

Public Notice

Tompkins County applying for 2024-2025 FTA Formula Grants for Rural Area Program (Section 5311) to provide public transportation service

Public notice is hereby made that Tompkins County is applying for federal financial assistance to provide public transportation services as follows: Fixed-route bus service; ADA paratransit service; Demand-response; First Mile Last Mile to connect bus passengers to and from a bus stop; Rides to Recovery to connect individuals in active recovery with transportation services to social determinants of health; and mobility management programs to help break down transportation barriers in the county. Public notice is further made that Tompkins County will apply for federal financial assistance to purchase 6 buses for TCAT and Gadabout, respectively.

Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit (TCAT) services are available to the general public during all hours of operation. Bus operations are either closed or run on limited service during major holidays. A complete list of routes and schedules is available on TCAT's website at: tcatbus.com/bus-schedules. Gadabout provides complementary paratransit and demand-response services.

These services are expected to be financed by FTA Section 5311 Rural Program public transportation funds, with additional funds from: State Transportation Operating Assistance (STOA), Section 5307 Urbanized Area funds, and other State and local funding sources.

For fiscal years 2024 and 2025, the total federal share for operating and capital projects to be requested in this 5311 application by the County is expected to be \$6,351,065.

Comments on the proposed application are invited from the general public, private bus and taxi companies, other public transportation providers, and human service agencies. Interested parties may comment on the proposal or obtain more details by contacting:

Courtney Horner, Transportation Planner
Tompkins County Department of Planning and Sustainability
121 E Court Street, Ithaca NY 14850
(607) 274-5560 chorner@tompkins-co.org

Human service agencies that receive assistance from other Federal agencies for non-emergency transportation services are encouraged to participate and coordinate with the provider in the planning, design and delivery of transportation services. Agencies may obtain copies of the service description and submit proposals for service coordination. Private bus and taxi operators may request copies of the project service description from the above-named person and may submit comments on the service as described.

If you wish to comment on any aspect of the funding proposal; submit a proposal or a request for service coordination; or to request a public hearing on this proposal, you must make your interest known in writing within fifteen calendar days of the date of this publication and provide your comments within fifteen calendar days of your receipt of the project service description. Your requests and/or comments must be forwarded to the above person.