



## JEFFERSON COUNTY AREA AGENCY ON AGING

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### News Release: Shared Ride Special for Seniors Begins in Jefferson County

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**Brookville** – The Area Agency on Aging opens a special transportation program for Jefferson County seniors age 65 and older. The program will expand senior transit services currently offered by the Area Transportation Authority in Jefferson County. While all ATA fixed routes in Jefferson County are free fare to qualified seniors, other ATA bus services are offered at a discount of 85% for seniors. Starting today (and for defined trips) the JCAAA will pick up the final 15% of the shared ride trip cost under an agreement with ATA. For these non-fixed route trips that seniors take every day in Jefferson County the fare is now “covered completely.”

“We want to encourage seniors to expand their mobility and their access to these ATA trips and to visit our four Social Centers. It’s now free, and worry free, and an even better deal for our clients age 65 and older,” says JCAAA Deputy Director Molly McNutt.

[ATA Shared Ride Service](#) (Non fixed route rides) for seniors in Jefferson County are defined by ATA as:

- Call-a-Bus Services (CAB BUS)
- ATA Point to Point (CAB BUS)
- ATA County-Wide-Service Bus
- ATA Fixed-Route with Deviation Service

While the new JCAAA program is limited to ten defined trip purposes it covers substantially the many rides that Jefferson County seniors currently use for “shared ride” transportation.

The new JCAAA program defines eligible shared ride trips as:

- Dentist visits
- Diagnostics visits
- Dialysis treatment
- Doctor’s Office visits
- Hospital Visits - Admission and Non Admission
- Pharmacy visits
- Physical Therapy
- Surgical trips
- JCAAA Senior Centers (4)

**News Release: Shared Ride Special for Seniors Begins in Jefferson County (continued)**

[The MT-103 form](#) - ATA offers a simple sign-up process for seniors who have reached age 65 and may not have signed up for free or discounted ATA rides. The MT-103 Form is available by contacting ATA or it can be downloaded from the [RideATA.com website](#). This is also a requirement for the new JCAAA offer of free fare on ATA shared ride busses. There are a few steps needed to make sure the MT-103 Form is completed and verified, usually with the help of the ATA driver.

ATA also provides an **ATA Transit Photo ID** to qualified seniors free of charge. The ATA Photo ID facilitates senior boarding of any ATA bus. Contact ATA Customer Service by phone for information on obtaining an ATA Transit Photo ID. ATA Customer Service 1-866-282-4968.

Where and When to call - Eligible Jefferson County seniors must make reservations at least one day in advance of any shared ride trip on ATA. Most of these trips are covered under the new JCAAA program. A shared ride trip can be arranged by calling ATA toll free at 1-866-743-3282.

The JCAAA emphasizes that when riders call ATA they will be working with an ATA mobility specialist. The ATA mobility specialist will verify eligibility of the rider and assign the appropriate mode of transportation. Mode refers to the type of route, with fixed routes being the primary option where available. The selection of appropriate mode takes into consideration transit rules and the senior rider's specific needs.

For specific questions about the new JCAAA-ATA shared ride program, call the Jefferson County Area Agency on Aging Toll Free: 1-800-852-8036 or ATA Customer Service at 1-866-282-4968 to register.

JCAAA and ATA are planning additional joint projects during 2016. Both ATA and JCAAA were chartered in 1976 and are observing their 40th Anniversary during 2016.

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