

Passenger Bike Loading Policy

PASSENGER BIKE LOADING POLICY

Purpose: To ensure the safe, efficient, and consistent handling of bicycles on transit vehicles equipped with exterior bike racks, while maintaining driver safety and on-time performance.

- 1. Policy Overview:** Passengers are responsible for loading and unloading their own bicycles onto the vehicle's bike rack. Operators (drivers) are not permitted to physically handle or load bicycles at any time.
- 2. Passenger Responsibilities:** Passengers must load and unload their bicycles themselves. - Passengers should be prepared before the bus arrives to minimize dwell time. - Passengers must follow posted instructions for using the bike rack safely. - Passengers must ensure their bicycle is properly secured before boarding. - Upon reaching their destination, passengers should inform the operator before exiting to allow time to retrieve their bicycle safely.
- 3. Operator Responsibilities:** Operators must not leave the driver's seat to assist with loading or unloading bicycles. - Operators may verbally instruct or guide passengers on how to use the rack if needed. - Operators must ensure the bus is fully stopped and secured before allowing a passenger to load or unload a bicycle. - Operators should monitor through mirrors or cameras to confirm the passenger's safety while loading/unloading. - Operators should not depart until the passenger has safely completed the process and is clear of the front of the vehicle.
- 4. Safety Considerations:** Operators should remind passengers to approach the rack from the curb side only. - Passengers must never cross in front of the vehicle after loading/unloading. - Only standard bicycles that fit within the manufacturer's rack specifications may be transported (e.g., no oversized, tandem, or motorized bikes unless explicitly allowed).
- 5. Exceptions:** No exceptions to this policy should be made. In cases where a passenger is physically unable to load or unload their bike, they should make alternate transportation arrangements.
- 6. Enforcement:** Failure to comply with this policy may result in refusal of bike transport or denial of boarding privileges for that trip. Operators who handle bicycles in violation of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.
- 7. Hold Harmless:** By using this bike rack, you hereby release, discharge, and hold harmless, the Steel Valley RTA, its employees, agents, and representatives from any and all claims, damages, losses, liabilities, or expenses arising from or relating to the use of the bike rack, including but not limited to theft, damage, injury, or loss of property, whether caused by negligence or otherwise