



Pittsburgh Regional Transit

PRT Announces Partnership with Visual Interpreting Service

Aira is free for blind and low-vision riders

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (November 14, 2024) — Pittsburgh Regional Transit has launched a partnership with visual interpreting service Aira to enhance accessibility for blind and low-vision transit users, the agency announced today in honor of World Usability Day.

Through this collaboration, PRT riders can now access the Aira app for free, connecting them with professional visual interpreters who provide essential real-time support. With Aira’s assistance, riders can navigate their transit journeys with greater independence and efficiency, empowered by a service that makes moving through Allegheny County easier and more accessible.

The Aira app, available for free download in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store, allows transit users to connect with a visual interpreter who can securely access their smartphone’s camera to provide valuable visual information. Interpreters can assist with a vast range of transit-related tasks, like identifying bus stops, reading aloud signage, or confirming other details to facilitate a seamless travel experience. This service, now available across PRT’s system, strengthens the agency’s commitment to accessibility and inclusivity in public transportation.

“Pittsburgh Regional Transit is committed to building a transit system that meets the needs of all our riders, and Aira’s support is a crucial part of making this vision a reality,” said Katharine Kelleman, CEO of PRT. “Providing free access to on-demand visual interpreters enables our blind and low-vision riders to travel with greater autonomy and dignity.”

“Lack of access to information can create barriers to smooth travel for the blind and low-vision community,” said Everette Bacon, Chief of Blindness Initiatives at Aira. “We’re thrilled to be partnering with Pittsburgh Regional Transit to help contribute to more inclusive and accessible experiences and support efficient interactions across the entire transportation system—all on the rider’s own terms.”

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