

# FOSTERING AN ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITY

## COMMENTS FROM SEPTEMBER 2006 t-GEIS DISABILITY WORKSHOP

- Need more expansion of rural bus routes
- It's nice that the t-GEIS is doing neighborhood livability analysis and taking into consideration that City streets are used as access routes. People often drive into the City from out of town, park on residential streets, then walk to take bus up to Cornell.
- Take into consideration through-traffic on the campus, where Cornell is not the destination but people drive through campus to get to a destination on one side or the other.
- Cornell is it totally inaccessible for a manual wheelchair.
- What about a fleet of inexpensive electric scooters to get around campus? They are illegal on public streets, but may be legal on private streets at Cornell.
- Another idea is to have students volunteer to drive folks home after events .
- There's a need for an accessible taxi in this community.
- The \$6 bus fare is difficult on a fixed income.
- Label buses on the side, not just the front, so it's easy to locate them when they are all lined up at the library.
- It would be nice to have buses without steps.
- Shared bike lanes are needed on major streets in the City, such as State Street. Right now pedestrians have to dodge bicycles on sidewalks.
- There's a need for bicycle education for students. It's illegal to ride on walks if you are over age 12 or if it's dangerous to ride in the street. The "dangerous" to ride in the street part is a little ambiguous.
- Construction on the Cornell campus makes it very difficult to commute to and around campus. When there's lots of construction even detours have construction on them. It's very difficult to keep up with what's going on to be able to plan routes. Better dissemination of information would be helpful.
- Routes around construction zones are supposed to be accessible and that doesn't always happen.
- There probably is a bus that would work for me to get around campus, but I'm not sure how to find out about it. It took a year to even learn how to use the bus system on campus. Tell people how it is accessible & how to use it.
- Some bus pull-offs (on campus) do not have curb ramps.
- Accessible routes should be equitable as well as accessible. Sometimes accessible routes/entrances are not always equal to other routes; it takes more time to find the or to use them.
- Transportation must be clear for people with visual disabilities. Right-on-red turns for cars can very dangerous for pedestrians, especially those with visual disabilities. We need education so drivers know pedestrians have the right to walk before a car has the right to turn right on red.
- Snow and ice removal is a huge issue, especially at bus stops. The bus can't lower its lift in snow banks. It's also a problem getting off the bus into a snow bank.
- Blind people can't tell which busses are lined up at the library.
- Maintaining independence is really important for disabled people.
- Many disabled people are deterred from using buses because of difficult waiting conditions, such as heat, cold, cigarette smoke, standing for long periods, etc.