

# Serving Sibley, McLeod, and Wright Counties

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## **System Overview**

## What is Trailblazer Transit?

Trailblazer is a general public transportation system consisting of a bus system and a volunteer driver program. Professional drivers employed by the *Trailblazer Joint Powers Board* utilize elevator-equipped buses to provide Dial-A-Ride service throughout Sibley, McLeod, and Wright Counties. Volunteer drivers use their own personal vehicles to provide transportation to support the buses when schedules are full or to help people with some transportation requests that cannot be accommodated by a bus.

## Who Can Use Trailblazer Transit and for What Purpose?

Trailblazer provides general public transportation, which means that almost <u>anyone</u> can use the service for almost <u>any reason</u>. There are no qualifications or requirements to use the transit system. Children, youth, adults, and seniors can all access the buses or volunteer drivers. Some common destinations include medical facilities, restaurants, banks, drug and grocery stores, beauty salons, barbers, and government offices. People also use Trailblazer to get to work, school, day care, recreational activities, and social events. If you need to get around for just about any reason, Trailblazer can get you there.

### When Does Trailblazer Operate?

The buses and volunteer drivers operate Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

#### How Do You Get a Ride?

Customers should call the Trailblazer office and talk to a dispatcher to schedule their rides. The toll-free number is 1-888-743-3828, and the local number is (320) 864-1000. A dispatcher will ask the customer or caretaker a series of questions to facilitate the scheduling process. Bus rides may be scheduled up to one week in advance, and volunteer drivers may be scheduled up to one month in advance. Same-day bus ride requests may be accommodated, but it is best to call at least 24 hours in advance or as early as possible. It is recommended that volunteer driver rides be scheduled at least one week in advance, or five business days. Standing orders for bus rides may be scheduled up to two weeks in advance.

#### How Much Does It Cost and How Do You Pay?

The bus fares listed below are for a one-way ride for one individual. Please see the *Fare Structure Handout* for a more detailed explanation and a list of special promotions. Bus fares may be paid when boarding the bus with cash, checks, or tokens, or the bus fares may be billed.

\$4.00 = Rides less than 25 miles.

\$8.00 = Rides 25 miles or more.

\$2.00 = DISCOUNT RATE for rides beginning and ending entirely within the same city limits.

The charge for a volunteer driver is based on round-trip mileage from the driver's home or starting point. The cost is 56.0 cents per mile plus parking expenses and meal reimbursements, which may not exceed \$10.00 per meal for every four hours the driver volunteers.

For more information, please call 1-888-743-3828 or see our website at www.TrailblazerTransit.com.