

Montgomery County Coordinated Transportation Plan



*Updated – March 2009
Adopted by the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors
Resolution 95 of 2009 – April 28, 2009*

Executive Summary

A “Locally Developed, Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan” is a plan that identifies the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and people with low incomes, provides strategies for meeting those local needs, and prioritizes transportation services for funding and implementation.

Under the new provisions of SAFETEA-LU the establishment of a “locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan” is required for several FTA programs for underserved populations: the Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities program (Section 5310); the Job Access and Reverse Commute program (Section 5316); and the New Freedom program (section 5317).

The provisions of a coordinated plan aim to improve transportation services for persons with disabilities, older Americans, and individuals with lower incomes. The provisions ensure that communities coordinate transportation resources provided through multiple Federal programs. A coordinated plan for human services transportation enhances transportation access, minimizes duplication of Federal services, and encourages the most cost-effective transportation possible. The following FTA programs are described herein.

Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities Program (Section 5310):

FTA formula program for public transportation capital projects planned, designed, and carried out to meet the special needs of elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities. (49 U.S.C. 5310)

Jobs Access Reverse Commute (5316):

FTA formula program for projects relating to the development and maintenance of transportation services designed to transport welfare recipients and eligible low-income individuals to and from jobs and activities related to their employment. Additionally, to a public transportation project designed to transport residents of urbanized areas and non-urbanized areas to suburban employment opportunities.

New Freedom Program (Section 5317):

FTA formula grant program for new public transportation services and public transportation alternatives beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) that assist individuals with disabilities with transportation, including transportation to and from jobs and employment support services. (49 U.S.C. 5317)

INTRODUCTION

Montgomery County has initiated the development of a coordinated plan, which is designed to be a collaborative effort involving the County and member agencies representing public, private & human service transportation service providers. The County will receive ongoing input on development of this Coordinated Plan and incorporate transportation issues from its Transportation Committee into this plan on an ongoing basis.

Starting in August 2005, Montgomery County has worked in collaboration with the public, private, & human service agencies to respond to SAFETEA-LU requirements, which were adopted into law. The County's Transportation Committee, appointed by the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, has met to work together in this coordinated plan. For simplicity sake, the term Montgomery County Transportation Plan (MCTP) will be used to describe this document and Montgomery County Transportation Committee (MCTC) will be used to describe this group.

The purpose of the MCTP is to help improve transportation services for persons with disabilities, older adults, and individuals with lower incomes within Montgomery County in order to provide a more effective and comprehensive public transportation service throughout the County. The MCTP provides a framework for the development of transportation projects, which address the needs of the target population. By preparing this plan the MCTC and its human service agencies can ensure the continuation of funding resources offered through various Federal Transit Administration (FTA) programs. The end result of this plan will be a Montgomery County mobility program, which offers a wide range of mobility options to both the public and private sectors, while ensuring efficient and effective use of community resources. This structure will become a part of this area's ongoing Mobility Program, which will include all federally funded transportation projects involving Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC, Section 5316), New Freedom (Section 5317) funding, Elderly and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) funding into a cohesive structure. Also part of the outreach efforts by the County will be to identify other initiatives throughout the community that are focused on coordinating transportation resources such as: collaborative planning, shared maintenance opportunities, group fuel purchasing, etc. The ultimate goal is to utilize transportation resources in a more efficient manner, which will result in enhanced access for clients, minimized duplication of service, and more cost-effective service. The coordination process includes the identification of gaps in transportation service, based on a demographic and demand assessment profile, and to fill those gaps with appropriate transportation projects/services. The plan will include a mechanism for ongoing continuing control over the mobility program to assure compliance is maintained and funding continues to be attainable. The idea is to gradually build a coordinated, cohesive mobility system that can be used by all who wish access. The plan is intended to be flexible with an "OPEN DOOR" policy allowing agencies the comfort and convenience to join at any time.

Current Service Providers

MONTGOMERY COUNTY AREA XPRESS (MAX)

Funding: Federal 5311, STOA, JARC and Farebox

Service Area: County of Montgomery

Service Type: Fixed Route Transportation with ¼ mile deviation

Days and Hours of Service: 5:00 am to 5:00 pm – Monday thru Friday

Coordinated Transportation: Montgomery County DSS, Amsterdam Community Transit, Brown Coach Commuter Transportation

Fleet Composition: None at this time – operation is provided through a vendor

Annual One-Way Trips: 4,250

MONTGOMERY COUNTY/BROWN COACH COMMUTER TRANSPORTATION

Funding: Federal 5311, STOA, and Farebox

Service Area: Commuter Service from Montgomery County to the Greater Albany Area

Service Type: Fixed Route Public Transportation

Days and Hours of Service: 6:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday thru Friday

Coordinated Transportation: Montgomery Area Xpress

Fleet Composition: 2 Coach

Annual One-Way Trips: 25,063

AMSTERDAM COMMUNITY TRANSIT

Funding: Federal 5311, STOA, Farebox, Exterior Advertising

Service Area: City & Town of Amsterdam, Town of Florida, Fonda, FMCC, Village of Ft Johnson, Wolf Rd, DOT & NY State Campus

Service Type: Fixed route public transportation with ¼ mile deviation. Paratransit Service – door-to-door service offered for individuals with a disability that prevents them from accessing fixed route buses. These appointments must be booked 24hrs in advance.

Days and Hours of Service: 5:30 am to 6:00 pm Monday thru Friday

Coordinated Transportation: Montgomery County DSS, FMCC, Gloversville Transit, Montgomery Area Xpress

Fleet Composition: (4)-18Pax buses, (1) MCI Commuter Coach. All vehicles are ADA accessible

Annual One-Way Trips: 77,984

LIBERTY – Montgomery County Chapter - NYSARC

Funding: Federal 5310

Service Area: Montgomery County

Service Type: Specialized Transportation/Paratransit for clients with disabilities to and from their homes to various grant programs located within Montgomery County

Days and Hours of Service: 6:00 am to 5:30 pm Monday thru Friday

Coordinated Transportation: Amsterdam Community Transit

Fleet Composition: 12 Buses

Annual One-Way Trips: 75,637

GLOVERSVILLE TRANSIT

Funding: Federal 5311, JARC, STOA, Farebox, Exterior Advertising,

Contracted Services with other agencies.

Service Area: Fulton County, City of Amsterdam, Town of Amsterdam

Service Type:

- Fixed Routes-GTS operates 5 fixed routes originating from the City of Gloversville and providing transportation within the City of Gloversville as well as various towns and villages within Fulton County.
- Route Deviation-All fixed routes will deviate up to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from its route to provide transportation to individuals.
- Paratransit Service-A curb to curb service offered to individuals with a disability that prevent them from accessing GTS's regular fixed route service. Individuals determined to be eligible may schedule trips for any purpose.
- Demand response service is also available with 24 hr notice.

Days and Hours of Service: Monday-Friday 6am-6pm, 4 fixed route and all Paratransit Services are offered Saturday from 9am – 1:00pm

Coordinated Transportation: Fulton County DSS, VESID

Fleet Composition: 10 buses

Annual One-Way Trips: 28,253

FULMONT COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY

Funding: Federal 5310

Service Area: Fulton and Montgomery Counties

Service Type: Highly Specialized Transportation, which is provided to clients to from various organizational programs

Days and Hours of Service: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday thru Friday

Coordinated Transportation: N/A

Fleet Composition: 2 Buses

Annual One-Way Trips: 10,283

MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING

Funding: III B

Service Area: Montgomery Counties

Service Type: Services for Montgomery County residents age 60 and above

Days and Hours of Service: 8:30 am to 3:30 pm Monday thru Friday

Coordinated Transportation: N/A

Fleet Composition: 1 Van, 2 Cars

Annual One-Way Trips: 4,825

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Funding: Federal /State Medicaid, General Services

Service Area: Montgomery County recipients are taken to medical appointments within Montgomery County and many other outlying areas where medical appointments are necessary.

Service Type: Specialized Transportation Services provided for Montgomery County DSS clients for participation in many programs which include education, training, employment, non-emergency medical, adult services, child services, foster care

Days and Hours of Service: 6:00am to 6:00pm, Monday through Friday

Coordinated Transportation: Montgomery Area Express, Amsterdam Community Transit, Access, Yellow Cab, Capa/Uptown Taxi, Sheriff's Office

Fleet Composition: 6 Vans

Annual One-Way Trips: Not available

MONTGOMERY COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY

Funding: Montgomery County

Service Area: Montgomery County residents to Albany VA

Service Type: Services for Montgomery County Veterans

Days and Hours of Service: Monday – Friday, 6:00am – 5:00pm

Coordinated Transportation: Fulton County Veterans

Fleet Composition: 3 Vans

Annual One-Way Trips: 3,600

Demographic Analysis:

TABLE 1: Population

	Total Population (2007 Census Bureau Estimated)	Total Population (2000 Census)	Total Population (1990 Census)
City of Amsterdam	17,572	18,355	20,714
Montgomery County	48,695	49,708	51,981

Source: US Census

The City of Amsterdam and surrounding Montgomery County reflect a population decrease from 1990 to present. The City and County are currently undergoing an extensive revitalization and strategically relocating businesses to the area. Although housing prices seem to be holding at lower rates than surrounding areas, this trend could reverse due to the proximity of Amsterdam to the Capital District, the low cost of housing and the rural character of the area.

TABLE 2: Senior Population

	Age 65 and Over (2000)	Age 65 and Over (1990)	% Age 65 and Over (2000)	U.S. Average (2000)
City of Amsterdam	4,074	4,858	22.2%	12.4%
Montgomery County	9,537	10,100	19.2%	12.4%

Source: US Census

TABLE 3: Poverty and Housing

	% Families Below Poverty Level (2000)	% US Families Below Poverty Level (2000)	Median Housing Value	US Median Housing Value
City of Amsterdam	12.4%	9.2%	\$67,400	\$119,600
Montgomery County	9.0%	9.2%	\$67,600	\$119,600

Source: US Census

TABLE 4: Labor and Income

	% In Labor Force (2000)	% US In Labor Force (2000)	Median Household Income	US Median Household Income	Mean Travel Time to Work
City of Amsterdam	54.8%	63.9%	27,517	41,994	21.4
Montgomery County	59.2%	63.9%	32,128	41,994	23.3

Source: US Census

Existing Conditions

Public transportation service in Montgomery County has historically been limited to Commuter Service from the County to the City of Albany, and Transit Service in the City of Amsterdam, which also has a Commuter component to the major Albany employment centers. Beginning in 2008 a new, intra county service, called the Montgomery Area Xpress or MAX began service on the Route 5 and 5S corridor – a major east-west corridor in the County, which links the various hamlets and villages along this route to the City of Amsterdam and beyond. The new service targets employees working at large manufacturing and warehousing centers along this route.

Montgomery County is a host to a wide variety of employers, which are in the health and human services, manufacturing, distribution and local government sectors of the economy. The largest employers in Montgomery County are listed below:

TABLE 5: Montgomery County Employers

NAME OF EMPLOYER	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES
St. Mary's Hospital	997
Target	664
Amsterdam Printing & Litho	645
Kasson Keller/Keymark	611
Liberty Enterprises	585
Greater Amsterdam School District	545
Beechnut Nutrition	505
Amsterdam Memorial Hospital	442
Montgomery County Employees	395

Coordination Efforts

Montgomery Area Xpress and Amsterdam Community Transit are currently working closely with Montgomery County DSS to be a major provider of transportation to its clients.

Montgomery Area Xpress is coordinating with Gloversville Transit to provide route access for Montgomery County residents to the Johnstown Industrial Park and Fulton-Montgomery Community College (FMCC)

Facilitated discussions have taken place over the course of the past year within Montgomery County and now with Fulton County involving agencies that provide some form of mobility to County residents, such as the Mental Health Department at St. Mary's Hospital, the FMCC Bridge Program, and others.

The current Montgomery County Transportation Committee is comprised of representatives from the following:

Montgomery County Mobility Coordination
New York State Education Department –VESID
FMS Workforce Development
Montgomery County Mental Health
Liberty – Montgomery County NYSARC Chapter
Amsterdam Community Transit
M. C. Office for the Aging
Montgomery County DSS
Brown Coach, Inc.
Citizen Advocate
FulMont Community Action Agency
Fulton Montgomery Community College
Gloversville Transit
City of Amsterdam
Montgomery County Board of Supervisors
Resource Center for Independent Living
St. Mary's Hospital
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce
Montgomery County Veterans Agency

Needs Analysis

The following points have been identified by various County transportation users and providers as achievable opportunities for coordinating transportation:

- The Montgomery Area Express will coordinate with Amsterdam Community Transit and the Montgomery County Commuter Run at a hub in Fonda. In this manner, County and City buses can transfer riders at a single point of contact throughout Montgomery County and well as Fulton-Montgomery Community College and the Capital Region. Duplication can be avoided between all providers while increasing transit service efficiency and reducing local tax dollars.
- Both Amsterdam Community Transit and Montgomery County Area Xpress have been working to meet the needs of Montgomery County Department of Social Services (DSS) clients by providing rides to and from the DSS building in Fonda as well as employment, education, training and medical appointment coordination.

- Future coordination with the Gloversville Transit System (GTS) in Fonda has also been discussed. Transit Manager Al Schutz is eager to work with providers in Montgomery County to eventually offer a seamless regional system.
- Expanding service to Johnstown Industrial Park
- Increasing the number of bus routes
- Working with all providers that have vehicles and employ drivers to determine the rules and regulations of their transport services and whether or not their runs can be better coordinated with public transportation.
- Extending the hours of service, especially in the evening, possibly on the weekend
- Increase access to the City of Amsterdam by western area residents