

Capital Metro's has implemented a Tobacco-Free Facilities policy that includes all transit facilities owned by Capital Metro, as well as every one of its 2,700 bus stops.

What is the tobacco-free policy?

The Tobacco Free Facilities policy creates tobacco-free zones near the passenger loading areas and other common areas of Capital Metro transit centers, train stations, and park & rides. (Read the policy at [http://www.capmetro.org/docs/Tobacco Free Facilities Policy.pdf](http://www.capmetro.org/docs/Tobacco_Free_Facilities_Policy.pdf).) The following facilities are affected by this policy:

- Crestview Station
- Downtown Station
- Highland Station
- Howard Station and Park & Ride
- Kramer Station
- Lakeline Station and Park & Ride
- Leander Station and Park & Ride
- Manor Park & Ride
- MLK Jr. Station
- North Lamar Transit Center
- Pavilion Park & Ride
- Plaza Saltillo Station
- South Congress Transit Center
- Tech Ridge Park & Ride

The policy also discourages tobacco use within 15 feet of a Capital Metro bus stop. Kindly step away from the bus stop before using tobacco products.

What is meant by “tobacco”? Is it just cigarettes?

The tobacco-free policies through Capital Metro include all tobacco products, not just cigarettes. Tobacco products include cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, electronic cigarettes and pipe tobacco.

Where can I use tobacco?

Individuals can only use tobacco products outside of the designated tobacco-free zones at the transit centers, park & rides and train stations. Look for signage that designates the tobacco-free area. At bus stops, please do not use tobacco products within 15 feet of the bus stop. When in doubt, put it out!

Why is Capital Metro taking away my right to use tobacco products?

Capital Metro is not requiring that you quit using tobacco. You may continue with your choice to use tobacco products, but not in the designated tobacco-free zones. Likewise, we encourage riders to kindly step away from the bus stop 15 feet before using tobacco products.

Why did Capital Metro make these policies?

Capital Metro enacted tobacco-free policies at its facilities because it believes that ensuring a healthy work and traveling environment is key to providing quality, state-of-the-art transit services.

There is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke. We want to provide a healthier environment for everyone waiting for a bus at one of Capital Metro's bus stops.

What support is available to help those who want to quit using tobacco?

Capital Metro will protect employees and our riders from unsafe tobacco exposure.

In addition, *FREE* community cessation resources such as individual counseling or group cessation classes and nicotine replacement therapies are available to the public through a new Tobacco Cessation Resource Center offered by the Seton Family of Hospitals, and through the American Cancer Society's Quitline at 1-877-Yes-Quit.

Why is this a priority for Capital Metro now?

Capital Metro enacted tobacco-free policies because we believe that ensuring a healthy work and traveling environment is key to providing quality, state-of-the-art transit services.

Capital Metro is partnering with Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services through Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW), a federally funded grant focused on reducing the burden of chronic disease. This federal funding will help to support Capital Metro's tobacco-free policies and will assist with resources to help its employees and riders quit using tobacco. Learn more about CPPW at www.cdc.gov/CommunitiesPuttingPreventiontoWork

How will these tobacco-free policies be enforced?

The tobacco-free facilities policy is not designed as a punitive policy but one that we hope will promote a cleaner, healthier environment at our transit facilities. Self-enforcement is expected, and may take time to become the norm.

At train stations, park & rides and transit centers, transit field supervisors will be prepared to ask those violating the policy to leave the tobacco free area or to stop using tobacco products at locations where there are repeat violations or whenever they observe someone violating the policy.

Any ongoing or repeated violations by an individual or group will be addressed just as any other violation of Capital Metro rules would be, to include the possibility of the issuance of a Criminal Trespass Warning for repeat offenders. For Capital Metro employees, violations will be enforced similar to violation of any other established Capital Metro personnel policy and procedure.

As most Capital Metro bus stops are in the city's right of way (and therefore require a city ordinance to prohibit smoking), Capital Metro cannot actively enforce the tobacco free policy at bus stops. Capital Metro staff will continue outreach to make customers aware of the policy, and signage will remind riders to step away from the bus stop 15 feet before using tobacco products. We expect that signage and education will effectively ensure that most customers comply with the policy.

Why are you enacting a policy at bus stops that you cannot enforce?

The tobacco free facilities policy is not designed as a punitive policy but one that we hope will promote cleaner, healthier air at our transit facilities. Self-enforcement is expected, and may take time to become the norm.

Capital Metro is committed to promoting a healthy and safe environment for everyone waiting for a bus at a bus stop, and therefore is proactively discouraging tobacco use at bus stops. Out of courtesy to other riders, we are kindly asking that you do not use tobacco within 15 feet of the bus stop.