

Transportation Advisory Committee
Minutes from Friday, November 20, 2009
12:00 PM – 1:15 PM, 163 Day Hall

Present:	<u>Members</u>	<u>Ex-Officio</u>	<u>Guests</u>
	Marisa LaFalce	Judy Eckard	Inda Mahler
	Martin Leung	David Lieb	Ed Strong
	John Ludders	Helen Steh	Doug Swarts
	Leon Schneider		
	Timon Stasko		

Excused: Oliver Gao

L. Schneider called the meeting to order and introduced Doug Swarts, transportation planner intern at TCAT.

E. Strong, liaison with University Assembly said to please remember to bring your concerns to the University Assembly who can draft policy changes.

TCAT Service Changes

Highlights of Routes effecting Cornell:

Route 30: 7 day/week and adds Route 70 on weekends. This is a one seat ride to Ithaca College.

Route 82: Daytime North Campus to East Hill Plaza

Route 92: 7:00 PM – 2:30 AM, Monday-Friday; 8:00 AM – 1:00 AM, Saturday and Sunday

Route 93: Night Service leaving North Campus on the half-hour – North Campus, Collegetown and East Hill Plaza with one hour bus service to Eastern Heights.

Route 90s: Run at night.

Route 70s: Run on the weekends.

Routes 50 and 51: Provide direct service to downtown from Campus and East Hill Plaza.

Route 32: Services the airport Monday-Friday, and Route 72 on weekends.

T. Stasko asked TCAT to consider adding Buttermilk Falls to its Route 22 summer parks run to Cass Park and Taughannock Falls State Park.

D. Swarts said that TCAT is looking to post a summary bus schedule at the top 20 – 30 bus stops (by ridership). He also requested that no one else go out and post schedules on their own because it is difficult to keep the information current if TCAT didn't post it.

I. Mahler asked if the rural routes were changing. D. Swarts said no, except for the Groton route, which will no longer go to Etna.

J. Eckard asked Doug to describe the Dial-a-Ride Program. D. Swarts said that the demand responsive service will be piloted at the Lab of Ornithology, Etna Road and Lower Creek Road. The individual calls TCAT and the bus will pick the person up at their house. There will be four (4) AM trips, one (1) mid-day trip, and four (4) outbound PM trips. H. Steh noted that it will now serve Guthrie Clinic and the S.P.C.A.

M. Leung asked if the buses have G.P.S. tracking. D. Swarts said some of the fleet does, it is a long-term goal for TCAT along with electronic displays and on-line tracking.

E. Strong said that he is located at the Vet School and Route 92 often runs late. He wanted to know if TCAT could make sure it runs more true to schedule. D. Swarts said that TCAT retimed all routes – some of the timing was done years ago and things have changed since then. Buses can be held for up to five minutes. Just ask the driver to contact dispatch to relay the message to the transfer bus. L. Schneider asked if you can call in late at night to check to see if the bus had gone. D. Swarts said, no. There is no one manning the phone at that time.

M. LaFalce asked how buses realign themselves (i.e., Route 10 buses being too close to each other). D. Swarts said that is a common problem in transit systems. We tell the drivers to run their routes to the end of the run and then dispatch will set the departure time.

J. Ludders asked if Route 53 is the same. D. Swarts said yes it should be the same. TCAT will be releasing the new schedules sometime in December. I. Mahler said that rumor is that TCAT is encouraging flag stops on rural routes. The bus could be stopping every ¼ mile. It takes very long to get to Enfield. D. Swarts said that if it becomes a problem TCAT will look at it.

H. Steh asked about the new fare cards. D. Swarts said the current paper cards will be switched to a swipe card, which will act like a debit card – subtracting day/week/monthly passes usage. He also said one can register their card and do on-line purchases starting January 17, 2010.

E. Strong asked if there has been any thought on how to remedy accommodating more than two (2) bikes on buses. D. Swarts said that it is too difficult to add more to the buses because of turning radius. E. Strong noted that using a van to supplement was mentioned to TAC last year.

J. Eckard asked what the TCAT's communication plans are for the new schedules. H. Steh asked if the new schedules will be on the buses. M. Leung asked how Cornell will know about the changes. D. Swarts said to check the web site, Willard Straight Hall and Cornell Transportation Office. M. LaFalce noted that the message boards at the Student Union and the Campus Store would be good places to advertise. L. Schneider said we can send the news to Grads by newsletters. D. Lieb said that the Transportation newsletter will be out in the next few weeks and will have some TCAT information.

Meeting Date Changes

L. Schneider noted that the December meeting is scheduled for December 18th which is the last day of exams; let's change the date to Friday, December 11th. In January, the third Friday is before the semester starts, so we'll change the meeting date to January 29th.

This meeting was adjourned at 1:10 PM.