A Guide to Riding the Putnam Area Rapid Transit (PART) System in Putnam County, NY

The PART system allows public transit riders the freedom and independence to explore and enjoy the many destinations within Putnam County. Whether it's a morning hike, picking up groceries, or making it to a doctor's appointment, PART has you covered. With three fixed routes serving the towns of Southeast, Carmel, and Kent, a new microtransit service serving the Town of Patterson, a seasonal trolley in the Village of Cold Spring, and a commuter shuttle from Mahopac to the Croton Falls MNR station, you are never too far from where you need to go.

PART buses are designed with many safety features in mind to accommodate seniors and disabled individuals; this includes handicap accessibility, wheelchair lifts, driver assistance, and an accommodating dispatch and operations team. Additionally, as a senior, student or disabled person, you have access to our half-fare rates as set forth in Putnam County's PART Policy and Procedures Manual.

We hope you will use this guide to discover how to travel to your favorite Putnam destinations with the utmost safety, reliability, and convenience. We look forward to riding with you soon!



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1.) Where to Start

There are three fixed routes that are available throughout the County:

- PART 1 travels from Brewster to Putnam Lake
- PART 2 travels from Mahopac to the Jefferson Valley Mall
- PART 5 travels from Carmel to Lake Carmel.

PART buses are available from:

Weekdays: 4:50am - 9:00pmSaturday: 8:00am - 6:00pm

- Sunday: No service

You can speak with a PART dispatcher anytime Monday through Friday from 4:15am – 8:45pm and from 7:30am – 5:30pm on Saturdays by calling **845-878-RIDE** (**7433**) to get additional information. An automated voicemail system is also available 24/7.

PART bus schedules are available online at https://www.putnamcountyny.com/transportation, or at the Putnam County Department of Planning, Development & Public Transportation located at 841 Fair Street, Carmel, NY 10512. Call us at (845) 878-3480 and we will happily mail one to you!

Helpful Hints:

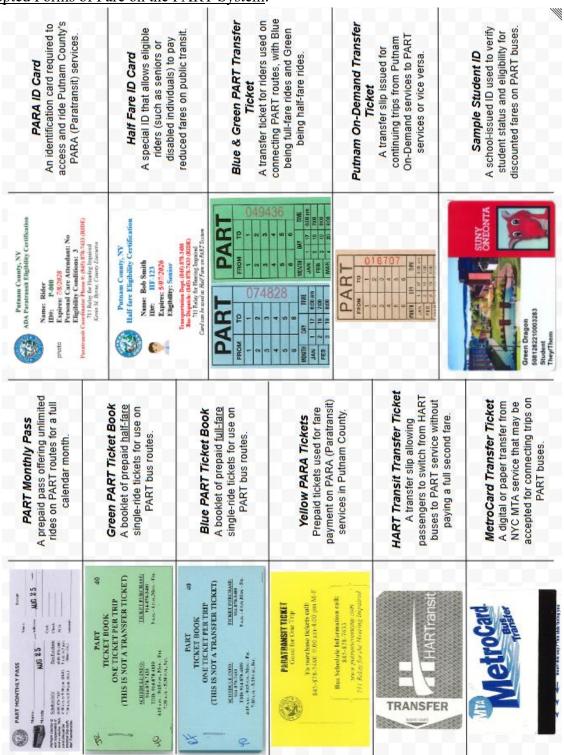
- 1. When calling a PART dispatcher, always have a pen and paper ready.
- 2. If you need help planning your trip, just tell the dispatcher the address of your starting point and destination, the day of the week, and preferred travel time.
- 3. Ask the agent for the fare information and transfer points that apply to your trip.
- 4. Have you lost or found an item on a PART bus? Call our dispatch number at **845-878-RIDE** (7433) and share your bus route number, the direction your bus was travelling in, the date, time, and destination of your trip. Additionally, you can email the Department at planning@putnamcountyny.gov with lost and found inquiries.

2.) How to Read a Bus Schedule

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3.) Fare Policy

Accepted Forms of Fare on the PART System:



^{*}Seniors and disabled individuals with an Office for the Aging ID card, MTA (disabled) cards, Medicare cards, high school/college student ID cards, and/or Half-Fare cards issued by the Putnam County Planning Department, are acceptable proofs for half-fare qualification at the rate of \$1.25.

PART Fares and Transfers

- PART Full Fare is \$2.50 per ride, and PART Half Fare is \$1.25 per ride.
- Please be prepared to show the driver proof of half-fare status upon boarding.
 - Transfers within the system:
 - Full Fare transfer: \$0.75
 - Half Fare transfer: \$0.25
- Monthly passes include transfer fares.
- **Transfer slips** must be given to the driver upon boarding.
- **Exact change only** is accepted on the bus.
- Drivers cannot handle the money or make change.

Monthly Pass Prices:

Full Fare: \$75.00Half Fare: \$37.00

Full and Half Fare single ride tickets and monthly passes are available to purchase at our office at 841 Fair St. Carmel, NY.

Our drivers are trained to make your PART experience easy, safe, and comfortable. Have your **exact fare** ready before you board the bus to keep the line moving and to get you to your destination faster.

4.) How to Ride

PART uses a flag stop system, which means you can wave the bus down at any safe point along the route, even if there's no designated stop sign. There are several popular destinations such as ACME Markets, ShopRite, Putnam Hospital, as well as our "pulse point" Putnam Plaza. However, a driver will pick up riders at any safe point along the route.

When the bus arrives, please stand back for your safety. When the front doors open, allow other passengers to exit before you board. Always use the front door to board and exit the bus.

The destination sign at the front of the bus shows the direction in which the bus is traveling. If it is not operational, the bus driver will announce the destination at each stop. The route number on the destination sign indicates the fixed route that the bus will travel. The fleet number identifies a specific bus.

PART buses are equipped to deploy a wheelchair, lift, or ramp as necessary. Please alert your driver if you require the use of such services.

5.) At the Bus Stop

Always make sure to arrive at least five minutes early to your bus stop so you don't miss your ride!

Dress for Success

What you wear can affect your riding experience; here are some clothing tips to remember:

- 1. Wear shoes for your protection and health, and to stabilize yourself as the bus moves.
- 2. Make sure your clothing is loose and comfortable for ease of travel.
- 3. Carry a bag that you can pull over your shoulder so that you can hold onto handrails.

6.) Boarding the Bus

Are you heading in the right direction? Make sure to check the bus route number and destination sign located above the windshield and next to the front door before boarding the bus – or just ask the driver!

PART buses make it easy for you to board and exit, which is why every PART bus is equipped with a wheelchair lift or ramp for handicap accessibility. If you need special assistance, ask the driver for help before you board. The PART bus drivers have been trained to offer you the greatest amount of support with no judgment so feel free to ask them and utilize their assistance!

• *Using the Ramp and/or Lift:*

If you cannot use the stairs, the PART bus can easily deploy a ramp or lift to help you on board whether you utilize a wheelchair or not. To utilize the lift or ramp, ask the driver to use the lift and then stand back about six feet. If you are standing, using a wheelchair, or in a scooter, the driver will tell you how to use the lift based on your needs. For your safety, always remember to hold the handrails.

Holding Handrails:

Please utilize the handrails on PART buses as you board and exit the bus and during your ride. They are located at the front and at the back lift door of every bus, as well as on the top of every seat. There are also poles in the aisles that you can use to steady yourself.

7.) Take a Seat

Pay your fare first.

Please board the bus and pay your **exact fare** before finding a seat. Note the driver is not permitted to handle money or "make change". Please be prepared to deposit the exact fare in the fare box to expedite the process.

• Finding a seat.

We have a courtesy front row just for you! The front bench seats on all PART buses are reserved for seniors and individuals with disabilities. Enjoy these privileges by sitting at the front of the bus.

• Stop announcements.

All PART bus drivers make announcements for the major stops and points of interests along the route. Please remember: if you are still unsure of your stop, sit up front and kindly remind the driver of your destination.

8.) Requesting a Stop

• *To request a stop:*

Tug the yellow cord next to the windows. The bus driver will be alerted to pull over at the next closest point of interest.

• Unsure of your stop?

Your driver will happily assist you. Just let your driver know of your destination when you board and remind them of your destination at some point during your trip. Then, your driver will be able to alert you a few minutes before your stop.

• Stay seated.

Your safety is important to us. As soon as you board the bus, please find a seat right away and remain seated while the bus is in motion. Once at your destination, remain seated until the bus makes a full stop.

• Exiting the bus.

Always exit the bus using the front door. If necessary/preferred, ask the driver deploy the lift and always hold the handrails or ask for any additional assistance if required.

9.) Croton Falls Shuttle & Cold Spring Trolley

The **Croton Falls Shuttle** provides weekday commuter service between Mahopac and the Croton Falls Metro-North Station, making it easier for riders to connect with trains on the Harlem Line. This shuttle is ideal for daily commuters, offering morning and evening trips that align with peak train schedules.

Key Features:

- Weekday-only service from 5:20am-7:30pm (no weekends or holidays)
- Timed to Metro-North trains at Croton Falls Station
- Regular PART fares apply (monthly passes accepted)

The **Cold Spring Trolley** offers seasonal weekend service to key attractions in and around the Village of Cold Spring, including access to hiking trails, Main Street shopping, and scenic Hudson River views. It's a great option for both residents and tourists during the spring, summer, and early fall.

Key Features:

- Operates weekends and holidays during warm-weather months from 9:00am 5:00pm
- Stops include Metro-North Cold Spring Station, Main Street, Boscobel Garden, Glenclyffe Trail, and more. *Please note, the Trolley no longer operates on a flag-stop system.*
- \$1 fare for all riders (exact change required)
- Friendly hop-on, hop-off service

<u>Note</u>: Trolley service typically runs from Memorial Day to Veterans Day. Visit our website for the seasonal schedule.

For schedules and route information, visit <u>www.putnamcountyny.gov/transportation</u> or call dispatch at **(845) 878-7433** or our office at **(845) 878-3480**.

10.) Putnam On-Demand Service

Putnam On-Demand is a microtransit service providing shared and wheelchair accessible rides based on passenger requests throughout a predefined service area. Riders can schedule a ride by calling (845) 475-0557 OR by downloading the mobile app, setting up an account, and requesting a ride. This service is designed to be a flexible, real-time alternative to traditional fixed-route or paratransit services.

Putnam On-Demand operates as an on-demand service. Riders must request their trip 20–40 minutes in advance of their desired departure time. Pre-scheduled rides are not supported. Our service also provides a dedicated support team to assist riders with accessibility needs and service questions, ensuring a smooth and inclusive transition for all users.

Service Hours:

• Monday through Friday: 8:00am – 6:00om

• Saturday: 9:00am – 3:00pm

Fare Structure:

• Standard Fare: \$2.50 per ride

• Half-Fare: \$1.25 per ride for seniors, students, and ADA-eligible riders

• Transfer: \$.75 full fare, \$.25 half fare for seniors, students, and ADA-eligible riders.

Payment Options:

Riders can pay by adding a credit/debit card or prepaid debit card to their account. Charges are applied after the ride is completed. PART monthly passes are also accepted. Additionally, cash payments may be made by purchasing credit vouchers available at the **Putnam County Transit Facility**, 841 Fair Street, Carmel, NY 10512.

Shared Ride Policy:

Rides may be shared with other passengers traveling in a similar direction. Passengers may be picked up or dropped off during the trip to maximize efficiency and keep fares low.

Wheelchair Accessibility:

Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAVs) are available. Riders requiring a WAV should enable the wheelchair icon in the app by:

- 1. Tapping the menu in the upper left corner.
- 2. Selecting their name.
- 3. Going to Special Settings and turning on Wheelchair Accessibility.

App icon of the Putnam On-Demand app found in app stores →





Choose your user settings:

Wheelchair accessibility

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11.) Accessibility & Rider Support

PART buses are fully equipped for accessibility and rider support. This includes:

- Wheelchair lifts and ramps
- Priority seating near the front of the bus
- Service animal accommodations
- Visual signage and driver stop announcements

Riders needing special assistance can request driver support at any point during their ride.

12.) Holiday & Emergency Information

PART does not operate on major federal holidays including New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. In cases of severe weather or other emergencies, please check the Putnam County website or call the dispatch line at **(845) 878-7433** for updates on service status.

13.) Contact and Feedback

We always welcome feedback! Call **(845) 878-3480** with details about your PART experience or you can submit feedback via email at planning@putnamcountyny.gov. Have your bus route number, direction, date, time, location, and bus number handy.

You can also visit our website or scan the QR code below for real-time service updates, schedules, and maps.



Thank you for choosing the PART system for your transit needs!