

Somerset County Public Transportation Guide

Written from the perspective of a Somerville resident

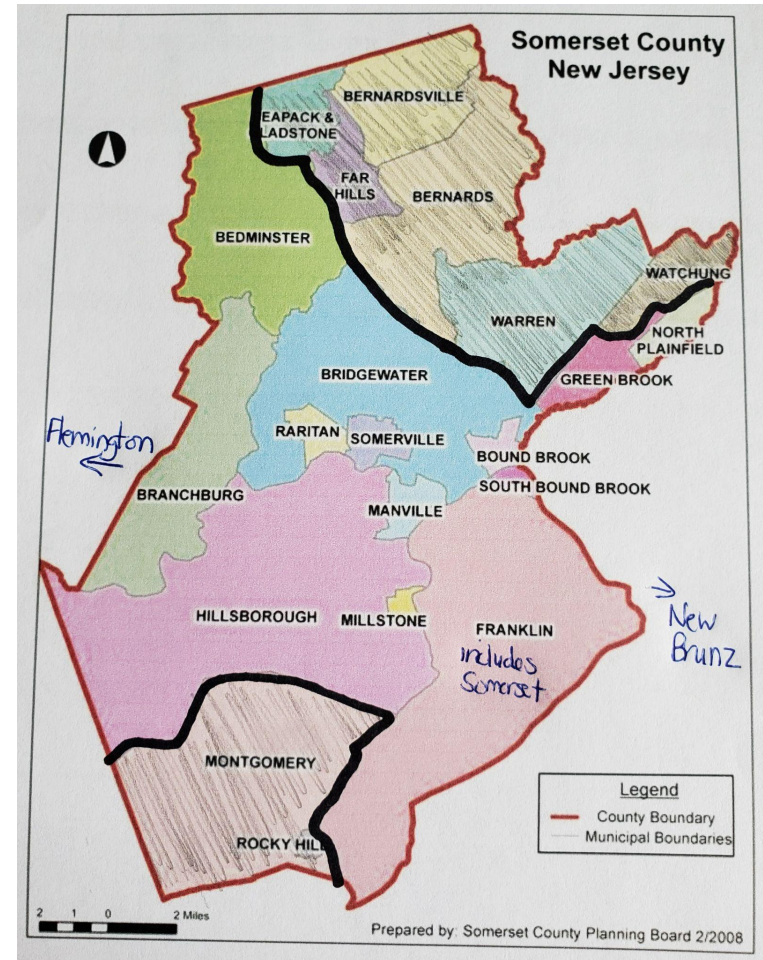
Updated 1 Feb 2023

1. **Somerset County public transportation overview**
2. **Curb-to-curb transportation options**
Somerset County Paratransit vs. NJ Transit Access Link
3. **Step-by-step guide for planning a round trip**
Outgoing trip vs. Return trip
4. **Tips for riding public buses**
Somerset County vs. NJ Transit

Created by Raegan M. Hoeft, PhD, CHFP (ret), a Somerset County disabled resident
Please send comments or questions to: raeganhoeft@gmail.com

Somerset County Public Transportation

- **Runs Monday-Friday daytime** with scheduled breaks for lunch and at the end of each complete route
- No weekends or evenings (check Holiday list)
- **\$2 per ride** - Drivers do NOT make change;
- Can purchase advance tickets on bus/shuttle
- Buses can be flagged down at any safe location along their routes
- **SCOOT** buses run in opposite direction loops around central Somerset County (R1 = Counter-clockwise; R2 = Clockwise)
- **CAT** buses run West/East to provide service to/from RVCC in Branchburg
- **DASH** buses 851/852 run North/South to provide service between Bound Brook & New Brunswick
- **LINK** buses run West/East to provide service between Somerville & Flemington
- **Paratransit** available for curb-to-curb
- **RideWise** provides travel training instruction



Curb-to-Curb Transportation Options

Somerset County - Paratransit

- Operates to/from any addresses within Somerset County
- Will go 5 MILES OUT of the county for DOCTOR APPTS ONLY
- Operates Mon-Fri ~8:30AM - ~3:30PM
- Reservations made via phone
- Recommend reserving 2 weeks in advance
- Limited resources; priority given to medical appointments
- Can be used for individual or group trips
- Requested donation: \$2 cash (some trips vary per reason and distance)
- Phone: 908.231.7115

NJ Transit - Access Link

- Operates to/from addresses within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of an *eligible* NJ Transit bus or train stop and shadows your fixed/local bus route
- Somerville's fixed/local bus is route 65 which travels West TOWARD Somerville in AM and East FROM Somerville in PM; therefore cannot use for round trip unless staying overnight
- Somerville is the furthest West into Somerset County that Access Link travels for route 65
- Availability in other towns will be based on their fixed/local bus route(s)
- Reservations made online or via phone up to 7 days in advance
- Required cost: varies per origin and destination; cash or EZ Wallet online
- Phone 973.491.4224

Step-by-Step Guide for Planning a Round Trip

Planning Outgoing Trip

1. Googlemaps - enter start and end addresses, select desired **arrival** time, select public transportation to see available route options
2. Choose preferred option (I prefer Somerset County over NJ Transit when possible because of the varied fares on NJ Transit)
3. Always review the schedule for your selected route and verify what time to be waiting for the bus at your stop (I have paper route schedules so that I can carry them with me on the trip for reference). Googlemaps times may not be current!!
4. Flag down your bus, let driver know your destination upon boarding and pay your fare

Planning Return Trip

1. Determine your return time window
2. Googlemaps - reverse start and end addresses, select desired **departure** times within window, select public transportation to see available route options
3. Note the route stop time and location for each possible return option, as this information will be important to navigate to the right location at the right time IN REAL TIME
4. When ready to return, select return option that best fits your current time and refer to paper schedule to verify time and location
5. Navigate to the pick-up location for that return option
Flag down your bus, let driver know your destination upon boarding and pay your fare

Tips for Riding Public Buses

Somerset County

- Print out the paper schedule(s) to bring with you while traveling; do not go by Googlemaps times
- Waiting at a stop on the schedule ensures it is a safe spot for the bus to pick you up
- Somerset County support 908.231.7115 for bus location information
- RideWise support 908.704.1011
- See www.ridewise.org for a transportation guide based on each municipality

NJ Transit

- NJ Transit bus 114 runs 7 days a week from early morning to late evening about once an hour between NY and Bridgewater
- NJ Transit app can be used for real time bus location and to buy tickets IF you know the 5 digit codes or exact names of your start and end stops
- Fares are zone based
- **1 zone:** Standard = \$1.60, Senior/Disabled = \$0.75
- **2 zones:** Standard = \$2.55, Senior/Disabled = \$1.10
- **3 zones:** Standard = \$3.15, Senior/Disabled = \$1.40
- Show reduced fare card if applicable
- Tell driver your destination when boarding to find out your fare; Drivers CAN make change on the 114
- NJ Transit 973.275.5555