

## call-n-Ride

**Issue Area:** Transportation

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**Summary:**



Call-n-Ride is an affordable transportation service that seeks to achieve aging in place by solving the transportation issues of urban sprawl. The program is part of an award winning public transportation system in Denver, Colorado. RTD, regional transportation district, was created in 1969 to serve the transportation needs of the citizens of Denver. Today the transportation system serves over two million people. It has a variety of individual programs within the system, including the call-n-Ride and SeniorRide programs to cater to the needs of seniors and as rural community citizens.

SeniorRide works with older adults traveling in groups. The service provides large-group transportation to cultural, educational, and entertainment events that are listed in the SeniorRide calendar of events. Some of the events listed are sporting games, parks, theatres, and museums. The roundtrip price for SeniorRide is \$2.50, but call-n-Ride surpasses this service as it provides individual assistance at a cheaper rate. The call-n-Ride program helps to curtail transportation problems of urban sprawl because it runs in seven different suburban areas of Denver. This service is for citizens who live on the outskirts of Denver where consistent, timely public transportation is minimal.

Call-n-Ride provides a convenient curb-to-curb service and covers ten neighborhoods in the Greater Denver area. It was initially designed to supplement RTD service and make it easy for school children to get to school. The program has surpassed their initial design as it now helps daily commuters and older adults. They have begun to use smaller vehicles that are easy to board and wheelchair accessible to allow disabled and older adults to board. The call-n-Ride price for seniors cuts the SeniorRide program in half, as it is only \$ .65 per ride. A senior citizen could potentially go to the supermarket, baseball game, and back home for under two dollars. The average operational times for the different call-n-Ride areas are 5:30am to 8:00pm which allows older adults to travel at any daylight hour. To schedule a trip, a citizen can call the call-n-



Ride hotline serving in their area and schedule a trip anytime between 2 weeks to one hour before their estimated departure time. A small bus or cab will pick up the passenger at their doorstep and deliver them directly to the doorstep of their destination. Furthermore the service will provide a free transfer for other RTD services.

Several other cities provide services similar to Denver's call-n-Ride, but costs are higher and services are usually run by volunteers. A volunteer run transportation service, for the most part, does not ensure easy accessible vehicles and safe drivers like call-n-Ride does. Denver's transportation system as whole received an award for Outstanding Public Transportation System in 2003 from the American Public Transportation Association. Denver continues to improve it's system, and provide means to curtail the transportation problems associated with urban sprawl, a strongly related partner of aging in place.

**Related Resources:**

Call-n-Ride Main. <<http://www.rtd-denver.com/SpecialRides/call-n-Ride/index.html>>.

Regional Transportation District of Denver. <<http://www.rtd-denver.com/>>.

“Call-n-Ride.” City of Lone Tree.  
<<http://www.cityoflonetree.com/Community/Visitors/CallnRide.icm>>.