



Reasonable Modification Policy

Purpose

The purpose of the reasonable modification policy is to offer equal and effective opportunities and access to public transportation services for persons with disabilities and full compliance with the provisions of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, Title II, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Policy

Lee-Ogle Transportation System (LOTS) is committed to providing equal access and opportunity to qualified individuals with disabilities in all programs, services, and activities. LOTS recognizes that in order to have equally effective opportunities and benefits, individuals with disabilities may need reasonable modification to policies and procedures. LOTS will adhere to all applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable modifications, as necessary, to afford equal access to programs for persons with disabilities.

LOTS does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, participation in, or receipt of services and benefits under any program or activity. LOTS will take appropriate steps to ensure that persons with disabilities, including persons who have hearing, vision, or speech impairments, have an equal opportunity to participate.

No qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of the transit services, programs, or activities of, nor be subject to discrimination by LOTS. Additionally LOTS shall not exclude or deny equal services, programs, or activities to an individual because of the known disability of an individual with whom the individual is known to have a relationship or association.

Reasonable Modifications

LOTS will make reasonable modifications to policies, practices, and procedures when necessary to provide equal opportunity to qualified individuals with disabilities. A reasonable modification is a change or exception to a policy, practice, or procedure that allows disabled individuals to have equal access to programs, services, and activities. A request is not considered a reasonable modification if it is: 1) A fundamental alteration to the nature of the program, service, or activity; 2) A direct threat to the health or safety of others; 3) Not a required need by the requester to use the service, or, 4) An undue financial / administrative burden.

Eligibility Criteria and Safety Requirements

An individual is eligible to be considered to receive a reasonable accommodation if that individual has a disability in the form of a physical or mental impairment that limits the performance of one or more major life activities, has a record of impairment, or is regarded as having such impairment.

Requests for Reasonable Modification

Whenever feasible, requests for modifications should be made in advance. This is particularly appropriate where a permanent or long-term condition or barrier is the basis for the request. In the ADA paratransit context, requests can be made in conjunction with LOTS's paratransit service eligibility process. The process for public submittal of requests to LOTS for reasonable modifications is as follows:

1. Requests should be as specific as possible and include information on why the requested modification is needed in order to allow the individual to use LOTS' services.
2. Requests should be made in writing or by email, but LOTS will accept a request by phone if needed.
 - a. Requests should be directed to the Reasonable Modification Officer (Executive Director) of LOTS 210 East Progress Drive, Dixon, IL 61021 or info@lotsil.org.
3. If a phone request is made and the Executive Director of LOTS is unavailable, the request will be directed to the Assistant Director or a designee. Phone requests to LOTS must be made during normal business days and hours of operations of LOTS' administrative offices (currently Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM).
4. "On-the-spot" requests may be accepted for circumstances that arise while utilizing LOTS' transportation services by making a request to the driver. Such requests should be made as soon as the circumstance is made known to the requestor. The driver may make the determination or request a decision of a supervisor dependent upon the situation.
5. All requests/documentation shall be maintained in a designated file at LOTS' Main Office for a minimum of three (3) years from the date of request.

Request Denials and Appeals Process

If a request for reasonable modification is denied, the requester has the right to appeal the decision by following the appeals procedure of LOTS'. LOTS has a process for recording, investigating, and tracking appeals from qualified individuals. This appeals process is managed by the ADA Officer (Executive Director) of LOTS. The appeal forms are available at the main office of LOTS or via the LOTS website at www.leeogletransportation.com.

Any person who wishes to file an appeal regarding a request for Reasonable Modification that was denied may do so in writing via fax, email, or in person:

Lee-Ogle Transportation System
c/o ADA Officer
210 East Progress Drive
Dixon, IL 61021
T: (815) 288-2117
F: (815) 288-2114
info@lotsil.org

If more information is needed to evaluate the appeal, the Executive Director of LOTS may contact the person filing the appeal. If the information is not received within 30 days from the date of the original appeal, the appeal will be marked undetermined and closed.

The ADA Officer will issue a Letter of Finding or Letter of Closure.

- A Letter of Finding will summarize the appeal, interviews conducted, and explain the actions to be taken by LOTS to address the appeal.
- A Letter of Closure will summarize the appeal, interviews conducted, and explain how LOTS has determined that the appeal is not warranted and the appeal will be closed.


Refusal of Service and Nondiscrimination

LOTS can refuse to provide service to an individual with disabilities if that person engages in violent, seriously disruptive, illegal conduct, or represents a direct threat to the health or safety of himself/herself or others. However, LOTS will not refuse to provide service to an individual with a disability solely because the individual's disability results in an appearance or behavior that may offend, annoy, or inconvenience LOTS staff/employees or other persons.

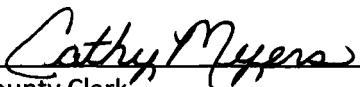
The reasonable modification process and use information will be made readily available to the public. ADA-accessible formats will be provided upon request.

PASSED BY THE LEE COUNTY BOARD

This 21st Day of MAY, 2019

By: 
County Board Chair

Attest:


County Clerk