



Press Release

For Immediate Release

Nov. 3, 2020

Tompkins Consolidated
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Help inform TCAT's 2020 Transit Development Plan Online interactive planning tool available

There's still plenty of time for the public to help shape TCAT's Transit Development Plan (TDP) 2020, a once-in-a-decade comprehensive system review aimed at improving and growing service.

Since late October, TCAT planners have been meeting virtually with focus groups geared toward specific ridership categories and hosting the public during virtual office hours and will continue to do so through mid-November. A seven-member team of transit-savvy ambassadors are also available to meet, share and collect information with individuals and neighborhoods throughout Tompkins County.

For those who don't have the time to devote to meetings, there's an easy-to-use an online planning tool at <https://tcat.mysocialpinpoint.com/> available 24-7, which enables users to draw their ideal routes, fill out a brief survey and leave comments.

Remaining focus groups:

- **COLLEGE STUDENTS: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thurs., Nov. 5**
- **SENIORS (60 and older): 10 a.m. to noon Tues., Nov. 10**
- **RURAL RIDERS for Newfield, Trumansburg and Enfield routes 20, 21 & 67: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Tues., Nov. 10**
- **NON-RIDERS: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Thurs., Nov. 12**
- **PERSONS with DISABILITIES: 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Wed., Nov. 11**
- **PLANNERS and DEVELOPERS: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mon., Nov. 16**
- **EMPLOYERS: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Wed., Nov. 18**

To join any of the focus groups listed above please check out the Zoom links at <https://www.tcatbus.com/tdp-2020/public-outreach/> OR email TCAT at tcat@tcatmail.com (write "focus group" in the subject line), and staff will send you a Zoom link to join. Focus groups are designed for lengthier, more in-depth discussions, but TCAT knows schedules are tight and participants should feel comfortable to devote as much time as they wish.

Virtual office hours:

Staff will be on standby for virtual office hours via Zoom for anyone to join, and also for however long participants wish during the two- hour sessions as follows:

- **Thurs., Nov. 5: noon to 2 p.m.**
- **Wed., Nov. 11: 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.**
- **Sat., Nov. 14: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

Again, look for Zoom link for the office hours at: <https://www.tcatbus.com/tdp-2020/public-outreach/> or email us at tcat@tcatmail.com (write "office hours" in the subject line) and staff will send you a Zoom link.

Transit Ambassadors

TCAT has assembled a team of seven knowledgeable Transit Ambassadors to assist with TDP outreach throughout the community by holding meetings, taking suggestions or surveying community members. To contact an ambassador please to: <https://www.tcatbus.com/tdp-2020/transit-ambassadors/> or reach out to Naomi Crimm, Ambassador Lead, at ncrimm@tcatmail.com

TCAT conducted its last TDP in 2009, which resulted in a number of service changes that went into effect January 2010 to include: more streamlined routes; the addition of interlined routes or "one-seat rides;" and

TCAT's first-ever demand-and-response service, the route 41. Adhering to an industry-wide best practice, the majority of U.S. public transit agencies undertake a TDP process generally every 10 years.

A second wave of public meetings will be held in the, which at that time will be for the community to review draft recommendations from TCAT's consultants, Sam Schwartz. See TDP timeline at:

<https://www.tcatbus.com/tdp-2020/>

TCAT, Inc. (Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit, Inc.) is a not-for-profit corporation that provides public transportation for Tompkins County. TCAT's annual ridership is more than 4 million, covering about 1.6 million miles, with a fleet of 58 buses. TCAT also offers complementary ADA Paratransit through a contract with Gadabout Transportation Services, Inc. For more information about TCAT, please visit www.tcatbus.com or call (607) 277-RIDE. Twitter: TCATrides. Facebook: EverythingTCAT. TCAT is a Tompkins County Certified Living Wage and an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Passengers are advised to look for service information and updates at TCAT's [Bus Tracker](#). Learn about and download real-time apps: <https://www.tcatbus.com/apps>

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