

United We Guide: A Mobility Manager Program In Putnam County

A Guide for Seniors: Find the Right Transportation Option for You



**Public
Transportation**

**Older Driver
Safety Resources**

**Specialized
Transportation**



**Call: (386) 325-9999 for the
Mobility Manager**

The logo consists of a horizontal bar divided into two sections: a red section on the left and a blue section on the right. The text "United We Guide" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the blue section.

United We Guide

Table of Contents

True/ False Quiz	1
Caregiver Considerations	2
Automobile/Driving Resources	4
■ State and Federal Older Driver Resources	
Driver Assessment	6
■ Driver Rehabilitation Specialists	
Driver Self Assessment	7
Driver Safety Training	9
Paratransit Service	11
Public Transit	12
■ Buses	
Private/Volunteer Transportation	13
■ Taxis/Medical Transport	
■ Faith-Based/Volunteer Programs	
Information & Referral	14
■ Senior Centers	
■ Government	
■ Local Public Agencies	
True/False Quiz Answers	17
Transportation Facts	19

Mobility Manager

United We Guide is a program developed by a consortium of state agencies and local organizations who are working together to assist Floridians 60 and older with access to local transportation safety and mobility options

Through the United We Guide program, a “Mobility Manager” has been established in Putnam County at Ride Solution. Your Mobility Manager will work with local agencies to help coordinate the travel and trip planning needs of individuals who receive human service program assistance or are seeking alternative transportation services.

This booklet has been developed to assist the Putnam County Mobility Manager to promote their call number and provide elder residents with information on available state and local transportation safety and mobility resources.

If you have any questions, or would like additional copies of this booklet, please contact:

- **Putnam County Mobility Manager**
(386) 325-9999 – Listen to voice prompts for the Mobility Manager extension

True/False Quiz

The following 9 questions are to test your knowledge about senior transportation. Please mark each statement with a “T”–true and “F”–false.

- ① ___ 90% of people over the age of 65 continue to drive their automobiles (have valid driver’s licenses).
- ② ___ Dial-A-Ride programs only provide transportation to people who are disabled.
- ③ ___ Recent research indicates most people should be able to continue driving throughout their life.
- ④ ___ Less than 5% of the population in the United States uses public transportation.
- ⑤ ___ Every city in the United States is required to provide public transit services to its residents.
- ⑥ ___ Volunteer drivers for individuals or organizations must report any payment for mileage to the IRS.
- ⑦ ___ Volunteer drivers that use their own vehicles need personal auto insurance.
- ⑧ ___ Adults 65+ have the highest pedestrian death rate than any age group, even children.
- ⑨ ___ Rural communities get more than their fair share of transportation dollars.

ANSWERS FOUND ON PAGE 17

Caregiver Considerations

Whether you are looking for transportation for yourself, or you are a caregiver in search of transportation for seniors, you may want to consider the following questions before deciding on a transportation option. Then use these questions to gather more detailed information from the transportation provider you are considering.

1. What is the service area?
2. Is there a limitation on distance?
3. How much will the service cost?
4. Will insurance pay for rides provided by the service?
5. Are there requirements to qualify for the service? If so, what are they?
6. Is there an evaluation that must take place prior to the first ride?
7. Is there a membership fee that must be paid before scheduling rides with the service?
8. How far in advance must reservations be made?
9. Are rides provided in the evenings, on weekends, or on holidays?
10. Are rides provided to social as well as medical or shopping appointments?

Caregiver Considerations

11. Are door-through-door, door-to-door, or curb-to-curb services provided?
12. Are rides provided to people who use wheelchairs?
13. Do riders stay in their wheelchair, or are they transferred to a seat during the ride?
14. Is there an escort or attendant in the vehicle with the driver?
15. Does someone stay with me/my family member during appointments?
16. Can a family member serve as an escort? If so, is there an extra cost associated?
17. Will there be a wait when picked-up from home? If so, how long?
18. Will there be a wait when picked-up for my return trip? If so, how long?
19. Will the driver or attendant come into the office/building for the return trip?
20. Will other passengers be riding? If so, what is the maximum length of time of the ride while others are being picked-up/dropped-off?

Automobile/Driving Resources

The following older driver transportation safety and mobility resources are available at the state level.

State Resources

- **Florida Department of Transportation
Safe Mobility for Life Program**
(866)-374-3368 Ext. 5414
www.safeandmobileseniors.org
- **Florida Department of Elder Affairs
Communities for a Lifetime**
(850) 414-2123
www.communitiesforalifetime.org
- **Florida Commission for the
Transportation Disadvantaged**
(800) 983-2435
www.dot.state.fl.us/ctd
- **Florida GrandDriver**
(850) 617-2713
www.floridagranddriver.com

Automobile/Driving Resources

The following older driver transportation safety and mobility resources are available at the federal level.

Federal Resources

- **AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety**
(800) 933-7222
www.AAASeniors.com
- **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**
(888) 327-4236
www.nhtsa.dot.gov
- **National Center on Senior Transportation**
(202) 347-3066
www.seniortransportation.easterseals.com

Driver Assessment

Medical professionals can conduct clinical and on-road driving assessments and can offer treatment plans that range from modifying driving habits to installing adaptive equipment in the vehicle and training in its use. The following are your closest available resources.

Driver Skills Assessment

■ Driver Rehabilitation Specialists

Brooks Rehabilitation

3901 University Boulevard S

Jacksonville, FL 32216

Peggy Gannon CTRS, CDRS

(904) 858-7242

Shands Driver Rehabilitation Program

Shands Rehabilitation Hospital

4101 NW 89th Blvd

Gainesville, FL 32606

Susan Lee Maroney OTR/L, CDRS

(352) 265-5487

University of Florida Independence Drive

5000 NW 34th Street, Suite 1

Gainesville, FL 32605

Desiree Lanford MOT, OTR/L

(888) 248-5005

Driver Self Assessment

There are some self assessment resources available that can help identify and address natural age-related changes that could affect older drivers.

■ **AAA Roadwise Review**

Available to both members (\$12) and non-members (\$15) on-line at:

www.aaa.com

under Senior Driving Programs or your local AAA branch office:

AAA Gainesville
1201 Northwest 13th Street
Gainesville, FL 32601
(352) 373-7801

AAA Ocala
3033 Southwest College Road
Ocala, FL 34474
(352) 237-6251

■ **AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety**

Drivers 55 Plus: Self Rating Form

www.seniordrivers.org

under Quiz

Driver Self Assessment

- **AARP Driver Safety Program**
Test Your Driving I.Q.
Close Call Quiz
www.aarp.org/drive

- **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**
Driving Safely While Aging Gracefully
www.nhtsa.dot.gov
under Traffic Safety – Older Driver

Driver Safety Training

There are some driver safety training resources available that are designed to provide you the knowledge you need to help keep you driving safer and longer.

■ **AARP Driver Safety Course**

This training course is available either on-line or in a classroom setting and helps you tune up your driving skills while also updating your knowledge on the latest rules of the road.

To find out about next available classes, either call or visit the AARP Web site:

(888) 227-7669

www.aarp.org/drive

■ **CarFit**

This community-based educational program was created by the American Society on Aging and developed in collaboration with AARP, AAA and the American Occupational Therapy Association. It is designed to give you a quick but comprehensive check on how well you and your vehicle work together.

Contact your Mobility Manager for information on upcoming CarFit events.

(386) 325-9999

www.car-fit.org

Driver Safety Training

- **Community Traffic Safety Teams (CTST)**
CTST's are locally based groups of highway safety advocates who are committed to solving traffic safety problems through a comprehensive approach. Their goal is to reduce the number and severity of traffic crashes within their communities. To find out when your local CTST meets or upcoming safety events contact:

Florida Department of Transportation
Community Traffic Safety Program
2198 Edison Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32204-2730
(904) 360-5424

Paratransit Training

“Paratransit” is considered transportation services that are provided between specific origins and destinations selected by the individual user with such service being provided at a time that is agreed upon between the user and provider of the service. Americans with Disabilities (ADA) transportation services are required to be provided by transit providers. There are federally approved limits as to who is eligible and when and where the service goes.

Senior Transit

Putnam County has a Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) that provides transportation disadvantaged services to seniors.

- **Ride Solution, Inc.**
(386) 325-9999

ADA Transit- JTA Connexion

Within Jacksonville and Duval County, the Jacksonville Transportation Authority’s JTA Connexion provides paratransit service for disabled and transportation for disadvantaged riders unable to use fixed route buses for travel only within Duval County. A one-day advanced reservation is required.

- **Putnam County Mobility Manager**
(386) 325-9999 – For Reservations

Public Transit

There are some public transit system resources available to seniors in Putnam County:

Buses

■ Greyhound

Ride Solution has an agreement with Greyhound with connectivity from Putnam County to Alachua, St. Johns, and Duval Counties. The service is offered twice daily. Reduced fares are \$2 per trip to Jacksonville, Gainesville, or St. Augustine.

Other “on demand” transportation service that connects Putnam to St. Johns County is available upon request.

For more information contact:

Ride Solution
(386) 325-9999

Trains

■ Amtrak

220 North 11th Street
Palatka, FL 32077
(800) 872-7245
www.amtrak.com

All tickets can only be purchased on-line or by phone and not at station. Travelers 62 and over are eligible to receive a 15% discount on most Amtrak trains.

Private/Volunteer Transportation

Information pertaining to private transportation, such as taxi's, medical transportation companies, and faith-based services are provided.

Private Transportation/Taxis

Contact the Putnam County Mobility Manager for a current list of transportation resources from private transportation or taxi cab services.

- **Putnam County Mobility Manager**
(386) 325-9999 – For Information

Faith-Based/Volunteer Programs

Contact the Putnam County Mobility Manager for a current list of available transportation resources from faith-based or volunteer driver programs.

- **Putnam County Mobility Manager**
(386) 325-9999 – For Information

Information & Referral

Groups and organizations in your community may provide assistance or information on programs or awareness materials regarding special events on transportation, or news on public policy and city laws affecting seniors.

Senior Center

- **Putnam County Senior Center**
1229 Westover Drive
Palatka, Fl. 32177
(386) 329-0469

Government

- **City of Palatka**
201 N. Second Street
Palatka, FL, 32177
(386) 329-0100
www.co.putnam.fl.us/palatka/
- **Putnam County Administration**
2509 Crill Avenue, Suite 200
Palatka, FL, 32177
(386) 329-0212
www.putnam-fl.com

Information & Referral

Local Public Agencies

- **Christian Service Center**
820 Reid St.
Palatka, FL 32177
(386) 328-0984

- **Elder Options**
5700 S.W. 34th Street, Suite 222
Gainesville, FL 32608
(800) 963-5337
www.agingresources.org/

- **Putnam County Health Department**
2801 Kennedy Street
Palatka, FL 32177
(386) 326-3200

- **Putnam County Sheriff's Department**
130 Orié Griffin Blvd.
Palatka, FL 32177
(386) 329-0800
www.pcsso.us/

Information & Referral

- **Putnam County Tax Collector**
312 Oak Street
Palatka, FL 32177
(386) 329-0274
www.putnam-fl.com/txc/
- **Suwannee River Economic Council**
312 N. State Road 19
Palatka, FL 32177
(386) 329-8963
- **United Ways of Northeast Florida 211**
P.O. Box 41428
Jacksonville, FL 32203
Dial 2-1-1
www.nefl211.org

True/False Quiz Answers

So how well did you do? The following are answers to the Quiz questions found on page 1.

- ① F According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration about 75% of the people over age 65 have a valid drivers license which makes it legally possible for them to drive their cars.
- ② F While some Dial-A-Ride services also function as ADA services (which have specific eligibility requirement) many Dial-a-Ride programs serve community residents regardless of health and disability status.
- ③ F According to recent research, people age 70-75 have a life expectancy of at least 18 years. On average, they can expect to drive 11 of these years and depend on other transportation for the remainder of their lives.
- ④ T According to the National Personal Transportation Survey 3% of the population uses public transportation.
- ⑤ F Funding for pubic transit is provided from the United States Department of Transportation and frequently matched by local communities. However, communities are not required to provide public transit.

True/False Quiz Answers


- ⑥ F The Internal Revenue Service exempts reimbursement for mileage to volunteer drivers as reportable taxable income.
- ⑦ T Generally, a volunteer driver’s insurance policy is the “first line of attack” in the event of a crash during the course of driving a person on a volunteer rather than a paid basis.
- ⑧ T According to the United States Department of Transportation adults age 65+ have the highest pedestrian death rate than any other age group, even children. The reason is that they are physically frail, which makes them more prone to a serious injury and more difficult for them to recover.
- ⑨ F According to the Community Transit Association of America, while 30% of the population resides in rural America, only 6% of the federal transportation dollars are allocated to rural communities.

Transportation Facts

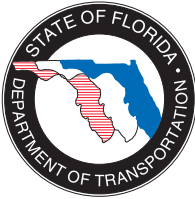
- In 2007, 19% of the population in Putnam County were 65 years and above, compared to 17% of Florida's total population for this age group.
- Nationally, Florida has the highest ranking of licensed drivers aged 65 years and above. It is predicted by the year 2020, that 1 in 4 drivers in Florida will be over the age of 65 years. In 2007, 21% of Putnam County licensed drivers were over the age of 65.
- Only 3% of those 65-74 have chronic conditions that restrict them to traveling within their own neighborhood.
- The majority of seniors are aware of their limitations and self-regulate their driving to reflect their driving ability by driving less and avoiding night time or bad weather driving, for example.
- Most transit systems provide specialized paratransit services. Collectively, they provide more than 70 million trips per year.
- On average, not more than 18% of those eligible for service are registered for specialized transportation in mid-sized cities; in large size cities, the corresponding figure is 22%.

Transportation Facts

- Riders who use paratransit rarely make more than 40% of their trips on these systems.
- An estimated 3.4 million Americans depend on Medicaid transportation to get to doctors and medical appointments (roughly 10% of the covered population).

The logo consists of a horizontal bar divided into two sections. The left section is a solid red rectangle. The right section is a solid blue rectangle containing the text "United We Guide" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

United We Guide



Florida Commission for the



**Transportation
Disadvantaged**



COMMUNITIES FOR A LIFETIME



Provided by:



A partnership between Florida agencies
who serve seniors

Funded by Florida Dept. of Transportation



Creating solutions, changing lives.