

# Modesto Area Express--*MAX*

## Mobility Device Tie-down Policy

Modesto Area Express (*MAX*) is committed to the support and use of mobility devices on their system buses. These mobility devices include manual wheelchairs, power wheelchairs, and three or four wheeled scooters designed for and sold to people with disabilities. It is *MAX* policy that these devices will be properly secured on the buses.

### **When boarding the bus the operator will:**

- Safely operate the bus lift or ramp.
- Lift the folding seat and locate securement equipment. Use hooks and/or tethers to secure the frame of the mobility device to the bus. Request the rider to set the mobility device's brake and turn off power (if powered). Riders are encouraged to use the mobility device brakes whenever possible, but transportation will not be denied if a mobility device does not have brakes or the user chooses not to use them.
- Offer the use of an optional, adjustable safety lap belt for convenience and comfort.
- Release the securement equipment from the mobility device and assist the passenger to the exit.
- Bus operators are not personal attendants. They cannot carry baggage or other personal items for passengers.

### **Mobility Device Passenger will:**

- Ensure that items are not attached, hanging on the back or any side of the mobility device that may restrict the ability to safely secure the mobility device.
- Items creating an obstruction must be temporarily relocated to allow ready access to the bus securement equipment.
- Riders are encouraged to mark and/or use tie-down tethers to designate the specific place they would like utilized as securement points on their mobility devices.

### ***MAX* policy for Mobility Device Securement on Buses:**

- Riders have the option to remain seated on their mobility devices, or transfer to a regular bus seat if available. All mobility devices must be secured during transportation, utilizing the appropriate equipment provided on each bus. Passengers who do not comply with this policy may be denied transportation consistent with federal ADA regulations.
- This policy applies to all mobility devices *MAX* is able to secure. It does not apply to those devices that cannot be secured. If the tie-down equipment does not fit, or is broken, the mobility device user will be allowed to ride.
- *MAX* bus operators must verify that all mobility devices are secured while the bus is in motion, except as stated earlier. The driver must secure the mobility device, or ensure proper securement if it is performed by the passenger, or a personal care attendant.
- *MAX* recommends, but does not require, that mobility users utilize lap and/or shoulder belts if available on the bus. The driver will assist with lap and shoulder belt attachment if desired.
- All *MAX* buses accommodate wheelchairs, scooters, and similar devices up to 30 inches wide and 48 inches long. The mobility device and user together must not exceed 600 pounds. A mobility device exceeding these limits may be denied access if they create any safety, maneuverability, or mechanical problems.
- Wheelchair users may not be transported with seats in a fully reclined position.
- For their safety, passengers using three wheeled scooters are strongly encouraged, but not required to transfer to a regular bus seat whenever possible, as recommended by most scooter manufacturers. The scooter will then be secured in the wheelchair area.