

This policy supersedes all prior policy statements written, verbal, or otherwise.

**Policy Number:** 

6.00.04

Resolution Number: VBD22-017

Policy Title:

Reasonable Accommodation/Modification Policy

# STATEMENT OF POLICY

As part of Valley Regional Transit (hereinafter AUTHORITY) and the third-party contractors' continued efforts to deliver safety and high-quality service for those protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213 (ADA), as amended, the Reasonable Accommodation/Modification Policy will ensure the AUTHORITY makes reasonable modifications/ accommodations to policies, practices, and procedures to avoid discrimination and ensure that their programs are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

### **DEFINITIONS**

The following words and phrases, whenever used by the AUTHORITY, shall be defined as shown in this section unless, from the context, a different meaning is intended or unless a different meaning is specifically defined and more particularly directed to the use of such words or phrases:

ADA: The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213, as amended.

Bus Stops Accessibility: Elements that take into account the needs of all transit users that include a barrier free design, wayfinding to help a passenger reach the stop and overall safety.

Bus Stop Typology: The study, analysis or classification of bus stops based on location, station size and site considerations.

Fixed-Route: Services provided on a repetitive, fixed schedule basis along a specific route with vehicles stopping to pick up and deliver passengers to specific locations; each fixed-route trip serves the same origins and destinations.

Paratransit: Transportation service for people with disabilities who are not able to ride fixed-route public transportation. This may be due to an inability to board, ride or disembark independently from any readily accessible vehicle on the fixed-route system.

Reasonable Accommodation/Modification: Any change or exception to a policy or procedure that allows individuals with disabilities to have equitable access to programs, services, and activities, as

long as the accommodation does not create an undue burden, such as costs, financial resources or operations, for the service provider, or fundamentally alters the nature of the service.

Reasonable Accommodation/Modification Regulation: Provides that transportation entities make reasonable accommodations/modifications to policies, practices, and procedures to ensure that services and programs are accessible to everyone including individuals with disabilities.

# **POLICY**

The intent of the Reasonable Accommodation/Modification Policy is to ensure that as many people as possible, regardless of physical ability, can use public transportation services in a way that is safe for them and the bus operators. This policy requires procedures that include the bullet points described below.

- Ensure the Bus Stop Typology includes the ADA requirements for bus stops
- Create procedures for passengers to request a reasonable accommodation or modification
- Ensure third-party contractors follow AUTHORITY'S procedures for an approved reasonable accommodation or modification
- Build bus stop improvements that meet ADA requirements into annual capital budgets based on budget availability
- Ensure newly built bus stops meet ADA requirements, as defined

The AUTHORITY will ensure third-party contractor's implement and enforce the procedures created by the AUTHORITY to ensure the overall safety of passengers and operators at bus stops.

### **END OF POLICY**

Adoption Date: August 1, 2022

Effective Date: August 1, 2022

**Last Revised Date:** 

Last Reviewed Date:

Replaced: ADA Accessible Bus Stop Policy VMC09-003

# **Supporting Documents:**

Section 49 CFR Parts 27 and 37: Transportation for Individuals with Disabilities; Reasonable Modification

0-023 Reasonable Accommodations/Modifications Procedures