

# FOSTERING AN ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITY

## COMMENTS FROM SEPTEMBER 2006 t-GEIS DISABILITY WORKSHOP

- If I were just commuting to and from campus I might use an alternate mode of transportation, like the bus, but I need to get around campus so I drive, because I may be able to get to my destination (ie., downhill) but cannot get back (ie, uphill) in my wheelchair.
- Look at the statistics of the aging population. There will be an increasing number of people who will have need for disability services
- Transportation services need to be affordable for people on a fixed income
- There needs to be more education on how to use the disability transportation system at Cornell
- It is difficult to get to events at Cornell, especially in the evening, because you often need to walk long distances from parking.
- Lots of people in rural areas call Gadabout, not because they are disabled, but because they just live far out and don't have access to good transportation.
- Cornell has the potential to grow so big so fast that it may outgrow its space. Can they slow down and let community infrastructure catch up?
- Was Ithaca College potential growth considered?
- City schools let out between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. and the Youth Bureau releases vans at 2:00 p.m. to pick up students. Many disabled students can't use the public transit system to get to after school programs. After-school time is also a sort of "peak traffic" time in Ithaca. How might after-school programs be affected by an increase in Cornell traffic during this time period?
- One of the biggest issues is students not paying attention and crossing the street against traffic. It's much worse on campus than downtown. Education & enforcement are really important.
- I am a TCAT advocate. We need more rural routes
- A \$45 (monthly?) bus pass for people on fixed incomes is unreasonable, but if you need to ride the bus 7 days a week you need to buy a pass.
- There is a big need for wheelchair-accessible taxis in this area. The Finger Lakes Independence Council gets calls from Cornell students looking for ways to get around.
- Ride-share, vanpooling, zip cars, etc. need to be universally accessible up front. Don't just designate one car for the disabled.
- There needs to be a well thought out travel training program for people with a wide range of disabilities, including developmental disabilities. There also needs to be better communication about how to use the system and how to make the system universally accessible.
- I'm very thankful for Gadabout, but I live outside it's current drop-off zone, so sometimes have to go 1.5 miles on the shoulder of the road in my electric wheelchair from the drop-off point to my home. It would be nice to improve the drop-off footprint. This reinforces the need for better rural transit service.
- There needs to be better parking on campus for accessible vans, etc.
- There needs to be education and/or regulation RE speeding bikes, especially those coming down State Street from Cornell.
- For all the grousing we do, we do have a pretty good transportation system for people with disabilities.
- Park & Ride would help with para-transit issues a lot. Some people can't access busses from where they live. It's not that they can't access the buses period; it's just that they can't get to the bus stops from where they live. For instance, Gadabout could pick people up from home and bring them to a central location where they could catch the bus. A Park & Ride could act as a "transfer location." If this happened Gadabout could possibly afford to expand the corridor length by aggregating several passenger pick-ups in one trip.
- There's also a need for a Park & Ride in downtown Ithaca, not just out in Lansing or further out.
- TCAT has a good phone system for passengers to call and ask how to use the system. TCAT also has a new booklet (TCAT Ride Guide) which is available on the buses, around town, at Cornell Transportation Services, etc.