



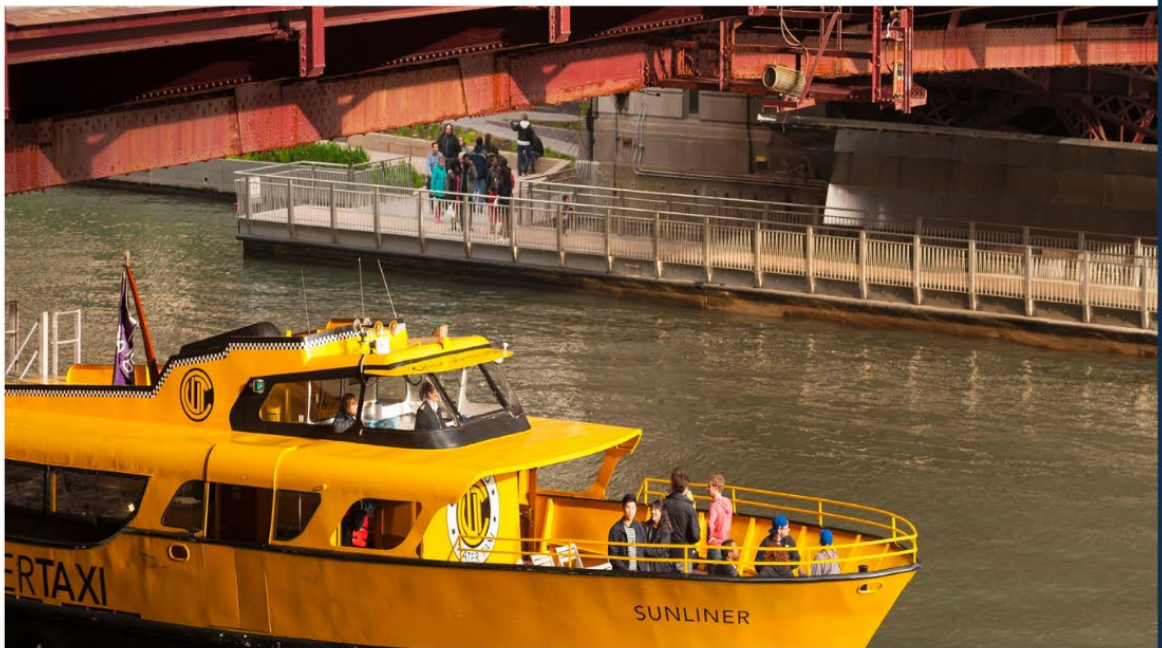
Business Affairs and
Consumer Protection



Taxicabs, Transportation Network
Providers, Liveries, Charter/ Sightseeing
Vehicles, Pedicabs, Commercial
Passenger Vessels, Low-Speed Electric
PPVs, Jitney Car Services, Ambulances
and Medical Carriers

CHICAGO'S GUIDE TO LICENSING PUBLIC PASSENGER VEHICLES

Chicago.gov/PublicVehicles
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Version: 20250224





Our goal is to ensure that visitors and Chicagoans have a safe and enjoyable experience when traveling in a public passenger vehicle. The City of Chicago’s Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection issues licenses and enforces regulations and guidelines that govern all public passenger vehicles. Passengers are encouraged to visit Chicago.gov/RideSmart for safety information.

License Requirement

A license is required for each public passenger vehicle operating in the City of Chicago. Vehicles must meet minimum requirements to ensure that passengers are safe and have an enjoyable experience. This brochure will provide you with more information about what is required to operate a few different types of public passenger vehicles in the City of Chicago.

Driving a Public Passenger Vehicle

Individuals who drive specific public passenger vehicles such as a taxicab, limousine, or pedicab require a Public Chauffeur’s License issued by the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection. Applications for this license can be found online at Chicago.gov/PublicVehicles. Individuals who drive transportation network provider (TNP), also known as ride-hail, vehicles require BACP issued TNP Chauffeur licenses secured by each affiliated TNP Company.

State and Federal Compliance

Please note additional licenses may be required by state and/or federal regulatory agencies.

Data Portal

City of Chicago licenses are published at Data.Chicago.gov.





“Taxicab” means a vehicle licensed for hire at fare rates set by the City, which are recorded by a taximeter. A Chicago taxi may be hailed by customers on the street, cab stands, or prearranged via phone, text/email, or a smartphone app. Chicago taxi’s must be driven by licensed Chicago taxi chauffeurs.

TAXICAB LICENSE FEES & TAXES

- Taxicab License: \$500/2-year term per vehicle
- EVEN numbered taxicab licenses renew on EVEN calendar years and ODD numbered taxicab licenses renew on ODD calendar years.
- Ground Transportation Tax: \$98/month
- Taxi Accessible Fund Fee: \$22/month
- Taxi Chauffeur License: \$40/2-year term

VEHICLE SPECIFICATIONS

- Must meet federal motor vehicle safety standards and have 4 doors (2 on each side).
- Vehicles with following titles are not eligible: “salvage,” “rebuilt,” “junk,” or “total loss.”
- A taxicab age ranges from 10 to 15 years depending on its fuel efficiency and wheelchair accessibility.
- Vehicles cannot have more than 150,000 miles at time of licensing.
- Prior to displaying exterior or interior advertising, required public vehicle advertising permits must be secured at \$100 annual fee per vehicle.

LICENSE PLATE REQUIREMENT

The Illinois Secretary of State (ilsos.gov) issues license plates that are numbered 1 to 6999 and contain the suffix “TX”. The number on the license plate should match the taxicab number on the top light and on the exterior of the cab. A license plate outside the number range 1 to 6999 is not a licensed City of Chicago taxi vehicle.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Liability insurance at least \$350,000 combined single limit coverage per occurrence per taxicab. Worker’s compensation insurance must be in compliance with state laws. Insurance policy must list the City of Chicago as an additional insured.

LICENSING AND REGULATORY INFORMATION

- Refer to Municipal Code of Chicago Chapter 9-112 for taxicabs.
- Refer to Municipal Code of Chicago Chapter 9-104 for taxi chauffeurs.
- Information and documents available at Chicago.gov/PublicVehicles.





Transportation Network Providers (TNP)



“Transportation network provider”, commonly referred to as a “rideshare” or “ride-hail” company, offers a prearranged transportation service for compensation using a smartphone app or digital platform to connect potential passengers with TNP drivers. Chicago TNP vehicles must be driven by licensed Chicago TNP chauffeurs. TNP trips may only be secured and paid for via a TNP smartphone app.

TRANSPORTATION NETWORK PROVIDERS LICENSE FEES & TAXES

- TNP License & Administrative Fee: \$10,000/year for each company plus \$0.02/trip
- License Term: April 1 - March 31
- TNP Accessible Fund Fee: \$0.10/trip
- Ground Transportation Tax (GTT): \$.53 to \$7.63/trip. GTT rate per TNP trip is assessed based on the following factors: use of wheelchair accessible vehicle; shared versus single ride; location (downtown congestion zone, special zone, or neighborhood service); and time and day of week
- TNP Chauffeur License: must be secured by TNP Company for affiliated TNP drivers on its platform.

VEHICLE SPECIFICATIONS

- TNP vehicles must be annually inspected according to standards set by BACP.
- Vehicles with following titles are not eligible: “salvage,” “rebuilt,” “junk,” or “total loss.”
- Prior to displaying exterior or interior advertising, required public vehicle advertising permits must be secured at \$100 annual fee per vehicle.

OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR TNP VEHICLES

- TNP Drivers must be at least 21 years old; have a valid U.S. issued permanent driver’s license; and pass a criminal and driving history background check.
- TNP Drivers must possess a valid transportation network chauffeur, restricted/livery chauffeur, or taxi chauffeur license.
- TNP Drivers must carry proof of insurance coverage at all times.
- TNP Drivers may only secure passengers through the TNP digital platform and may not accept passengers by street hail and may not solicit passengers.
- TNP Drivers must display in or on the TNP vehicle (1) distinctive TNP company signage or trade dress, (2) required City of Chicago issued emblem, and (3) if applicable, distinctive signage to pick up at Chicago airports.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Minimum insurance coverage: (1) commercial general liability insurance with limits of not less than \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence, for bodily injury, personal injury, and property damage and (2) commercial automobile liability insurance with a combined single limit for bodily injury and property damage of \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence, covering liability resulting from any occurrence arising out of or caused by the operation of a TNP vehicle while affiliated TNP driver has accepted a ride until the completion of the ride. Every insurance policy certificate must name the City of Chicago as an additional insured.

LICENSING AND REGULATORY INFORMATION

- Refer to Municipal Code of Chicago Chapter 9-115 and § 3-46-030 for TNP industry laws.
- Information and documents available at [Chicago.gov/PublicVehicles](https://www.chicago.gov/PublicVehicles).





Liveries are licensed public passenger vehicles that charge a pre-negotiated fare. Livery rides and fares must be prearranged via phone, text/email, or smartphone app. Livery rides may not be street hailed or secured in cab stands. Chicago livery vehicles must be driven by licensed Chicago liveryrestricted public chauffeurs.

LIVERY LICENSE FEES & TAXES

- Livery License: \$500/1-year term per vehicle
- License Term: January 1 – December 31
- Ground Transportation Tax: \$3.50/day per taxable day
- Livery/Restricted Public Chauffeur License: \$40/2-year term

VEHICLE SPECIFICATIONS

- Vehicles with a capacity of no more than 9 persons, including the driver, may be licensed as a livery. Vehicles with a capacity of more than 9 will require a charter/sightseeing license.
- Livery vehicles must meet applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards for vehicles of its size, type, and proposed use.
- Vehicles with following titles are not eligible: “salvage,” “rebuilt,” “junk,” or “total loss.”
- Prior to displaying exterior or interior advertising, required public vehicle advertising permits must be secured at \$100 annual fee per vehicle.

LICENSE PLATE REQUIREMENT

The Illinois Secretary of State (ilsos.gov) issues license plates that are numbered 7000 to 9999 or 70000 to 73000 and contain the suffix “LY”. A license plate outside the number range 7000 to 9999 and 70000 to 73000 is not a licensed City of Chicago livery vehicle.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Liability insurance at least \$350,000 combined single limit coverage per occurrence per livery. Worker’s compensation insurance must be in compliance with state laws. Insurance policy must list the City of Chicago as an additional insured.

LICENSING AND REGULATORY INFORMATION

- Refer to Municipal Code of Chicago Chapter 9-114 for livery vehicles.
- Refer to Municipal Code of Chicago Chapter 9-104 for livery/restricted public chauffeurs.
- Information and documents available at [Chicago.gov/PublicVehicles](https://www.chicago.gov/PublicVehicles).



Commercial Passenger Vessels



A “commercial passenger vessel” is any boat that carries passengers for hire, including charters, cruises, dinner excursions, ferries, harbor tenders, water taxis, and tour boats. Commercial passenger vessels (boats) must be captained by individuals with a U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Marine Credential.

ANNUAL FEE (based on boat capacity): \$75 - \$350

- License Term: May 1 to April 30

OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL PASSENGER VESSELS

- Documentation indicating that each vessel is in compliance with applicable federal (U.S. Coast Guard) or state (Illinois Department of Natural Resources) agency requirements.
- Documentation indicating that each vessel will be operated by a captain licensed by the U.S. Coast Guard with applicable credentials.
- Documentation that licensee has Illinois Secretary of State Certificate of Good Standing, Corporate Articles, and Minutes.
- Documentation indicating that proper insurance has been obtained in accordance with applicable federal requirements.
- Documentation indicating compliance with applicable waste disposal requirements. Provide temporary or permanent dock location within the City of Chicago, and provide documentary proof of a lease, license, or other agreement by the owner of the property giving consent to such docking.
- Provide all established routes of service, including all embarkation and destination locations, days and hours of service, and frequency of service.
- Provide the refund and cancellation policy or procedure.
- For scheduled services, provide the rates of fare and any discounts offered.

LICENSING AND REGULATORY INFORMATION

- Refer to Municipal Code of Chicago Chapter 4-250 for commercial passenger vessels.
- Information and documents available at [Chicago.gov/PublicVehicles](https://www.chicago.gov/PublicVehicles).



Charter and Sightseeing Vehicles



The charter/sightseeing vehicle license is required for tour and charter buses that offer prearranged fixed rate transportation/trips. Chicago Charter/sightseeing buses must be driven by licensed Commercial Driver License (CDL) or Restricted Public Chauffeur License holder depending on the size of the bus.

CHARTER/SIGHTSEEING VEHICLE LICENSE FEES & TAXES

- Charter/Sightseeing Vehicle License: \$500/1-year term per vehicle
- License Term: July 1 to June 30
- Ground Transportation Tax:
 - Vehicle capacity 11-24: \$6.00 per taxable day
 - Vehicle capacity 25 or more: \$9.00 per taxable day
- Restricted Public Chauffeur License: \$40/2-year term
- Note: a driver of any vehicle, regardless of size, designed to transport 16 or more persons, including the driver, must have a Commercial Driver License (CDL) with passenger endorsement.

VEHICLE SPECIFICATIONS

- Vehicle with a capacity of ten or more, including the driver, are licensed as charter/sightseeing vehicle.
- The vehicle must meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards for vehicles of its size, type, and proposed use; and pass IDOT safety inspections. The modifications for “stretched” vehicles must comply with a manufacturer warranty program.
- Vehicles with following titles are not eligible: “salvage,” “rebuilt,” “junk,” or “total loss.”
- Prior to displaying exterior or interior advertising, required public vehicle advertising permits must be secured at the \$100 annual fee per vehicle.
- Vehicles with current active U.S. Department of Transportation registration are not required to secure City of Chicago Charter/Sightseeing vehicles licenses.

LICENSE PLATE REQUIREMENT

Charter and sightseeing vehicles require a commercial license plate issued by the Illinois Secretary of State.

OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CHARTER AND SIGHTSEEING VEHICLES

- Soliciting passengers for sightseeing tours or charter trips on the public way is not allowed, except at specific City of Chicago designated/permitted areas.
- Parking or staging the vehicle is not permitted unless in a City of Chicago designated marked area.



- Trips must have a written safety plan of operation to safeguard passengers, the driver and the public – the plan must be presented to authorized personnel upon request.
- Specifically for trips which prohibit drinking alcoholic beverages on the bus AND have a scheduled itinerary of stops: personnel trained in security protocols to ensure safety of passengers, the driver, and the public (who may be the driver) must be present on the bus during the trip.
- Specifically for trips allowing drinking of alcoholic beverages on the bus (including BYOB) OR without a scheduled itinerary of stops: a licensed security guard must be on the bus during the trip, in addition to the driver.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Minimum insurance coverage for vehicles with a capacity of more than 10 = \$1,000,000 combined single limit coverage per occurrence. For vehicles with a capacity of up to 10 = \$350,000 combined single limit coverage per occurrence. Worker's compensation insurance must be in compliance with state laws. Insurance policy must list the City of Chicago as an additional insured.

LICENSING AND REGULATORY INFORMATION

- Refer to Municipal Code of Chicago Chapter 9-114 for charter/sightseeing vehicles.
- Information and documents available at [Chicago.gov/PublicVehicles](https://www.chicago.gov/PublicVehicles).



A pedicab is a pedal-powered public passenger device used to provide transportation for hire upon which a person may ride, propelled by human power, and is built to allow for the carrying of one or more passengers. Chicago pedicabs must be operated by licensed Chicago pedicab chauffeurs.

PEDICAB LICENSE FEES & TAXES

- Pedicab License Fee: \$250/1-year term per vehicle
- License Term: April 1 - March 31
- Ground Transportation Tax: \$1.00/ per taxable day
- Pedicab Chauffeur License: \$40/2-year term

VEHICLE SPECIFICATIONS

- A separate license is required for each pedicab vehicle.
- Pedicabs must have a headlight, taillights, brake lights, rim reflectors, and seatbelt(s).
- Pedicab vehicle must always display pedicab license plate and licensing decal.
- Prior to displaying advertising, required advertising permits must be secured at \$25 annual fee per vehicle.

OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PEDICAB VEHICLES

- Pedicab chauffeur must always wear and display pedicab chauffeur license.
- Fare schedules must be visibly posted on pedicabs.
- Proof of mandated insurance coverage must be kept in the pedicab.
- Paid advertising permits must be secured to display advertising on pedicab vehicles.
- Pedicabs may not operate on sidewalks.
- Pedicabs may not operate in the Loop during weekday rush hours (between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. and between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.).
- Pedicabs may not operate on Michigan Ave. and State St. from Congress Pkwy. to Oak St.
- Pedicabs must comply with operating restrictions listed in Chapter 9-48 "TYPES OF VEHICLES – REGULATIONS" of the Municipal Code of Chicago (amlegal.com)
- Drinking alcoholic liquor while operating or being transported by a pedicab is prohibited.
- Pedicab may not impede or block the normal movement of pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
- PEDICAB MUSIC/NOISE/SOUND RESTRICTIONS:
 - From 10pm to 8am: a pedicab may NOT amplify music, noise, or sound
 - From 8am to 10pm: a pedicab may ONLY amplify music, noise, or sound when transporting passenger

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Minimum coverage for each pedicab: \$300,000 per occurrence for bodily injury, personal injury and property damage. In addition, worker's compensation coverage must be provided as required by state law.

LICENSING AND REGULATORY INFORMATION

- Refer to Municipal Code of Chicago Chapters 9-110 and 9-48 for pedicab vehicles and chauffeurs.
- Information and documents available at Chicago.gov/PublicVehicles.



Ambulances



An ambulance license is required for any specially designed and equipped motor vehicle operated for the purpose of transporting and offering life support services to patients. A separate license is required for each private ambulance operated or maintained within the City of Chicago. Two state-licensed EMTs must be onboard an ambulance during operation.

AMBULANCE VEHICLE LICENSE FEES & TAXES

- Ambulance Vehicle License: \$600/1-year term per vehicle
- License Term: November 1 - October 31

VEHICLE SPECIFICATIONS

- An ambulance licensee may not operate an ambulance vehicle beyond eight years as an emergency use ambulance, and ten years as a non-emergency use ambulance.
- A vehicle may not be placed into operation for the first time if it has an odometer reading of 75,000 miles or greater, or the vehicle is three years or older.
- An ambulance's sirens must comply with all federal, state, and city laws.

LICENSE PLATE REQUIREMENT

The Illinois Secretary of State issued license plates specific for Ambulances.

OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR AMBULANCES

- Ambulance licensees shall keep licensed ambulance vehicles in a safe and clean condition at all times, including smoke-free.
- Ambulances may only transport one patient at a time.
- Ambulance licensees may operate ambulance vehicles in the following instances:
 - in response to a call from an individual in either an emergency or non-emergency situation;
 - in instances where a public ambulance has responded to a call, but no true emergency exists;
 - when a patient refuses the services of a public ambulance;
 - for inter-hospital transportation; or
 - for stand-by services at special events.

LICENSING AND REGULATORY INFORMATION

- Refer to Municipal Code of Chicago Chapter 4-68 for ambulances.
- Information and documents available at [Chicago.gov/PublicVehicles](https://www.chicago.gov/PublicVehicles).

Medical Carrier



A medical carrier (medicar) license is required for vehicles designed and equipped for non-emergency transportation and used for the purposes of obtaining medical services or persons with disabilities for any purpose. A medicar may also be used to transport ill, injured or disabled individuals for purposes other than medical care or treatment. A Chicago medicar must be driven by licensed Chicago Restricted Public Chauffeur or active Commercial Driver's License (CDL) holder.

MEDICAL CARRIER VEHICLE LICENSE FEES & TAXES

- Medical Carrier Vehicle License: \$500/1-year term per vehicle
- License Term: July 1 to June 30
- Ground Transportation Tax: \$3.50 per taxable day (vehicle capacity 10 or less)

VEHICLE SPECIFICATIONS

- Vehicles of any size licensed by the State of Illinois as medical carriers pursuant to the Illinois Vehicle Code.
- Vehicles with following titles are not eligible: "salvage," "rebuilt," "junk," or "total loss."

LICENSE PLATE REQUIREMENT

The Illinois Secretary of State issues license plates with "MC" or "PT" letters.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

For each vehicle with a capacity of up to and including 9 seats, \$350,000 combined single limit coverage per occurrence. Worker's compensation insurance must be in compliance with State laws. Every insurance policy or contract for insurance must name the City of Chicago as an additional insured.

LICENSING AND REGULATORY INFORMATION

- Refer to Municipal Code of Chicago Chapter 9-114 for medicar vehicles.
- Information and documents available at [Chicago.gov/PublicVehicles](https://www.chicago.gov/PublicVehicles).



BACP Public Vehicle Division, 2350 W. Ogden Ave.
Chicago.gov/PublicVehicles



Low-Speed EV PPV

A "low-speed electric public passenger vehicle" is a three-wheeled or four-wheeled vehicle that is exclusively powered by an electric motor with a maximum speed of 30 miles per hour and is used to transport passengers for hire. A Chicago low-speed EV PPV must be driven by licensed Chicago Restricted Public Chauffeur.

LICENSE FEES & TAXES

- Low-speed electric PPV License: \$500/1-year term per vehicle
- License Term: July 1 to June 30
- Ground Transportation Tax: \$3.50/ per taxable day
- Public Chauffeur License for the Driver: \$40/2-year term

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum auto-liability insurance coverage of \$350,000.00 combined single limit coverage per occurrence.
- Worker's compensation insurance must be in compliance with State laws.
- Insurance policy must list the City of Chicago as an additional insured.

VEHICLE SPECIFICATIONS

- Vehicle must have a manufacturer's rated seating capacity of ten or less , including the driver.
- Vehicle must meet applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards for vehicles of its size, type and proposed use.
- Vehicles with following titles are not eligible: "salvage," "rebuilt," "junk," or "total loss."
- Public vehicle advertising permits must be secured before displaying advertising on or in vehicle.

OPERATING REQUIREMENTS

- Low-speed electric PPV transportation must be pre-arranged. Solicitation and street-hail passenger pick-ups are prohibited.
- Operator may not offer food or beverages for consumption in the vehicle during trip.
- Low-speed electric PPV may not operate during Monday through Friday rush hour (7am-9am and 4-6pm) in area bounded in the north and west by Chicago River, on the east by Lake Michigan, and on the south by Ida B. Wells Drive.
- Low-speed electric PPV may not operate on Michigan Avenue and State Street from Ida B. Wells Drive to Oak Street.
- Low-speed electric PPV may not operate on City streets with posted speed limit of over 30 miles per hour.

LICENSING AND REGULATORY INFORMATION

- Refer to Municipal Code of Chicago Chapters 9-114 and 9-48 for low-speed electric vehicles.
- Information and documents available at [Chicago.gov/PublicVehicles](https://www.chicago.gov/PublicVehicles).



Jitneys are public vehicles that may operate unscheduled service along prescribed routes or within specified local neighborhoods throughout the City but may not pick up passengers in the central business district, as described by rule and regulation, nor shall they pick up passengers at O'Hare International Airport, Midway International Airport, Navy Pier, McCormick Place, or any other area frequented by taxicabs licensed under MCC 9-112.

JITNEY VEHICLE LICENSE FEES & TAXES

- Jitney Vehicle License: \$250/1-year term per vehicle
- License Term: July 1 to June 30
- Ground Transportation Tax: \$3.50/ per taxable day
- Public Chauffeur License for the Driver: \$40/2-year term

VEHICLE SPECIFICATIONS

- Vehicles having a manufacturer's rated seating capacity of nine or more persons, including the driver, may not be licensed as jitneys.
- No vehicle shall be licensed as a jitney vehicle unless it has two doors and meets applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards for vehicles of its size, type and proposed use.
- Vehicles with following titles are not eligible: "salvage," "rebuilt," "junk," or "total loss."

OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR JITNEY VEHICLES

- Jitneys may provide service only at a flat rate prominently published within the vehicle.
- Jitneys may not refuse service to the residents within the neighborhoods in which they operate.
- Jitney vehicles must prominently display a "jitney" sign in the front windshield at all times.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Minimum Insurance coverage with \$100,000 combined single limit coverage per occurrence per vehicle. Worker's compensation insurance must be in compliance with state laws. Insurance policy contract must list the City of Chicago as an additional insured.

LICENSING AND REGULATORY INFORMATION

- Refer to Municipal Code of Chicago Chapter 9-114 for jitney vehicles.
- Information and documents available at [Chicago.gov/PublicVehicles](https://www.chicago.gov/PublicVehicles).





Consumer Protection

- Compliments or complaints regarding any public passenger vehicle may be reported to 311 or [Chicago.gov/311](https://chicago.gov/311)
- Criminal activity should be reported to 911
- Questions or comments on any of the public passenger vehicle licensing and regulations, send an email to BACPPV@cityofchicago.org.

RIDE SMART CHICAGO

- The City of Chicago's Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection ensures Chicago's public vehicles are safe, reliable and provide residents and visitors a positive transportation experience.
- Visit the Ride Smart Chicago at [Chicago.gov/RideSmart](https://chicago.gov/RideSmart) to arm yourself with important information related to riding in a ride-hail, taxicab, livery, charter bus, tour boat or pedicab vehicle.
- Learn tips on how to spot licensed public passenger vehicles and what you should expect as a passenger.
- Taxicab fare rates, including applicable airport taxes, are posted.

CONNECT WITH WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE TAXICABS

Request a wheelchair accessible taxicab (WAV) ride by calling 1-888-WAV-CABS (1-888- 928-2227) or by downloading the CURB app. Passengers will also be able to make in-app electronic payments for their rides via the CURB app. For more information, including steps on how to download the CURB app, visit gocurb.com/ChicagoWAV.

Get in Touch With Us

City of Chicago

Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection

Public Vehicle Licensing & Operations Division
2350 West Ogden Avenue, First Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60608
Phone: 312.746.4200
E-Mail: BACPPV@cityofchicago.org
Hours: 8:30AM - 4:30PM

Chicago.gov/BACP

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