

## What is MARS?

MARS, or **M**adison **A**ssisted **R**ide **S**ystem, is a public transportation system funded entirely by the City of Madison and run with the help of the Huntsville public transit call center. The MARS system is meant to be used by individuals who live in Madison's city limits and are eligible for paratransit services under ADA guidelines.



### Madison Assisted Ride System

Dublin Park  
Recreation Center  
8324 Old Madison Pike  
Madison, AL 35758

Phone: 256-772-9300

Fax: 256-772-9377

E-mail:

[elise.kirkland@madisonal.gov](mailto:elise.kirkland@madisonal.gov)

## Madison Assisted Ride System



For tickets, call Dublin Park  
256-772-9300

For scheduling, call  
256-427-6857

# Am I Eligible to Ride?

According to the ADA, a disabled individual is one who has a “physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such individual”. To be eligible to use the MARS service, an individual must have an impairment that clearly prevents or limits his or her ability to operate a motor vehicle. Before subscribing to MARS, each rider will be required to fill out a form detailing his or her impairment, as well as an authorization to release medical information. Forms can be obtained online at [www.madisonal.gov](http://www.madisonal.gov) and at Dublin Park Recreation Center, 8324 Old Madison Pike, Madison, AL 35758. Completed forms may be faxed to (256) 772-9377, dropped off in person, or mailed to Dublin Park Recreation Center.

# So How Does it Work?

## Purchasing a Ticket

Tickets may be purchased at Dublin Recreation Center in person Monday through Friday between the hours of 7am and 5pm, or by mail. If you plan on purchasing tickets by mail, please include a stamped self-addressed envelope with cash or a check. Credit cards will be accepted when tickets are purchased in person. Tickets cost \$2.00 for each one-way trip the rider wishes to schedule. Multiple trips require multiple tickets. One escort per rider is allowed on the van at no additional cost. Drivers **do not** sell tickets or carry cash, so tickets must be purchased in advance.

## Scheduling a Trip

Once tickets have been purchased, a trip can be scheduled by calling 256-427-6857. The MARS van will run Monday through Friday, between the hours of 7am and 5pm. There is only one full-time and one part-time MARS van, so scheduling will occur on a first-come first-serve basis. Trips may be scheduled up to 30 days in advance or by 2pm the day before. When making an appointment, be sure to clarify to the dispatcher if and when a return trip will be required.

# Riding on MARS

Please be prepared for the arrival of the MARS van at least 10 minutes before and 10 minutes after the scheduled departure time. MARS provides door-to-door assistance. MARS drivers are not allowed to enter private homes beyond the doorway or carry packages or bags for MARS customers. When preparing to board the van, please have your ticket ready to give to the driver. The MARS vans are equipped with a lift, two wheelchair tie-downs, and bench seating.

The MARS program was created to better serve the people of Madison. Please feel free to let us know of any questions or concerns you may have.



**\* Please note that trips into Huntsville may be scheduled only for essential services that cannot be found within Madison's City limits. This would include doctor's visits and job transportation.**