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The critical need for
improving seniors
transportation
on the Sunshine Coast

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Coastal Rides

Staying Mobile on the Sunshine Coast with Coastal Rides

Reliable transportation beyond personal vehicles continues to be a challenge on the Sunshine Coast, particularly in more remote areas. For seniors who no longer drive, the lack of affordable and available options can contribute to social isolation and difficulty accessing essential services.

Coastal Rides, a Sechelt-based rideshare service, has emerged as one transportation option for residents without access to a personal vehicle or convenient public transit. Officially established in 2020 and similar in structure to services like Uber or Lyft, Coastal Rides is tailored to smaller communities such as the Sunshine Coast.

“We know that having consistent, reliable transportation on the Coast can be difficult, especially in remote areas,” says Ryan Staley, the founder of Coastal Rides. While Coastal Rides is not geared to any particular demographic, Ryan notes that most of its users are middle aged working adults. . “Right now, about 10 to 15 percent of our riders are seniors, but we expect that number to grow as the population ages.”

Rides can be booked ‘on demand’ or scheduled through an app with a credit card, but to improve accessibility, the company has introduced a telephone booking option for users who may not be comfortable using apps. Coastal rides offers both private ride options as well as shared rides/ ride pools which can reduce the cost per passenger especially if a group is heading to the same location from various starting points. The shared ride option offers a unique advantage over traditional taxi services.

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Rides can be booked:

- Through the app with a credit card
- By phone with the new booking service

Get the app on Google Play or the Apple Store

In addition to passenger transport, grocery delivery services are also available through Coastal Rides, offering added convenience for people with mobility limitations or those living in more isolated areas.

While Coastal Rides does not currently offer wheelchair-accessible vehicles in its own fleet, it partners with another service to help provide subsidized transportation options for wheelchair users. A rider recently shared: “I was able to pre-book a ride, the driver arrived on time, helped with my luggage, and got me safely to my destination.”

As Coastal Rides continues to adapt its offerings, the service remains part of the broader effort to support mobility and independence for Sunshine Coast residents.



Learn more about Coastal Rides

Visit: www.coastalrides.ca
Email: info@coastalrides.ca
Call: 1-855-921-2226

Kaylene Sawicki | Sunshine Coast Resource Centre



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604.885.4088 | help@resourcecentre.ca
www.resourcecentre.ca

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