

Policies regarding Preventative Maintenance and Repairs to Wheelchair Lifts

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The Question: How do you address preventative maintenance and repairs on wheelchair lifts? Will you weld components if cracks are found on major components (assuming the lift is past the warranty period?)

Clallam Transit says...We follow the recommended manufacturers PM schedule as a minimum (techs have received this training via manufacturer of lift). We do our own troubleshooting and repairs on lifts. If a defective component of a lift needed repair, we would lean towards replacing part rather than welding. If the structure that supported the lift was in need of welding repair, we would plan on doing this in house.

Community Transit says...Our Fleet is 95% Low floor and these vehicles are equipped with ramps rather than lifts. For those vehicles that have lifts, we use the manufacturer's maintenance requirements for conducting PM's. If we found areas that would require welding, we would have to determine what broke, whether it was prudent both from a safety and cost perspective and, if we had the ability to properly repair it. We have certified welders on staff to handle these needs.

CUBS says...We follow the manufactures recommendations for preventative maintenance; a section of our pm checklist is for lifts so this is done every bus pm. All lift repairs are done in house. We have done structural repairs (welding) on Ricon lift platforms on the para transit vans. Usually the lift is damaged by being lowered into a stationary object. As to date none of our Lift-u lifts on the Gillig have needed those kinds of repairs.

Everett Transit says...Our policy is not to allow welding of any wheelchair lift component. We feel the liability of doing so exceeds any possible savings. We do required PM's on our wheelchair lifts, based on manufactures recommendations, but we do not do any welding.

Intercity Transit says...Wheelchair lifts and ramps are set up on routine PM schedules just like a vehicle. Manufactures recommended tasks are performed (with our modifications based on experience). If we believe a certified welder can safely repair a component we may have someone weld it. If it is more effective to have the part replaced we may do that as well. You can not make a blanket determination that covers all failures.

Jefferson Transit says...We follow the lift manufacturer's specifications for lift preventative maintenance. If not under warranty, most repairs are done in-house. No, we do not weld cracks.

Kitsap Transit says...Some parts we will weld, some we won't. Most cases, we will replace with a new part from OEM.

Mason Transit says...No, absolutely not due to liability issues. Recommend replacing the parts directly from manufacturer.

Skagit Transit says...Each wheelchair is inspected every 6000 miles or upon a repair is requested. The w/c system is inspected by a mechanic and a work order is filed out along with a PM inspection sheet ([click here](#) to view sheet). We do not weld any components.

Spokane Transit says...We inspect the operating condition of our lifts and platforms every 6000 miles. We have one employee dedicated to servicing this equipment and he sees every vehicle quarterly. He will perform a complete cleaning, lubrication, inspection and adjustments every 90 days. All operating and safety features are also checked at this time. We will also conduct a weight test of 600 lbs on the lift.

Yes we will weld up cracks and make necessary repairs on the major components that are no longer under warranty. We will first attempt to find OEM replacement parts. We will upgrade to using stainless materials if possible due to additional strength and not rusting.

Valley Transit says...WheelChair preventative maintenance is done on a regular schedule as recommended by the manufacturer and modified by us if conditions and experience merit. Any structural welding would be farmed out to a certified welder. In the case of our oldest lifts we ordered new carriage frames, when they started to show corrosion.

Yakima Transit says...We perform all of the preventative maintenance on wheelchair lifts which includes service and repairs ranging from lubrication, filters, adjusting limit switches, replacing hoses, pumps and controls. We have not run into any chair lift component in need of welding but if and when that need arises we will replace the defective part with new.