linden

- **Raritan Valley Line**

  - Accessible Stations in Union County

    - Plainfield
    - Westfield
    - Cranford
    - Union

- **Morristown Line**

  - Accessible Stations in Union County

    - Summit

- **Gladstone Branch**

  - No Accessible Stations in Union County

- **Regular & Reduced Fares & Average Trip Time to NYC**

    - Summit      \$9.25/\$4.25    1 Hour
    - Plainfield    \$11/\$5            1 hour and 5 min
    - Rahway        \$8.75/\$4          45 min

- Seniors over age 62 may purchase reduced fare tickets on the train with no surcharge.

**For Train Information on your cell phone**

**Use CooCoo for NJ TRANSIT Trains**

Text message your Origin and Destination train stations to CooCoo (266266) for schedule & fares.

*Example: Summit to New York*

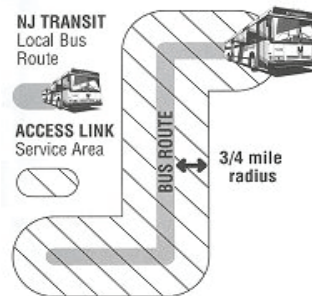
## Access Link

NJ TRANSIT operates Access Link for customers with disabilities who cannot use the fixed route NJ TRANSIT bus. Some people with disabilities may be eligible for Access Link.

Access Link operates on the same days and hours as the fixed route NJ TRANSIT bus and “shadows” the local bus routes.

Access Link has special features:

- Small buses and cars provide “curb-to-curb” service
- Appointments for trips must be made by the rider or other designee at least 24 hours in advance
- Access Link can be used for any type of trip including but not limited to: medical, social, shopping, etc.



### The Access Link Assessment Process

- Potential riders must have an in-person transportation assessment interview.
- To arrange an assessment interview at a local office, call **(800) 955-2321**
- A certification specialist will explain the assessment process over the phone
- You may bring an advocate to help you
- If you need transportation to the interview, Access Link will pick you up for a round-trip fare of **\$4.00**

## **Union County Paratransit**

---

The Union County Paratransit System is a curb-to-curb transport service specializing in transportation of senior citizens (age 60 or older), persons with disabilities and/or economically disadvantaged residents of Union County.

- There is a fare of \$2 per one-way trip. Fare exemptions may apply upon request.
- Trip reservations must be made at least 5—7 days or up to 3 weeks in advance.
- Be ready one hour before the pickup & drop-off times.

Union County Paratransit operates Monday to Friday from 7:30AM to 5:30PM and limited hours on Saturday.

Reservations can be made Monday through Friday 8AM to 4PM by calling the scheduling office at 908-241-8300. First-time callers should call between the hours of 1PM and 4PM.

You will be asked to provide the following information:

Name, Address & Telephone Number

Date of Birth

If you are a Medicaid recipient

Income Level (general, not specific)

Disability or Special Need(s)

If you use a mobility assistance device such as a wheelchair, scooter, cane or walker

Race (required by government funding source)

\*\*\*Every effort will be made to accommodate your request.  
Trips will be determined by availability. \*\*\*

## Municipal Services

---

### Scotch Plains/Fanwood Senior Transportation

Scotch Plains & Fanwood now offer limited transportation for registered residents (age 55 or older) that have medical appointments. All passengers must be a self-reliant senior or be accompanied by an aide.

Service is provided to medical facilities in Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Mountainside, Westfield, Plainfield, Clark, and South Plainfield. At times Rahway Hospital and Summit Medical Group are also served. Medical transportation is available Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. 10:30AM is usually the earliest home pick up time and the last return pick up time is 1:00PM. Other times may be available upon request.

To request a trip call the Recreation Department office at 908-322-5151. Leave a message 48 hours or more prior to your need and a department representative will call you back within 24 hours during business days. This service is offered on a limited, first come first served basis.

### Westfield Senior Transportation Service

- Westfield offers curb to curb Transportation for medical rides to a Westfield facility
- Medical rides are available from 9:30AM to 1:30PM on Tuesdays and Wednesdays
- Shopping rides are available from 9:30AM to 1:30PM on Thursdays
- To arrange a ride, call the Westfield Recreation Department at 908 - 301-1287, on Monday through Thursday, between 9:00AM and 1:00PM
- Shopping trips are also made to designated destinations on specific days and times

## **Transportation Management Associations**

---

Transportation Management Associations or TMAs are non-profit organizations that work with businesses, commuters, county and local governments, and state agencies to implement programs that reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality. All the TMA's offer programs on carpooling, vanpooling, mass transit and much more.

### **TransOptions TMA**

**Phone: 973-267-7600 Web: [transoptions.org](http://transoptions.org)**

Serves: Berkeley Heights, Murray Hill,  
New Providence, Summit

### **EZ RIDE TMA**

**Phone: 201-939-4242 Web: [ezride.org](http://ezride.org)**

Serves : All other Union County municipalities not in  
the TransOptions service area

### **EZ RIDE Community Cars Program**

**Phone: (973) 961-6941 Website: [ezride.org](http://ezride.org)**

The Community Cars program offers senior citizens personalized, curb-to-curb transportation from volunteer drivers. EZ RIDE Cars are marked with the logo.

- Operates: Monday - Friday, 8AM - 4PM
- Schedule your ride 24 hours in advance
- Membership is \$15 per year
- Initial pickup fee is \$2.50
- Mileage Fees (deducted from a special account)
  - \$0.57 per mile for trips within 10 miles
  - \$1.14 per mile for trips beyond 10 miles
- No money is exchanged with drivers

**Volunteer Drivers are always needed.**

**Please call to volunteer today!**

## Driving Safety

---

The following are resources created to help us drive safer.

### AARP Driver Safety Program

Driver safety courses teach you:

- Current rules of the road
- Defensive driving techniques
- Managing personal changes

For more information go to [aarp.com](http://aarp.com)

### CarFit®

Created by the American Society on Aging and developed in collaboration with AAA, AARP and AOTA.

The program is designed to help older drivers:

- Find out how well they fit their personal vehicle
- Highlight possible improvements to fit
- Promote conversations about safety & mobility
- Ask for occupational therapy & driver rehabilitation

For more information go to [car-fit.org](http://car-fit.org)

For more info on driving safer longer refer to AAA's senior driving website: [SeniorDriving.AAA.com](http://SeniorDriving.AAA.com)

The site is broken down into topics such as:

- Evaluating your driving ability
- Understanding mind & body changes
- Improving your driving skills
- Maintaining mobility & independence

Drivers with special medical considerations may benefit from working with a driver rehabilitation specialist.

**For Driver Rehabilitation services contact:**

**Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation 1-888-KESSLER**

## Walking Tips

- Stop walking and scan the intersection at stop signs.
- Look for crosswalks to cross safely.
- When crossing, always stop & scan the intersection.
- Cross when cars are a safe distance away or stopped for you.
- Pay attention when crossing driveways and walking through parking lots.
- Traffic Signals
  - Red: Stop, do not cross
  - Yellow: Use caution, do not begin to cross
  - Green: Look for cars until OK to cross
- Pedestrian Walk Signal
  - White Walk Signal: Look for oncoming cars
  - Red Flashing Signal: Do not begin to cross
  - Red Solid Signal: Do not cross





## Transit Tips

- Plan your trip in advance using a trip planner at [njtransit.com](http://njtransit.com) or [googlemaps.com/transit](http://googlemaps.com/transit)
  - You can look at schedules online at [njtransit.com](http://njtransit.com)
  - Keep copies of the schedules for the lines you use. You can order schedules or plan your trip with NJ TRANSIT Customer Service by calling **(973) 275-5555**.
  - Bring exact fare and extra change with you.
  - Also bring any medications you may need during a trip, your ID Card, the address of your destination, and emergency phone numbers.
  - Always get to the bus stop early. It is better to be 15 minutes early than 15 seconds late!
  - Sit near the bus operator, if possible, so you can easily communicate, see the road ahead and hear any announcements.
  - Keep aisles clear of bags or packages.
  - Tell a friend or family member where you are going and when you plan to return.
  - Never plan to take the last bus home.
  - ENJOY THE RIDE
-

**Resources**

---

**NJ TRANSIT**

**Customer Service:** 973-275-5555  
**Reduced Fare:** 973-491-7112  
**Access Link:** 800-955-2321

**Union County Paratransit System** 908-241-8300

**Westfield Senior Transportation** 908-301-1287

**Scotch Plains/Fanwood Transportation** 908-322-5151

**EZ RIDE TMA & Community Cars** 973-961-6941

**TransOptions TMA** 973-267-7600

**Port Authority Bus Terminal:** 212-564-8484

**Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation** 888-537-7537  
973-731-3600

**NJTIP @ Rutgers:** 848-932-4499

**AAA New Jersey Automobile Club:** 973-377-7200

**JCC of Central New Jersey** 908-889-8800

**Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ**  
973-929-3000

## Resources

# NJTIP @ RUTGERS

*NJTIP @ Rutgers* prepared this guide.

Please contact us with any questions.

**Phone: (848) 932-4499**

**Email: [njtip\\_info@njtip.rutgers.edu](mailto:njtip_info@njtip.rutgers.edu)**

**Website: [njtip.rutgers.edu](http://njtip.rutgers.edu)**

*NJTIP @ Rutgers* is a program that teaches people how to use public transportation.

### **One-on-One Travel Instruction**

Each customer is paired with a travel instructor and the instructor teaches travel skills by riding on the bus or train with the customer until the customer is ready to travel independently.

### **Small Group/In-School Travel Instruction**

Groups and schools in Union County interested in the program should contact NJTIP to schedule two classes and two trips to local destinations.

### **Connect to Transit Seminars**

NJTIP Travel Instructors teach professionals and volunteers from social service agencies, schools and senior residences how to become informed advocates for public transportation, so they can better assist their clients, students and residents with navigating the public transportation network.

# RUTGERS

Edward J. Bloustein School  
of Planning and Public Policy



NJTIP @ Rutgers has received funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) under the New Freedom Program for a travel training program in Union County.

Union County *On The Go!* is a collaboration of the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ, NJTIP @ Rutgers, JCC of Central New Jersey, YM-YWHA of Union County and local program partners.

Major funding for Union County *On the Go!* was provided by a grant from the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater MetroWest. NJ.



**NJTIP @  
RUTGERS**

