

IT'S MORE THAN JUST A RIDE

The ability to connect to people, essential services, and activities that add meaning and value is crucial to a full life.



For many in Frederick County, transportation mobility and lack of options (especially in the rural areas of the county) are often cited as major barriers for those in need. Many residents need a safe, reliable way to a doctors' appointment, to the supermarket, even to a job interview.

To supplement the current transportation system and expand options for those in need, **Safe Ride Foundation**, operators of **SOS Safe Ride**, is proceeding to implement a reliable, affordable, user-centric ride-matching network connecting Frederick County residents in need of transportation to the people and services that matter most.

Scheduled to be operational in February 2024, the project will serve lower-income ALICE* households, many of which are underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected economically.

This ride-match program, known as **Rides for Good**, follows best practices established by the National Volunteer Transportation Center and the Community Transportation Association of America. At the heart of the program is the support that comes from a team of trained volunteers, using their own vehicles, who lend their time to drive pre-screened Frederick County passengers in need to:

- Access community services
- Attend medical appointments
- Shop for food and groceries
- Pick up prescriptions
- Participate in social outings and faith activities
- Attend classes and volunteer activities
- Attend job interviews

Rides for Good will replicate Howard County's **NeighborRide** that has operated for over twenty years, providing thousands of rides for hundreds of Seniors across metro Baltimore annually. Unlike **NeighborRide**, **Rides for Good** will not be limited to Seniors, but all who need door-to-door transportation and not able to utilize other options.



KEY FEATURES

Safety first! Each of our volunteer drivers will be a Frederick County community member who has completed a background check and clean driving record, maintains a safe and insured automobile, and received thorough Rides for Good training. Passengers will also be pre-screened.

Easy scheduling. Arranging rides in advance will be simple using our online Ride-Match Portal or by contacting the **Rides for Good** Call Center.

Personalized, reliable service. Our Call Center will contact the passenger the day before the trip to ensure all preparations are made, and they are comfortable with every aspect of their upcoming ride. The volunteer driver will also be provided with all of the trip details.

Companions ride for free. There is no charge for a caregiver or family member to join in the trip.

Affordable fees. A very affordable sliding fee scale for each ride (based upon accumulated mileage) will be paid in advance by the passenger. Fees for service will be based upon the passenger's ability to pay and will be reduced or waived if the rider is unable to pay the stated fee.



PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Rides for Good program objectives include:

1. Operating a permanent, data-informed, countywide (with special emphasis upon serving rural areas) ride-match program, connecting passengers with community resources and services they cannot access due to a lack of viable transportation.
2. Using data collected to analyze transportation needs in the community that informs future policy implementation and additional solutions that can be developed.
3. Integrate **Rides for Good** as a viable option within Frederick County's transportation system by partnering with other providers including Frederick County TransIT and United Way's Ride United program.

* ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). ALICE households have incomes above the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), but struggle to afford basic household necessities.

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