



GET READY TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION DURING WINTER WEATHER



Watch weather forecasts for potential of freezing temperatures and snow. These guidelines can help you get prepared before the freeze and snow.

Know Before You Go

- Well before winter weather arrives, make a plan and a back-up plan for using public transportation when travel conditions worsen. Check websites of the various transportation agencies you use to find winter-travel information.
- Check weather and road conditions before you leave. If traffic is delayed in the areas where you plan to travel, then transit will likely be delayed.
- Check online for the status of rail, bus or ferry service with the appropriate agency.
- Know the snow routing for the systems and routes you use; be aware that some locations might not be served during snowy or icy weather.
- Subscribe to alerts offered by the different transit agencies you use, or may want to use during winter weather.
- Also, subscribe to local and regional emergency alert notifications.
- Know your employer's policies about coming to work in an emergency, and when transportation services are limited.
- If you plan to telecommute, test your hardware and software in advance and keep chargers and extra batteries for backup.

How To Prepare Yourself

- Give yourself extra time to travel by bus, train or ferry. Winter weather can disrupt schedules and routes. Also, increased ridership during bad weather can result in crowded rides.
- Be prepared for a longer-than-usual wait on the phone for the customer information service.
- Head for boarding areas at major transportation hubs. For bus service, go to stops on main arterials or at major transfer points such as park-and-ride lots, transit centers, or shopping centers.
- Dress warmly for the walk to bus stops, train stations, and ferry docks. Be sure to wear appropriate footwear for the weather. You may have to wait outdoors longer than you would normally.
- Pack and bring extra portable water, non-perishable food, mini first aid kit, medicines, small flashlight with extra batteries and a whistle (to signal for help) with you just case of an emergency.
- Bus riders should wait at bus stops at the very top or very bottom of hills, because buses are often unable to stop for passengers on inclines.
- Be aware that bus tracking programs lose accuracy when buses are rerouted or significantly delayed, so your favorite smartphone apps may not be reliable during this time.
- Keep your contact devices (cell phones, smart phones, laptops, tablets) fully charged prior to heading out in the elements for an extended length of time. To ensure backup, bring chargers for your contact devices with you.

