

Noble Transit System
Passenger Policy Manual
561 South Main Street, Kendallville, IN 46755

SUBJECT: WHEELCHAIR SECUREMENT SECTION: SAFETY

EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/15/2023 REPLACES: 01/01/2011

APPROVED BY: Board of Directors

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DIRECTIVE:

To comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 in providing equal access to public transportation for persons with disabilities.

PROCEDURE:

All Noble Transit passengers must wear safety belts at all times while aboard a Noble Transit vehicle. All passengers using wheelchairs and other mobility devices will be secured using a four-point tie-down system.

Noble Transit cannot deny service to any passenger if the wheelchair or mobility device cannot be secured to the satisfaction of the driver.

When a wheelchair or mobility device is difficult to secure properly, the driver is expected to make every effort at securing before requesting that the passenger transfer to a regular seat. The driver may *request* the passenger transfer to a regular seat, but will not be permitted to **require** the passenger transfer if proper securement is not possible.

Wheelchairs and other mobility devices are to be secured facing forward.

The four-point tie down system will be used for all mobility devices.

Use the seatbelt (with shoulder restraint), which attaches to the floor if the vehicle is equipped with one.

Ensure that the lap belt stays on.

If the shoulder restraint cannot be used the lap belt alone will suffice; however, these should be rare occasions.

Ensure that the mobility device brakes are applied.

Attach straps to the floor connection points first.

Connect front tie down straps (pull or cam type; not ratchet) to a T-connector or the wheelchair frame on the front half of the wheelchair.

Connect back, ratchet tie-down straps to a T-connector on the back half of the wheelchair.

Do not connect straps to the wheels, footrests, armrest or any detachable or flexible part of the wheelchair. Do not pass the straps through the rear spokes.

A tightened tie-down strap must form a straight line (no slack) at a 45-degree.

Unoccupied wheelchairs must be tied down securely.

Verify straps are secure and that the device does not move.

Electric wheelchairs must have the power turned off while secured.

Reminder:

- ✓ Store loose tie-down straps when not in use.
- ✓ Keep tracks clean and free of dirt and debris.
- ✓ Pull a wheelchair downhill and push when moving uphill.
- ✓ Immediately report any malfunctions with lift equipment to the Executive Director so that repairs can be schedule as soon as possible.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Executive Director and Transportation Coordinator are responsible for ensuring all drivers are trained in the procedure.