Niagara Transit

Corporate Policy

NTCPOL-O-OP-004

Policy Category:	Name of Policy:
Transit Operations	Bicycle Rack Policy

Policy Owner	Manager, Transit Operations, North
Approval Body	NTC Board
Approval Date	November 18, 2025
Effective Date	November 18. 2025
Review by Date	November 18, 2030

1. Policy

This policy outlines how bicycles may be transported on Niagara Transit vehicles.

2. Purpose Statement

Niagara Transit is committed to providing safe, reliable, and accessible transportation. To ensure the safety of all riders and operators, bicycles are only permitted on vehicles equipped with bike racks. Adherence to this policy will assist in the safe transport of passenger bicycles.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all passengers using bicycle racks located on the front of Niagara Transit buses.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

The primary responsibility in administering and reviewing this policy is the Manager, Transit Operations or their designate.

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NTCPOL-O-OP-004

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5. Procedure

5.1. Bike Rack Availability

5.1.1. All conventional scheduled service buses are equipped with front-mounted bike racks.

5.1.2. At this time not all Specialty transit vehicles are equipped to carry bicycles, therefore bike transport cannot be guaranteed.

5.1.3. Each bike rack can hold up to two (2) bicycles, available on a first-come, first-served basis.

5.2. Permitted Bicycle Types

5.2.1. Standard, two-wheeled bicycles are allowed.

5.2.2. Power-assisted (e-bike) bicycles may use the racks only if they meet the following requirements:

5.2.2.1. Tire size: Minimum 16 inches; maximum 29 inches (700c)

5.2.2.2. Weight: Maximum of 55 lbs. (25 kg)

5.2.2.3. Power source: Must be electric or battery powered. Gasoline or combustible-powered bikes are not permitted.

Note: E-bike batteries must be removed and carried onboard separately.

5.3. Loading and Unloading

5.3.1. Customers are responsible for loading and unloading their bicycles. Operators cannot assist.

5.3.2. Both wheels must fit securely in the designated slots.

5.3.3. The support arm or hook must rest firmly over the front wheel; at a minimum at least 90 degrees or more is required to secure the bike.

5.3.4. All loose items (e.g., water bottles, bags, or carriers) must be removed before loading the bike. All items must be lower than the handlebars.

5.4. Not Permitted

5.4.1. Bicycles are not permitted inside any Niagara Transit vehicles, however under certain circumstances bicycles may be permitted if capacity allows, such as severe weather and time of day.

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NTCPOL-O-OP-004

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Note: Priority boarding will be placed on person(s) over bicycles.

5.4.2. The following are not allowed on the bike racks:

5.4.2.1. Tricycles

5.4.2.2. Bikes with trailers or child seats

5.4.2.3. Motorized bikes with gasoline or other combustible fuel

Note: Foldable bicycles are permitted onboard when fully folded and do not require use of the bike rack.

5.5. Accessibility and Cost

5.5.1. All scheduled buses with bike racks are fully accessible.

5.5.2. There is no additional cost to transport a bicycle when a fare has been paid.

5.6. Quick Tips for Using Bike Rack

5.6.1. Ensure bus has come to a complete stop before loading your bicycle onto the bike rack.

5.6.2. Have your bike ready to load before the bus arrives.

5.6.3. Remove all accessories and loose items - including panniers and water bottles. Child carriers are not allowed, due to operator's view being obstructed.

5.6.4. Inform the driver before stepping in front of the bus to use the bike rack.

5.6.5. After unloading, let the driver know you are clear and at a safe distance before the bus departs.

5.6.6. Return bike rack to the upright position.

6. References and Related Documents

6.1. Legislation, By-Laws and/or Directives

Bill NTC 2022-02 A By-law Regulating the Use of the Niagara Transit System

7. Related Policies

8. Document Control

The electronic version of this document is recognized as the only valid version.

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Approval History

Approver(s)	Approved Date	Effective Date

Revision History

Revision No.	Date	Summary of Change(s)	Changed by