



TRANS-BRIDGE LINES ON THE BUS

What's in a Name?

Our monthly newsletter has a new name! But, why?

Our newsletter is read by all our passengers and we decided the name should encompass all the different types of customers we have, from commuters to leisure travelers.

As always, our newsletter will contain pertinent information, important alerts and reminders, and fun facts to ensure your travel experience with us is a pleasant one!

Avoid a Fine, Get Your Permit!

When parking at the Lehigh Valley Airport, a permit is required for the Trans-Bridge Lines parking lot. This applies to all customers, including pier passengers and commuters.

A valid Round-Trip or Newark Airport bus ticket or Commuter Pass for New York must be presented or purchased at the time of the request. Pier passengers will be assisted by our staff when making their reservation.

Parking is free for the first



three days (a permit will still be required), \$5.00 per day thereafter.

To receive a permit, please visit

our Main Office at 2012 Industrial Drive, Bethlehem or call 610-868-6001 and the permit will be emailed to you. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Staff at the airport will assist our passengers only if they have available personnel to do so.

The lot is owned and patrolled by Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA). Violators will be ticketed and/or towed at the owner's expense.

2024 SAFETY Week

Trans-Bridge Lines will conduct a Safety Week for all employees April 22 to 26.

There will be several engaging and informative demos, presentations and guest speakers in order to educate and reiterate the importance of safety in our industry.

New for 2024 will be a K9 demo, health and wellness, cyber security, bus fires and evacuations, an EMS demo, and a tabletop discussion with invited emergency management executives.

Staff members and guest speakers will also share information on harassment, OSHA regulations, human trafficking, D.O.T. regulations, bus driver safety, and more!

Look for our "special edition" newsletter in May outlining the week-long event.

Reminder: TBL Ticketing Policies

What are the rules? How are they different since online ticketing became available?

All One-Way and Round-Trip tickets are no longer valid for six months. Tickets are valid for the day, time, and run they are scheduled only. Tickets, however, may be rescheduled up to the original departure time. Tickets rescheduled within 30 minutes of the original departure time will be charged \$2 per ticket. Before that, there is no fee to reschedule.

Passengers are encouraged to arrive 15 minutes prior and no later than five minutes before departure. After that time, a reserved seat will be opened to a standby passenger.

An expired ticket may not be used to board the next run or a later run as a standby. However, passengers may use their booked ticket to board an earlier run as a standby passenger, depending on seat availability.

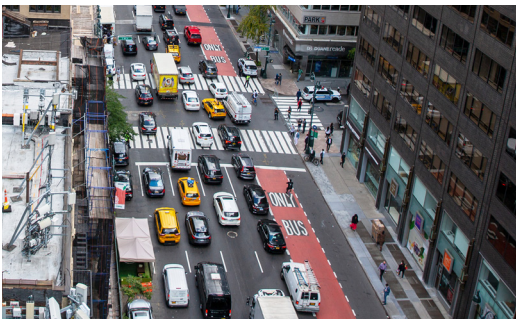
After the scheduled departure time, any unused ticket is expired and becomes null and void. There will then be no rescheduling, credits, or refunds permitted.

Note: When a ticket is unused but the space is reserved for you on the bus, it represents the loss of a sold seat. This is why we do not allow rescheduling, credits, or refunds.

If a One-Way or Round-Trip ticket holder wishes to cancel their travel before their scheduled travel date and receive credit, they must contact our Customer Service Department at 610-868-6001 for assistance.

Commuter Pass holders are afforded up to 16 hours passed a missed run to reschedule. (There are never any rescheduling fees on the passes.) You may also choose to cancel a scheduled run and that ticket will be added back to your pass for scheduling at another time within the pass' time-frame for use. If you do not cancel or reschedule after the 16 hours, the ticket is null and void and not eligible for rescheduling, credit, or a refund.

We recognize that there will be exceptions due to certain circumstances. If any of our passengers feel they have a situation that warrants an exception, please contact our Customer Service Department or **email: webmaster@transbridgelines.com** for help.



MTA approves congestion pricing plan for New York City

Commuter buses exempt, not charter service

Source: ABC7NY.com

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority approved the country's first congestion pricing plan on March 27.

The MTA approved the plan, by a vote of 11-1, to charge vehicles driving south of 60th Street from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekends. Traffic on the West Side Highway and FDR Drive is exempt.

“Commuter buses that run on a regular schedule, including those operated by private bus companies and regional bus services that make stops in the city would also be exempt.”

The goal is to reduce traffic and raise millions of dollars annually to improve mass transit.

The vote was met with a round of applause.

Still, some possible roadblocks remain. Lawsuits are being heard in federal courts in both New York and New Jersey that could delay implementation.

The vote came days after the MTA revealed its final "clarifications" to the tolling plan issued by the Traffic Mobility Review Board in December.

The list of exemptions to the plan include yellow school buses, most private commuter buses and a large number of city-owned vehicles. The approved plan is expected to take effect in mid-June.

Online Reduced Fare Purchases

Trans-Bridge Lines apologizes for any confusion in pricing when purchasing Reduced Fare tickets.

We are aware that fares are not displaying correctly when our system pulls a list of runs to choose from.

Passengers who enjoy the Reduced Fare, may still make their purchases online. Once you choose your desired run and proceed to the payment page, you will be charged correctly.

We have contacted our ticketing vendor for a resolution and this issue is being addressed.

As a reminder, when boarding the motorcoach with your online Reduced Fare ticket, please have your ID available for inspection as proof of your Reduced Fare eligibility.

For Seniors, acceptable forms of ID include:

62 and older - Please show one:

- Driver's License, Passport, or Birth Certificate State-Issued
- Non-Driver's ID (issued by the State's DMV)
- Medicaid or Medicare ID
- NJ Transit Reduced Fare ID Card
- Military ID

65 and older - Please show one:

- Driver's License, Passport, or Birth Certificate State-Issued
- Non-Driver's ID (issued by the State's DMV)
- Medicaid or Medicare ID
- NJ Transit Reduced Fare ID Card
- Pennsylvania Senior Citizen Transit ID or PACE card
- MTA Reduced Fare Card
- PATH Senior Fare Card

For Disable Persons, acceptable forms of ID include:

- New Jersey Transit Reduced Fare ID
- Medicare Card

Military personnel and their dependents must present a valid military or military-dependent ID card. Eligible personnel includes Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard, and those with an official "Retired" status from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard.

Veterans with service-connected disabilities may present a valid Veterans Affairs (VA) card which indicates "service-connected".



Human Trafficking Busing On the Lookout App

TAT's (Truckers Against Trafficking) apps help you identify and report suspicions of human trafficking when you're on the go. From drivers to fleet managers to field workers to concerned members of the public, the TAT app is designed for everyone.

The TAT App is a free user-friendly resource anyone can install to be equipped with information about human trafficking in case they encounter it. Available for Apple and Android devices in

English, Spanish and French, the TAT App features:

- Tailored content.
- Enhanced reporting capabilities for users with the ability to identify the best number to call, including, where available, local hotline numbers.
- On-the-go access to TAT's free training courses.
- Optional news and notifications directly from TAT.



Trans-Bridge Lines will operate with normal schedules on Saturday, March 30 and Sunday, March 31.

[View Schedules >](#)



Commuter Fares will be unchanged for the month of April.

[View April Commuter Fares >](#)



Passenger Rail Feasibility Analysis

Trans-Bridge questions sustainability, cost of rail service

Trans-Bridge Lines, operator of bus runs to New York City, questions whether rail service from the Lehigh Valley could be sustainable and worth the cost.

A study shared March 27 of rail from the Lehigh Valley laid out routes to New York, Philadelphia and Reading. **That potential billion-dollar program would not be ready for at least 10 to 12 years, and would require funding from the federal and Pennsylvania governments to get started and to keep moving.**

The projected rail times are longer than current bus routes. Many other details, such as tracks, stations and the rail operator are still rolling along.

If train service ever became reality, it would compete with buses, but the extra time on board would not sit well with commuters. Long-distance commuters count every minute, and choosing a train could cost them another hour away from home every day.

For a Monday through Friday commuter, that would be five more hours in transit each week, enough time for a round of golf, a family outing, a school event or maybe just some precious "down time."

The estimated duration of a New York City rail trip would be as long as 2.5 hours, the study said.

"Our service from Lehigh Valley to New York takes an average of two hours," Trans-Bridge Communications Manager Jennifer Lechiski said in an email state-

ment. "By rail, that journey would take an additional 20 to 30 minutes."

Trans-Bridge President Tom JeBran said the number of bus passengers going to New York has been "softening" since 2010. That increased with the COVID-19 pandemic.

"After the pandemic in 2020, we saw a significant decrease in commuter passengers, which we do not anticipate to come back fully," he said. "Individuals continue to work from home or operate with hybrid schedules, using transportation two to three times a week versus five."

JeBran said Trans-Bridge operates 24 New York runs now, versus 52 before COVID.

"We question the sustainability of rail service and the costs associated with running it," he said.

Passenger rail loses money and would require support from the state to keep operating, the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study said in its summary.

Funding has to flow through Harrisburg. If the state cannot support the rail service or can only subsidize it for a short time, JeBran ponders, "How much of the burden would fall on Lehigh and Northampton County residents. What kind of tax hike would we see?"

Sources:

WFMZ.com, Justin Backover & Jeff Ward
Lehigh Valley Passenger Rail Feasibility Analysis
Opinions of Trans-Bridge Lines

REMINDER

Avoid Boarding Issues

To make the boarding process as quick and easy as possible, please always be prepared by having your ticket ready for scanning.

It is important for the driver to be able to scan the QR code on your boarding pass.

The code should not be blurry or cut off.

When traveling with us round-trip be sure to present the correct boarding pass for that leg of your trip. Issues can arise when a passenger presents a westbound ticket

for an eastbound run and vice versa. When it is time to travel in the other direction, the incorrect ticket may have already become expired and will not be accepted, forcing you to purchase another ticket until the issue can be resolved with our office.

Create a Trans-Bridge Lines Account to Manage Travel

When our passengers make a purchase, it is encouraged to create or login to an account. With an account, you have access to your tickets and have the ability to reschedule your tickets.

Some passengers choose to purchase tickets as a Guest on a regular basis. When you do this a temporary account is created each time in order for our staff to locate your purchase, if necessary.

There are passengers who have several temporary accounts, making

it difficult to quickly identify which order you may need help with.

Whether you are a regular passenger or occasional rider, it is to your benefit to create an account. Our Customer Service Department operates Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Having an account is essential if you have need to reschedule weekend, early morning, or late-night travel. You will have the power to manage your own experience.

[Create an Account >](#)


cybersecurity




Online safety guidelines
STRONG PASSWORDS
Quick tips for creating and saving your online passwords



ADD VARIETY
Use uppercase, lowercase, characters, and numbers.




DON'T RECYCLE
Don't use the same password for all of your accounts.



DON'T USE PERSONAL INFORMATION
Avoid using birthdates or names from your loved ones.



MAKE IT LONG
Use passphrases longer than 16 characters when possible.



CHANGE OFTEN
Make sure to review your passwords and change them frequently.



USE A PASSWORD MANAGER
Password management apps and sites can help keep track.



Your Blood. Their Hope.
MILLER-KEYSTONE
BLOOD CENTER

[Click here to schedule a donation >](#)



TRANS-BRIDGE TOURS: Upcoming April, May, & June Tours

Tours and Vacation Travel

MULTI-DAY TOURS



VIRGINIA BEACH & NORFOLK, VA
Featuring VA Int'l Military Tattoo
April 17 (Wed) - 19 (Fri)

Includes: Cape Henry Lighthouse, American Rover Sailing Cruise, Virginia International Tattoo, Hullabaloo – reserved seating included & Norfolk Botanical Gardens.

4 Meals - \$689 Double



MYRTLE BEACH, SC
Sun, Sand & The Grand Strand
April 28 (Sun) - May 3 (Fri)

Includes: Barefoot Landing, Pirates Voyage Dinner & Show, "Iconic" at Alabama Theater, Le Grand Cirque Show at Broadway Theater, Broadway at the Beach, Barefoot Queen Lunch Cruise, & Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden.

9 Meals - \$1,231 Double



BEST OF CHAUTAUQUA, NY
Lucy, Laughs & Lakeviews
May 15 (Wed) - 17 (Fri)

Includes: Seneca Allegany Resort & Casino, Guided Tour of Lucy Town, Lucy Desi Museum & Desilu Studios, Tropicana Club, National Comedy Center, & Chautauqua Institution.

5 Meals - \$649 Double



GAYLORD NTL RESORT GETAWAY
National Harbor & Alexandria, VA
May 25 (Sat) - 26 (Sun)

Includes: Spirit Cruise Lunch Cruise, Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, National Harbor, The Capital Wheel, & Tall Ship Providence – Dockside Tour.

2 Meals - \$529 Double



NIAGARA FALLS
Ontario, Canada
May 29 (Wed) - 31 (Fri)

Includes: Hornblower Niagara Boat Ride, Journey Behind the Falls, White Water Walk, Whirlpool Aero Car, Butterfly Conservatory, & Floral Clock .

4 Meals

\$865 Double - City View Room
\$946 - Falls View Room



NEW ENGLAND ISLAND HOPPING
June 3 (Mon) - 7 (Fri)

Includes: Nantucket, Guided Tour of Martha's Vineyard, Narrated Tour of Block Island, Guided Driving Tour of Newport, & Rosecliff Mansion.

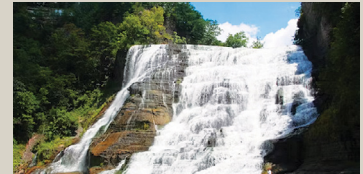
6 Meals - \$1,248 Double



MARYLAND'S EASTERN SHORE
Horses, History & Harriet Tubman
June 10 (Mon) - 12 (Wed)

Includes: Guided Tour of Chesapeake City, Assateague Visitor's Center & Cruise, Ocean City Life Saving Museum, & Guided Harriet Tubman Tour.

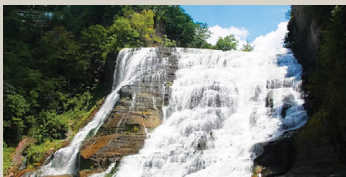
4 Meals - \$685 Double



WASHINGTON, DC
June 21 (Fri) - 23 (Sun)

Includes: George Washington's Mount Vernon, Illuminated Tour of DC, Arlington National Cemetery, & Steven F Udvar-Hazy Center – Air & Space Museum.

4 Meals - \$704 Double



THE FABULOUS FINGER LAKES
New York
June 26 (Wed) - 28 (Fri)

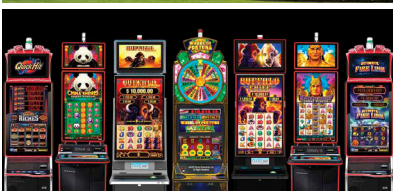
Includes: Six Mile Creek Vineyard, "Experience! The Finger Lakes of the Fabulous Falls Above Cayuga Tour", Granger Museum & Carriage House, The Canandaigua Lady Cruise, "It's A Wonderful Life" Museum, & Ventosa Vineyards.

5 Meals - \$757 Double



ONE-DAY TOURS

"Daniel" at Sight & Sound Theatre	Apr 17	\$180
Hershey Gardens, Chocolate World & Trolley Works	May 7	\$157
Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum	May 9	\$113
Washington, DC National Zoo	May 18	\$100
Brooklyn Pizza Tour	May 21	\$195
Green Dragon Farmer's Market & Kitchen Kettle Village	May 24	\$74
Baltimore Inner Harbor	June 1	\$135 with Aquarium
		\$90 without Aquarium
Bronx Zoo	June 9	\$112
"Full Monty" at Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre	June 19	\$147
Cape May Land & Sea	June 15	\$130
Longwood Gardens - Festival of Fountains	June 22	\$99
9/11 Memorial & Museum	June 23	\$116



RESORTS CASINO HOTEL / CAESARS HOTEL & CASINO

May 5 (Sun), 25 (Sat) | June 8 (Sat), 16 (Sun), 29 (Sat)
Caesars Hotel & Casino | Resort's Casino Hotel – \$69

Bonus: Resorts – \$30 Slot Play OR Caesars \$25 Slot Play