

Riding transit with a bike

Policies and procedures for taking a bike on transit. What to know: how many bikes, where, when, how to load and unload your bike, safety tips, storage lockers

What to know

The following policies apply to all the region's buses.

- Bicyclists pay the same fare as everyone else. There is no extra charge or permit required to bring your bike along for the ride.
- An easy-to-use folding rack is located at the front end of the bus. They hold up to two (some hold three) bicycles at one time. Each bike can be loaded and unloaded independently; you don't have to move one bike to reach the other. Instructions for loading and unloading are posted on each rack for quick referral. Bicycles rest solidly in place and do not touch each other or the bus.
- Space is available on a first come, first served basis.
- Remove water bottles, pumps and items that could become dislodged during the ride.

Safety Tips

- Always load/unload your bike from the curb side of the bus.
- Never cross the street in front of the bus.
- Be off your bike when waiting for the bus.
- Only single seat, two-wheeled bicycles are permitted. Motor-powered or 3-wheeled vehicles are not allowed.
- Be patient when other riders are removing their bikes, then quickly load/unload yours.
- Loading and securement of bike on the rack is the responsibility of the bicyclist.
- Transit agencies are not responsible for bikes that are stolen, left on racks, or damaged due to improper loading, unloading or securing.
- Bikes must not be locked to the bike rack.

Loading your bike

- Let the driver know you will be loading your bike. **DO NOT STEP IN FRONT OF THE BUS UNTIL THE DRIVER TELLS YOU IT IS SAFE TO DO SO.**
- Bikes can only be loaded at the front end of the bus. The driver can't get off the bus to help but will be happy to explain how to use the rack.

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Instructions on how to load the bike are on the rack.

It is a three-step process and generally takes no more than 30 seconds.

Have your bike ready to go when the bus approaches. Remove water bottles, pumps or loose items. Let the driver know you would like to use the bike rack and prepare to load your bicycle.

If the bike rack is in the upright position, release it by pulling up on the lever and slowly lowering the rack down. There is no need to lean your bike against the bus, see photo at left.



1. Lift the bike up and fit it into the rack's wheel wells, which are labeled for the front and rear wheels.

If no other bike is on the rack, use the space closest to the bus.

Be sure your bicycle does not come into contact with any part of the bus.

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2. After the bike is in the rack, simply lift the support arm up and over the front tire.

A spring will pull the arm down, securely latching it to your bicycle.



3. Make sure the support arm is in place before boarding the bus

The arm should be in contact with the tire, not the fender or any other part of the bike.

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Unloading your bike

- When you want to get off the bus, exit by the front door and tell the driver that you must get your bike. Unloading should always be done from the curbside.
- Raise the support arm off the front tire and lower it to its resting position.
- Lift your bike out of the rack and place it on the ground. If there is not another bike in the rack, please fold the rack back up.
- Step away from the bus and back towards the curb, allowing the bus a clear path to merge into moving traffic.

Transit Agency policies

RT Light rail

Bicyclists can board light rail everyday at all hours of operation.

Buy your fare and board through the rear or front doors after all other passengers have entered or exited the light rail car

In the older light rail trains, place your bike in the rear or front of the car next to the flip-up seats. The new CAF light rail trains are equipped with four bike racks. Place your bike in the rack located in the front and rear of each car next to the flip-up seats.

RT allows four bikes per car, two in the front and two in the back, on multi-car trains. However, in the first car no bikes are permitted at the front of the car, which is reserved for passengers with disabilities.

On the last train on the route each day, there is no limit on the number of bikes that can board.

Note: passengers have priority over bicycles, and RT reserves the right to ask cyclists to exit if the bus or train becomes full.

RT Buses

All RT buses, except replica trolleys, are equipped with bike racks which can be used all day.

Each rack carries two bikes at a time on a first-come, first-serve basis. Bikes are not allowed inside RT buses unless it is the last bus on the route that day, and the bike carrier is full.

In three steps, you can load your bike onto the rack. Just follow the instructions on the rack.

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RT Bike lockers

Over 150 weatherproof bike lockers are located at 19 light rail stations. You can lease a locker for 6 or 13 months at the following light rail stations: Sunrise, Mather Field/Mills, Butterfield, Tiber, Starfire, Watt/Manlove, College Greens, Power Inn, University/65th Street, 59th Street, 48th Street, 39th Street, 23rd Street, 16th Street, Arden/Del Paso, Watt/I-80, Meadowview, Florin and City College.

To request a lease agreement, call (916) 321-3885 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Many light rail stations have ribbon-style bike racks available for no charge.

Etran

Bicycles are allowed on board all e-tran buses. Two bicycles can be stored in the front of the bus, before boarding. Tell the bus operator when you get off that you're unloading your bicycle.

Up to two bicycles can be brought inside the bus at the discretion of the bus operator.

El Dorado Transit

There are bike racks available on all buses, and the racks can occupy three bikes. As long as the racks are not full, which they typically aren't, anytime a bicyclist is taking a transit trip, they can put their bike on the rack.

El Dorado County Transit Authority has a Park and Ride Master Plan – Table 1 lists the amenities at each Park and Ride including racks or lockers. The document is available on the EDCTC web page, you can view the table here – page 6 of this pdf:

http://www.edctc.org/non%20agenda%20pdf/PnR_master_plan/2Introduction.pdf

There is one additional (recently constructed) park and ride lot at Commerce Drive in Diamond Springs that has both bike racks and lockers as well.

Placer Commuter Express

Bikes are allowed on the front mounted bike rack on the transit style bus and in the under floor storage compartments of the large tour-style busses. Capacity is usually 2 or 3 per bus depending on space and is on a first-come first-served basis. No bicycles are allowed inside of the bus at any time due to safety issues (an exception can be made by the driver on the last run of the day to prevent a passenger from being stranded, and depending on the ridership at the time).

Bikes are allowed on all runs into and out of Sacramento for no extra charge with a paid fare. There are no storage lockers for bikes at any of PCE stop locations.

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Yolo Bus

All buses are equipped with special racks so almost any kind of bike can be secured to the front of the bus at any time of day. Bicycles are not allowed inside the buses.

Roseville Transit

All buses are equipped with two front-mounted bike racks, available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Bicycles are not allowed on board the bus.

Here is the link:

http://www.roseville.ca.us/transportation/roseville_transit/planning_your_trip/bus_riding_policies.asp

Yuba-Sutter Transit

All Yuba-Sutter Transit buses are equipped with bike racks that allow two bicycles to be independently loaded and unloaded. All common wheel sizes and frame types fit in the rack. The racks are available on a first-come, first-served basis. A permit is not required and there is no additional charge to use the racks.

Bikes are not allowed inside the bus unless it is the last bus of the day on a local fixed route and the bike rack is full.

For a minimal monthly fee, a limited number of bike lockers are available at three local bus stops. Call 530-634-6880 for more information or a copy of the bike locker agreement.

Amtrak Capitol Corridor

All trains on the Capitol Corridor are equipped with a limited number of bicycle racks, allowing you to bring your bike onboard as unboxed, carry-on baggage.

Rack Locations

You can find bicycle racks on the lower level of most coach cars. If all racks are full, notify the conductor. The conductor will identify a place for you to safely secure your bike. Carry a bungee cord with you to secure your bike.



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Securing Your Bike on an Amtrak Capitol Corridor train

1. Standing behind the bike, pull the handlebars up to stand the bike vertically.
2. Guide the front wheel onto the hook on the wall. You may have to lift the bike up a few inches.
3. For a more secure fastening, lower the stabilization bar next to the front wheel and wrap the Velcro strap around the forks. You can also lock your bicycle through the stabilization bar.
4. If bicycle hooks are blocked by baggage, leave the bike adjacent to the baggage, not blocking an aisle and ask for the conductor's assistance.

Bike Racks Full?

During peak travel times, bike racks can fill up quickly on busy trains. If the bike racks are full, follow the instructions of the train crew on where to place and secure your bicycle with a bungee cord so that it won't impede the flow of all traffic in the lower levels.

Update May 2009 - Some of the new cab-car floor-mounted bicycle racks have been removed. During peak travel periods, when the bike racks were filled to capacity, the unsecured and improperly secured bicycles did not always provide enough safe clearance for wheelchairs, scooters and general foot traffic. The floor-mounted bike racks were installed to supplement the vertical racks at the ends of cars and accommodate increased demand for bike storage on our trains. Even with these additional 8-bike capacity racks, peak period demand for bicycle space has exceeded on board capacity, and unsecured and improperly secured bicycles have become a safety issue.

CCJPA is working with Caltrans on a new bike rack design that will minimize the amount of loose bicycles and ensure that the aisles are clear for foot and wheelchair traffic.

Between 8 and 9 percent of Capitol Corridor passengers now bring bicycles on the trains, among the highest percentage of bicycle-to-transit use in the country. At the same time, Amtrak must allow for the safe passage of foot traffic and accommodate mobility-impaired passengers who are unable to, or have difficulty, maneuvering up the stairs and must be seated on the lower level.

Bikes on Amtrak Motorcoach Buses

Most motorcoach buses can accommodate bicycles. If stored underneath the motorcoach in the luggage compartment. Amtrak and Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority assume no responsibility, and passengers must load and unload their own bikes.