

Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit
Transit Development Plan
Route Change Recommendations

What is a Transit Development Plan?

TCAT is studying how it serves the community. The Transit Development Plan (TDP) considers four main areas:

- Simplification and clarification of the fixed route system (bus routes);
- Introduction of alternative transit services (for example, demand-responsive transit or Park-and-Rides);
- Improved use of technology;
- Better use of existing financial, capital, and human resources.

What is the Transit Development Plan timeline?

February 2008: TCAT contracts with Perteet, Inc (a consulting firm), for technical assistance.

Spring & Summer 2008: Extensive field work, including site visits & TCAT operations review, interviews with stakeholders, observations & passenger counts for all trips on all routes, and consultation with a Resource Committee.

Autumn of 2008: Several iterations of the draft recommendations, reviewed internally at TCAT.

February 2009: Present draft recommendations to the Ithaca and Tompkins County community for input. Over 250 people attended one of eight public meetings, and TCAT received nearly 450 written comments on the draft recommendations for review and consideration.

April 2009: Second round of public involvement in the TDP, including thirty day public comment period and eight additional informational meetings highlighting how recommendations have changed as a result of previous public input. TCAT Board of Directors votes on adoption of recommendations as service development guideline.

Late 2009/ Early 2010: Implementation of TDP recommendations.

Will all routes change?

No changes are suggested for Rts. 10, 37, 52, 53, 65, 67, 81, and 83.

I have a comment on the draft recommendations. What do I do?

TCAT is holding a formal, thirty day public comment period from March 23 – April 23. Please consider submitting a written comment on the TDP route recommendations. Send your comments in an email to tcat@tcatmail.com or write to us at 737 Willow Ave, Ithaca, NY. It would be helpful, although not required, if you address your comment to the TCAT Board of Directors and label it as a comment related to the TDP.

What happens at the April 23 TCAT Board of Directors meeting?

On Thursday, April 23, at 4:00 p.m. at the TCAT facility (737 Willow Ave), the TCAT Board of Directors will hold a public hearing in which members of the public may address the Board on the subject of the proposed recommendations. In order to be sure that everyone has a chance to speak, TCAT asks that you limit your address to the Board to no more than THREE (3) minutes.

A shuttle bus service from the Green @ Commons and Seneca @ Commons bus stops to the TCAT Facility will operate from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm to make connections with TCAT buses. In you need sign language translation, please call us at 277-9388 ext 420 before April 16 so we can arrange translation for you.

When does the TCAT Board vote on the recommendations? **Updated**

****UPDATED**** In order to give the Board of Directors sufficient opportunity to review comments received during the public comment period and public hearings, the Board of Directors vote on the proposed recommendations has been moved from April 23 to Thursday, April 30, at 4:00 p.m. at the TCAT facility (737 Willow Ave). The public hearing on Thursday, April 23 is not affected by this change.

All the schedules are labeled “Draft, Approximate”—can I make my transfer/ connection with the new routes?

TCAT finalizes schedules through a process called “run cutting.” In order to do the run cut, we need to know the finalized routes. We will run cut over the summer of 2009, and we’ll have final schedules available well before the service implementation. If you’re concerned about making a particular connection or transfer, let us know—send us a comment labeled “Timing Request.” We can’t accommodate every timing request, but we’ll try to address as many as we can during the run cutting process.

How can I get more information?

TCAT will always have the latest information about the Transit Development Plan at www.tcatbus.com. If you do not have internet access, and you would like TCAT to mail you a packet of information, please call 607-277-9388 x222 and leave a brief message with your full name, postal address, and telephone number.

