



The Importance of Professional Associations during the Covid-19 Pandemic

NYPTA's Response to Covid-19

Intro

NYPTA has served as a resource for our transit systems during Covid-19. It has allowed our members to share best practices, a necessity during this unprecedented crisis. It has also allowed transit systems to brainstorm and collectively look ahead to what transit could look like post-Covid-19. Please read on for the actions NYPTA has taken in response to Covid-19. You will get a snapshot of the ways NYPTA supports its members during a crisis and what it is developing for a safe and sustainable future for transit systems, and the community who rely on them.

NYPTA Webinar: Budget Presentation and Covid-19 Best Practices

On April 8, 2020 NYPTA Hosted the Webinar "Budget Presentation and Covid-19 Best Practices" to share important information on the new CARES Act Funding and to share critical information on what transit systems are doing across the state. It was a time for leaders to share information on obtaining PPE, service adjustments, driver and rider protections, and far policy.

NYPTA Recovery & Restoration Task Force

In response to Covid-19 NYPTA President, Bill Carpenter, formed the NYPTA Recovery and Restoration Task Force. The purpose of the task force is to provide guiding principles and best practices for transit systems as the state reopens. There are three groups:

- Small Systems
- Operations
- System Planning

Legislative Support

- Prior to the CARES Act passing, NYPTA President Bill Carpenter sent a letter to Congress advocating for financial help for transit operating during the Covid-19 crises.
- NYPTA continues to monitor and respond to state budget actions and legislation that affects transit systems.

"The novel coronavirus is causing extraordinary challenges for all of us. Public transit systems across New York State are facing significant challenges to continue bus, rail and paratransit services that get our citizens to work, health care, food shopping and pharmacies."

"Our employees are doing heroic work to keep public service in the forefront and deserve to know that their jobs are secure, and that transit service will continue to be funded. Our customers, communities and businesses that rely on transit every day need to know that our services will not be interrupted due to unforeseen financial shortfalls."

Weekly Transit System Updates

NYPTA created and maintained a chart of service updates that was sent to membership weekly in Tuesday Transit News. It tracked service reductions, fair collection, whether systems were collecting fares, and other useful service information.

| System | County | Service Levels | | Collecting Fares | Ridership Decline | Rear Door Boarding Only | Other Uses of Vehicles | Comments | Last Updated |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------|
| | | Fixed Route | Paratransit | | | | | | |
| Regional Authorities | | | | | | | | | |
| CDTA | Multiple | 60% | 40% | Yes | 65% | No | Delivering meals for Albany schools | | Apr. 14 |
| CNYRTA Centro Onondaga | Onondaga | Reduced | Limited ride sharing | No | 77% | Yes | Shelter at virus testing site | | Apr. 14 |
| Centro of Oneida | Oneida | Regular | Limited ride sharing | No | 54% | Yes | None | | Apr. 14 |
| Centro of Oswego | Oswego | Regular | Limited ride sharing | No | 86% | Yes | None | No intercity service | Apr. 14 |
| Centro of Cayuga | Cayuga | Regular | Limited ride sharing | No | 58% | Yes | None | No intercity service | Apr. 14 |
| MTA - Subway | Multiple | Reduced | - | Yes | 92% | - | None | | Apr. 13 |
| Bus | Multiple | Reduced | No ride sharing | Yes | N/A | Yes | None | | Apr. 13 |
| LIRR | Multiple | Reduced | - | Yes | 97% | - | None | | Apr. 13 |
| MNRR | Multiple | Reduced | - | Yes | 95% | - | None | | Apr. 13 |
| NFTA | Erie/Niagara | 85% | 27% | No | 70% | Yes | Delivering food | | Apr. 15 |
| RGRTA - RTS Monroe | Monroe | Regular | - | No | 55% | Yes | Delivering PPE; transporting patients | | Apr. 13 |
| RTS Access | Monroe | - | No ride sharing | No | 75% | - | - | | Apr. 13 |
| RTS Genesee | Genesee | Dial a ride only | - | No | 79% | - | - | | Apr. 13 |
| RTS Livingston | Livingston | Dial a ride only | - | No | 92% | - | - | | Apr. 13 |
| RTS Ontario | Ontario | Dial a ride only | - | No | 57% | - | - | | Apr. 13 |
| RTS Orleans | Orleans | Dial a ride only | - | No | 50% | - | - | | Apr. 13 |
| RTS Wayne | Wayne | Dial a ride only | - | No | 84% | - | - | | Apr. 13 |
| RTS Wyoming | Wyoming | Dial a ride only | - | No | 73% | - | - | | Apr. 13 |
| Urbanized Areas | | | | | | | | | |
| Dutchess Co. Pubic Transp. | Dutchess | Reduced | Suspended | Yes | 93% | No | None | On demand service for seniors/disabled | Apr. 13 |
| NICE | Nassau | 80% | 15% | No | 70% | Yes | Delivering groceries to veterans | | Apr. 13 |
| Putnam Area Rapid Transit | Putnam | Suspended 3/16 | | - | - | - | - | | Apr. 15 |
| Transport of Rockland | Rockland | Regular | Regular | No | 80% | - | None | | Apr. 14 |
| Hudson Link | Rockland/Westchester | Reduced | - | Yes | 34% | - | - | | Apr. 1 |
| Suffolk Co. Transit | Suffolk | Regular | 40%/No ride sharing | Yes | 75% | Yes | None | | Apr. 18 |
| Westchester Co. Bee Line | Westchester | Reduced | Reduced | No | 80% | Yes | None | | Apr. 14 |
| Binghamton BC Transit | Broome | Regular | Regular | No | 50-75% | Yes | None | | Apr. 14 |
| Chemung C-TRAN | Chemung | Regular | Reduced | Yes | 60% | - | None | | Apr. 13 |
| Glens Falls GGFT | Warren/Washington | Reduced | Regular | No | 90% | - | Delivering food | Reduced capacity | May 12 |
| Ithaca TCAT | Tompkins | Reduced | Reduced | No | 92% | No | None | 20 passenger limit per bus | Apr. 13 |
| Ulster UCAT | Ulster | Reduced | Reduced | Yes | 90% | - | Shelter at virus testing site; food delivery | | Apr. 14 |
| Watertown Citibus | Jefferson | Regular | Regular | Yes | 60% | No | None | Seating limited on FR; no shared rides | Apr. 23 |
| Adirondack Trailways | Multiple | Suspended | | - | - | - | - | | Apr. 13 |
| Hudson Transit | Multiple | Suspended 4/04 | | - | - | - | - | | Apr. 15 |
| Cities/Counties | | | | | | | | | |
| Allegany Transit | Allegany | Regular | - | No | 50% | - | None | | Apr. 17 |
| Seneca Nation | Allegany | Suspended | - | - | - | - | - | | Apr. 17 |
| Olean Area Transit | Cattaraugus | Reduced | - | No | 50% | - | None | | Apr. 17 |
| CARTS | Chautauqua | Regular | Essential trips | Yes | 60% | No | None | Running some rural deviation routes | Apr. 14 |
| CCPT | Chenengo | Regular | - | Yes | 60% | - | None | | Apr. 17 |
| Clinton Co. Public Transp. | Clinton | Suspended | - | - | - | - | None | | Apr. 14 |
| North Country Express | Clinton/Columbia | Regular | - | Yes | 75% | - | None | | Apr. 17 |
| Cortland County Public Transit | Cortland | Regular | - | No | 70% | - | None | | May 5 |
| CHAMP | Essex | - | - | - | - | - | - | | - |
| Franklin Co. Public Transp. | Franklin | - | - | - | - | - | - | | - |
| Gloversville Transit | Fulton | Reduced | - | Yes | 73% | - | None | | Apr. 27 |
| Greene County Transit | Multiple | - | - | Yes | 90% | - | None | | Apr. 21 |
| Madison Transit | Madison/Orange | Reduced | Essential trips | No | 30% | No | None | | Apr. 22 |
| Otsego Express | Otsego | Reduced | - | Yes | 85% | - | None | | Apr. 15 |
| Oneonta Public Transit | Otsego | Reduced | - | Yes | 90% | - | None | | Apr. 23 |
| Oswego County Opportunities | Oswego | Suspended | Expanded | No | 94% | - | Senior shopping | | Apr. 22 |
| St Lawrence Co Public Transp. | St Lawrence | Added service | - | No | 60% | No | Delivering food | 50% capacity limit | Apr. 28 |
| Schoharie Co. Public Transp. | Schoharie | Reduced | - | Yes | - | - | None | Phasing in service | May 12 |
| Schuyler Co. Transit | Schuyler | 50% | 2% | Yes | 70% | - | None | | Apr. 15 |
| Hornell Area Transit | Steuben | Dial a ride only | - | Yes | 54% | - | None | | Apr. 17 |
| Steuben Co. Transit | Steuben | Regular | - | Yes | 60% | - | None | | Apr. 17 |
| Corning-Erwin Area Transit | Steuben | Regular | - | Yes | 60% | - | None | | Apr. 17 |
| CEATS - Corning Museum | Steuben | Suspended | | - | - | - | - | | Apr. 17 |
| Sullivan County Transp. | Sullivan | - | - | - | - | - | - | | - |
| Yates Transit Service | Yates | Regular | - | Yes | 85% | No | None | | Apr. 20 |



How Systems Have Stepped Up for the Community

While ridership and service decreased at transit systems, many found other ways to step up for their community during this extraordinary time.

- CDTA helped **deliver meals** to Albany Schools
- CENTRO vehicles were used as **shelter** at a virus testing site
- NFTA made **food deliveries**
- RGRTA **delivered vital PPE** and helped transport patients
- NICE Bus **delivered groceries** to veterans
- UCAT serves as a **shelter** at a virus testing site and **delivered food**
- Oswego County **shopped for seniors**
- St. Lawrence County Transportation **delivered food**

