

WELCOME ABOARD



Transportation. It links us to our community - to our network of family and friends, to work, to shop, and to play. In Gastonia, *Gastonia Transit* can take you places—shopping centers, schools, office/medical parks, businesses, City and County facilities, and cultural centers—in comfort and safety.

Over 7 million riders have used the system since its inception in 1978. If you are a first time passenger with *Gastonia Transit*, this guide will aid you in selecting the transit service best suited for your travel needs. If you have any comments or questions about the services provided by *Gastonia Transit*, call our information number: (704) 866-6855.

How To Use Gastonia Transit

This system map shows you where Gastonia Transit goes, and tells you how to use our system.

Gastonia Transit's bus routes are each numbered and shown on the map in different colors. Locate on the map your starting point, your destination, and the bus route(s) closest to them. If the number of the bus route closest to your starting point is not the same as the one closest to your destination, you may have to transfer to another bus.

But please don't worry. We have customer service people waiting to help you get around on the *Gastonia Transit* system. Just call (704) 866-6855 for assistance.

How It Works

All bus routes begin and end at Bradley Station, located at the intersection of Oakland and Main. *Gastonia Transit* buses run at 45 minute intervals weekdays and 60 minute intervals on Saturday. The route 7 Westfield bus travels to many of the shopping areas and runs every 30 minutes. Refer to the departure times and the map in this guide or call the information number at (704) 866-6855 for specific time and route information. You can catch the bus at Bradley Station or any of the *Gastonia Transit* bus stop signs.

Ready To Ride

You can get onto the *Gastonia Transit* system at any place along a route that is marked with a *Gastonia Transit* bus stop sign. Each sign identifies which route(s) it services. You should arrive at the bus stop several minutes before the scheduled arrival of the bus.

Every *Gastonia Transit* bus has a large destination sign above its windshield, and another smaller sign next to the front door. These signs tell you the route number, the final destination and major points along the route. If you're not sure that you are getting on the correct bus, just tell the driver where you want to go, and he/she will be glad to help.

When you see your bus approaching, please stand at the bus stop sign so the driver knows that you want to catch the bus.

You should always enter the bus at the front door, allowing any elderly or disabled passengers to exit before you board. If you have difficulty stepping on or off the bus, please ask the driver to make the bus "kneel" to curb level. All *Gastonia Transit* buses are wheelchair accessible.

Be sure to have your exact fare (or ticket) ready to deposit in the farebox. Although our electronic fareboxes accept coins and bills, neither they, nor the drivers make change.

If you need to change buses, please ask for a transfer when you deposit your fare. If you are entitled to a reduced fare, please have your appropriate I.D. ready.

As you move to your seat, please hold on to the handrail for safety. If you have packages, young children, strollers or other large items, please keep them out of the aisle so that others can move freely.

To Exit Gastonia Transit

As the bus approaches your destination, let the driver know you want to get off by pulling the yellow cord above the window. Audible and visual stop announcements are made to assist our disabled passengers. If you are using one of the wheelchair positions, you should either pull the yellow cord alongside the window or push the yellow plastic strip beside you. A bell and lighted sign will alert the driver to stop at the next bus stop sign. Please give the driver enough notice so that he/she can make a nice smooth stop. Unless you need to use the wheelchair lift or have the bus "kneel", please exit through the rear door. Please step carefully from the bus; your safety is very important to us.

Gastonia Transit Protocol

It is *Gastonia Transit's* goal to provide an enjoyable trip for all of our customers. And so, for the safety and comfort of everyone on the *Gastonia Transit* buses, please observe the following:

- Smoking is prohibited;
- Weapons of any kind are prohibited;
- Drinking and eating are prohibited;
- Radios and tape players, which can be heard by others, must not be used;
- Rude language and behavior are unacceptable;
- Open containers are prohibited;
- Children must be controlled at all times;
- Passengers should remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop;
- The front seats should be offered to the disabled and elderly;
- Everyone must keep their hands and their heads inside the bus and clear of operating doors;
- Packages, young children, strollers and other large items should be kept out of aisles so that passengers can move freely. Strollers should be folded and stored out of aisles; and
- Flammable or combustible materials or unsecured combustible products are prohibited.

Transfers

When more than one bus trip is required to complete your trip, you can transfer onto a second bus at no additional cost. Simply ask your operator for a transfer as you board the first bus and pay for your fare.

Transfers must be used within 70 minutes of the time printed on the transfer. They are not valid for round trips. Transfers are not issued at Bradley Station, so it is very important that you ask for a transfer when you first board a bus.

Gastonia Transit Access

Gastonia Transit buses leave the transfer point, Bradley Station, at 45 minute intervals weekdays; 60 minute intervals on Saturday. Most buses complete their routes and return to the transfer point within 45 minutes. However, the Westfield bus takes one hour to complete its run. There are two buses on that route so you have a Westfield bus leaving Bradley Station every 30 minutes.

Holiday Schedule

There is no service on Sundays or on the following holidays observed by the City of Gastonia: New Year's Day, Labor Day, Memorial Day, Thanksgiving Day, Independence Day and Christmas Day. *Gastonia Transit* operates a Saturday schedule on the following holidays: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Good Friday, Friday after Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve.

Bad Weather Conditions

Also, when snow or freezing conditions affect road conditions, schedules and routes are subject to change for safety reasons. Please watch local news stations for updates.

Para-Transit Service

For many Gastonia residents, transportation is just a bus stop away. Our buses are even equipped to handle wheelchairs and walkers. But for those whose disabilities make it impossible for them to use a regular bus, there's Para-Transit Service. This curb-to-curb van service operates in the same service area, during the same hours, and on the same days as regular route bus service, and trips can be reserved up to 6:00 pm the day before you wish to travel.

This service is only available for those that meet eligibility requirements, so a certification process is required for those interested individuals. Application forms and operating policy forms for the service are available at Bradley Station or by calling (704) 866-6855. This service is provided within the City limits only during normal operating hours for a cost of \$2.00 per trip.

Lost & Found

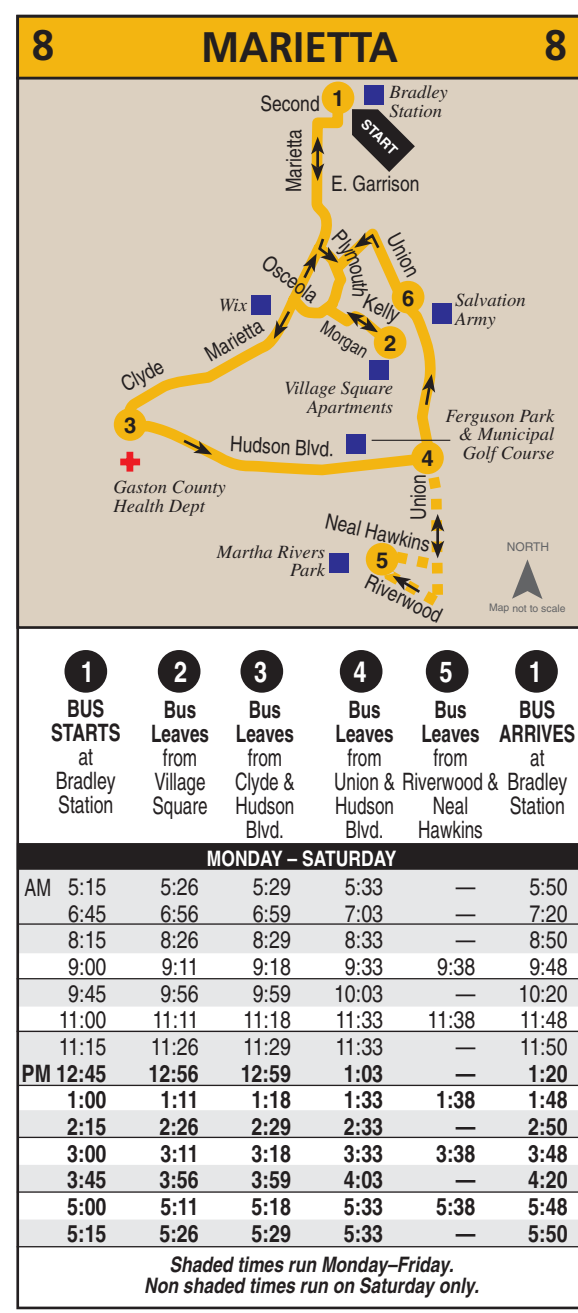
All items left on the buses are collected at the end of the day and temporarily stored at the Bradley Station. If you have lost an item on the bus, please call (704) 866-6855 to determine if it can be recovered. *Gastonia Transit* is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Central Transportation

Central Transportation of Gaston County offers coordinated transportation to all of Gaston County. By coordinating schedules and working together, *Gastonia Transit* and Central Transportation make it possible for citizens to travel to all parts of Gaston County.

Central Transportation's services are available to the general public for a fee and lift-equipped vehicles are available for riders confined to wheelchairs. Most passengers use this system to access medical facilities and to pursue employment opportunities via the Gaston County Department of Social Services.

If you would like to find out more about the services provided by Central Transportation of Gaston County, call (704) 866-3207 or write to Central Transportation Gaston County, PO Box 1578, Gastonia, NC 28053.



Gastonia System Map

Effective April 25, 2005



P.O. Box 1748
Gastonia, NC 28053
(704) 866-6855