

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**SPOKANE TRANSIT**

**MEDIA CONTACT**

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Tuesday, March 24, 2020

**STA CEO SIGNS EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION**

Additional Safety Measures to Begin March 26

Spokane, WA – Spokane Transit’s Chief Executive Officer, E. Susan Meyer, signed an Emergency Proclamation, a procedural action enabling additional safety measures beyond steps already taken during the agency’s initial response to COVID-19.

“As a part of STA’s ongoing response to COVID-19, I will initiate emergency, temporary practices to protect the public and our employees from the spread of the virus, while continuing to provide essential transportation services to those in need,” Meyer stated.

Governor Inslee’s “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” Executive Order announced Monday evening designated public transit as an “essential critical infrastructure sector.”

Beginning Thursday, March 26 and until further notice:

- **Suspended Fares** – Fare collection for all STA services will be suspended.
- **Rear-door Boarding** – Customers will be asked to use the bus’s rear doors only. Customers requiring mobility assistance can continue to use the front doors.

These practices will maximize safety by reducing interactions between passengers and coach and van operators, and by enabling proper social distancing.

- **Rides for Seniors** – In an effort to protect vulnerable seniors, Spokane Transit will offer rides to people age 60 and over who must travel to essential destinations. Passengers will ride door-to-door in STA Paratransit Vans, and passengers per vehicle will be limited to maximize social distancing during travel. Trips can be scheduled the day before, or

the same day with at least two hours advance notice. See the list of service details below for additional information.

**Rides for Seniors Details:**

- Customers will be required to show proof of age.
- Rides for seniors are limited to essential trips to grocery stores, pharmacies, medical facilities and work.
- Trip origins and destinations must be within STA's Paratransit boundary which is defined to be within three-quarters (3/4) of a mile from an existing bus route.
- Trips can be scheduled the day before, or same day with two hours advance notice.
- Seniors may be accompanied by one companion.
- Trips are based on van and operator availability, and may be subject to adjustments.
- Van operators may arrive up to 30 minutes after the scheduled pick-up time.
- To schedule a trip, contact a Paratransit Reservationist at 509-328-1552.
- Paratransit Reservationists may provide additional information and instructions to customers.

Find more information about Spokane Transit and its essential services during the emergency response at [www.spokanetransit.com](http://www.spokanetransit.com). Look for the red "Coronavirus Info" tab.

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*STA provides public transportation services through fixed route (bus) service, paratransit operations and vanpool to the cities of Airway Heights, Cheney, Liberty Lake, Medical Lake, Millwood, Spokane and Spokane Valley and parts of the unincorporated County. The organization employs more than 600 people and is overseen by a 12-member regional board: nine voting elected officials from Spokane County and cities in the Public Transportation Benefit Area, two non-voting elected officials from area small cities, and a non-voting labor member. For more information about STA, please visit [www.spokanetransit.com](http://www.spokanetransit.com).*