



Youth Transit Education Facilitation Guide



Beginner: Recommended for K-3rd Grade, Ages ~5-8

Secret Agent Uma is an introduction to public transit for kindergarten to 3rd grade-aged youth. The videos in this section will overview the various behaviors, signs, safety, and basic skills when riding public transit. In the handouts, students can learn the etiquette and behaviors to incorporate into their transit journey.

Learning Objectives and Teacher Tips

- Encourage students to look for clues that help them stay safe, respectful, and travel successfully on transit.
- Connect transit behaviors to classroom expectations.
- Facilitate student confidence by helping them identify trusted helpers and resources available on transit.
- Notice signs that tell riders what to do and not to do.

Materials Needed

- [Secret Agent Uma videos](#)
- [Match Signs and Symbols handout](#)
- [Spot the Safety Behavior handout](#)

Discussion Tips

- Pause videos to discuss important clues and observations to connect them to the learning objectives.

Video: The Case of the Secret Signs — Signs give us important clues to stay safe and communicate information quickly.

Common Transit Signs — Identify the signs found on transit and understand their importance for riding transit safely.

Ask:

- What signs tell riders what to do or not to do?
- What signs have you seen before?

Video: The Case of the Clever Commuter — Respectful behavior contributes to a safe and comfortable ride for everyone.

Unwritten Rules — Review what rules and behaviors for being a clever commuter are not written on signs.

Ask:

- How do we know what to do when there isn't a sign?
- Which behaviors help other riders? List these behaviors.

Video: The Case of the Mighty Movers — Building confidence to find help and understand resources available on transit.

Smart Choice — Identify trusted adults who can help riders while riding transit.

Ask:

- Who can help if you lose something?
- Why is it important to ask for help?

Other Discussion Questions

- What are signs?
- Where have you seen signs?
- How do signs help people make safe choices?
- What does being respectful look like on a bus or train?
- What types of public transit have you seen so far?
- What are some things we should do when we ride the bus or the train?

Intermediate: Recommended for 4th–7th Grade, Ages ~9–13

The Savvy Jack video series introduces students in grades 4–7 (or equivalent ages) to public transit skills, including trip planning, safety, and navigating the UTA system. Through the different examples of Savvy and Unsavvy Jack characters, students learn the difference between prepared and unprepared rider behaviors.

Learning Objectives and Teacher Tips

- Connect transit skills to broader life skills such as planning, independence, and time management.
- Encourage students to think through real-world scenarios.
- Guide students through problem-solving skills.
- Identify transit rider resources

Materials Needed

- [Savvy Jack video series](#)
- Fortune Teller printables:
 - [Different Ways to Ride](#)
 - [Rider Etiquette](#)
 - [Safety](#)
- [How to Ride accordion brochure](#)
- [Route maps or transit system maps \(online\)](#)
- Smartphone or tablet for Transit app demonstration (optional)

Discussion Tips

- Pause videos to discuss important skills and lessons to connect them to the learning objectives.

Part 1: Rider Resources — Discuss the tools used to navigate the system, including maps, schedules, station signage, customer service resources, and trip planning apps.

- What information would you want to gather before using transit to a new destination?

Part 2: Compare Savvy and Unsavvy Jack behaviors — Identify examples of prepared and unprepared rider behavior (compare and contrast).

- What are the different behaviors that Savvy and Unsavvy Jack have when riding transit?

Part 3: Missed the ride — Review what riders should do if they miss a train or bus.

- Practice trip planning with students by providing a destination to find the best route using transit.
- What can you do when you miss the bus or train?

Part 4: Transit service modes — Discuss the difference between each mode as it relates to their features, capacity, and route.

- When might one service mode be a better option than another? (e.g. bus rather than TRAX)

Other Discussion Questions

- How do these concepts relate to your personal experience using UTA?
- How can you use public transit more independently or with family using these resources?
- Why is trip planning important?

Advanced: Recommended for 8th–12th Grade, Ages ~14–18

Found Friends is an introduction to transit accessibility features and connectivity in community for 8th–12th grades. The video series helps engage students in the various benefits that public transportation provides such as independence, shared space, and career opportunities.

Learning Objectives and Teacher Tips

- Understand how public transportation connects people to opportunities and resources
- Encourage students to recognize accessibility features that support diverse rider needs.
- Guide students using real-time resources and rider information tools to build confidence.
- Explore career pathways within public transit.

Materials Needed

- [Found Friends video series](#)
- [Paying Fares Online resources printable](#)
- [UTA Careers and Opportunities printable](#)
- [Transit maps and schedules \(optional\)](#)

Discussion Tips

- Encourage students to connect concepts to their own experiences and communities.
- Pause periodically for reflection and discussion.
- Ask students about their own transit experience and accessibility.
- Explore tools and resources with students.

Part 1: New Connections — Community connections through public transportation and using technology to navigate the bus system.

- Have you used any technology to improve your transit experience?
- How can public transportation connect people to employment, services, and friends?

Optional Supplemental Activity:

Have students test out using the UTA Ride Time text message service to strengthen their skills and knowledge on the resource. The Ride Time SMS text message service gives riders real-time bus departure information for more than 6500 bus stops throughout the service area.

Instruct students to text the Stop ID (198488) using their cellphone to UTA-UTA (882-882). Students should receive a reply with the next three bus stop departure times from that location. Teachers can use a different bus stop ID that might be more relatable to your students. For more information about UTA Ride Time, please visit rideuta.com/ridetime.

Part 2: Choosing Transit — Multiple transportation options create efficient travel networks.

- Why does accessibility on public transit matter?
- How might someone combine biking and transit during one trip?

Optional Supplemental Activity:

Lead students through a demonstration on planning a multimodal trip that incorporates walking, biking or scooters, and using transit. Select a desirable destination that would be appealing to your students and incorporate alternative ways for them to ride a bike and/or scooter for this trip. Use the Transit app to see the various transit options such as riding the bus, TRAX, or FrontRunner. For more trip planning information, please visit rideuta.com/Rider-Tools

- An example scenario for students: You ride your bike to Westminster University in Sugar House for a college tour, but you have plans to meet friends at Utah State Fairpark for a festival afterwards. You decide to take bus route 17 and use the bike rack to secure your bike. Then you take the TRAX Green Line to get off at Fairpark Station and ride your bike to the fairgrounds from the station.

Part 3: Building Opportunities — Accessible transportation systems support diverse rider needs, promote independence, and provide career opportunities.

- How do accessibility features create independence for riders?
- Why is it important for transportation to be designed for everyone?

Advanced: Recommended for 8th-12th Grade, Ages ~14-18 (cont)

Optional Supplemental Activity:

To reinforce the career exploration concepts introduced in the video, encourage students to research transportation jobs or careers online to understand job responsibilities, education requirements, and skills. To help students get started, direct them to UTA's career opportunities page at careers.rideuta.com where they can find various career paths in public transit.

Other Discussion Questions

- What does "multimodal transportation" mean?
- What careers support public transportation systems?
- What tools do you use to find directions?
- How would you ride transit more responsibly?