

# Security Restrictions Change Tour Bus Routes

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WASHINGTON - Tour buses coming to the Capitol complex are no longer able to drop off visitors as close as they used to.

But Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C., says a fleet of golf carts will be brought in to shuttle tourists from their buses to the Capitol building.

"They will have golf carts for people with children, and for people who don't want to climb the hill or who are too elderly or disabled to do so," Norton says.

New security restrictions around Capitol Hill took effect Saturday. They move tour bus routes farther away from the Capitol complex.

The U.S. Capitol Police say the new measures are precautionary and are not based on any known threats.

"Part of it comes from vehicle born improvised explosive devices," said Capitol police spokeswoman Kimberly Schneider. "If we can prevent that from moving the threats farther away from the Capitol then we certainly will."

The new restrictions also affect where tour buses can load and unload passengers, but do not affect Metro buses or sightseeing trolleys.

The new security measures took effect Saturday June 9, and prevent commercial tour buses from accessing the following areas.

- Independence Ave., between Washington Ave., SW and 2nd Street, SE
- Constitution Ave., between Louisiana Ave., NW and 2nd Street, NE
- 1st Street between D Street, NE and D Street, SE
- 1st Street between Maryland Ave., and Independence Ave., SW
- 2nd Street between D Street, NE and D Street, SE

Tourists now may only be picked up or dropped off by your tour bus at the east curb of the following intersections.

- 1st and Maryland Ave., SW (east curb of Garfield Circle)
- 1st St., SW/NW between Pennsylvania and Maryland Avenues
- 1st and Pennsylvania Ave., NW (east curb of Peace Circle)

Tour buses are only allowed to enter the U.S. Capitol grounds at 3rd and Maryland Avenue, SW and 3rd Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Tour buses also may exit the grounds at these places as well as 1st Street and Louisiana Avenue, NW.

Norton says the carts will be used temporarily while security is reexamined.

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