



CDTA COMMITTEE AGENDA
Strategic and Operational Planning Committee
Thursday, October 23, 2025 | 12:00 PM
Microsoft Teams & 110 Watervliet Ave

Committee Item

Responsibility

Call to Order

Mike Criscione

Approve Minutes of Thursday, September 18, 2025

Mike Criscione

Consent Agenda Items

- Approve November Service Changes

Chris Desany

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 12:00 pm via Microsoft Teams and 110 Watervliet Ave.

Adjourn

Mike Criscione

Capital District Transportation Authority

Strategic and Operational Planning Committee

Meeting Minutes – September 18, 2025, at 12:00 pm; via Microsoft Teams and 110 Watervliet Ave.

In Attendance: Michael Criscione, Jayme Lahut, Peter Wohl, Patrick Lance, David Stackrow; Frank Annicaro, Amanda Avery, Chris Desany, Lance Zarcone, Jaime Kazlo, Gary Guy, Jon Scherzer, Patricia Cooper, Rich Cordero, Kelli Schreivogl, Stacy Sansky, Thomas Guggisberg, Dave Williams, Sarah Matrose, Jack Grogan, Jeremy Smith, Elide Oyanedel, Emily DeVito, Keosha Miles, Calvin Young

Meeting Purpose

Regular monthly meeting of the Strategic and Operational Planning Committee. Committee Chair Michael Criscione noted that a quorum was present. Minutes from the August 21, 2025, meeting were reviewed and approved.

Consent Agenda Item

Approve Transit Development Plan

- Chris Desany provided an update on the 2025 Transit Development Plan (TDP). The TDP sets out CDTA's vision for improving transit service quality, reliability, and accessibility over the next 5–10 years.
- Building on the 2013 plan, this updated TDP incorporates lessons learned, community feedback, and evolving mobility needs. The multi-year planning process included data-driven analysis of existing conditions, infrastructure, and demographics, as well as extensive stakeholder outreach.
- Key challenges identified were high costs for STAR/FLEX services, seasonal limitations of Cycle!, workforce shortages, and the need for service and infrastructure updates. Public input emphasized priorities such as increased fixed-route frequency, expanded FLEX and DRIVE service, and high satisfaction with Cycle!.
- Recommendations include service realignment, new FLEX models, expanded STAR dispatch, year-round Cycle! service, and improved DRIVE vehicle availability, all guided by clear performance standards.
- A resolution to approve the 2025 Transit Development Plan will be recommended to the board.

Administrative Discussion Items

Review November Realignment Changes

- Chris Desany provided a review of the next phase of changes for the realignment campaign. We continue to monitor the progress of the August changes, which, based on

initial feedback, are going very well. At the same time, we are designing additional enhancements for the next pick.

- The ongoing themes are adjustments to service levels and coverage, while reinvesting some of those savings to improve service reliability and address operator feedback. We will also seek opportunities to implement FLEX to provide a higher quality of service where warranted.
- A detailed recommendation to be considered for adoption will be provided at the October meeting.

Capital Projects Report

- Jeremy Smith provided a review of recent and ongoing capital projects, emphasizing facility upgrades and transit improvements.
- Two mobility hubs at Liberty Square and Manning Boulevard were completed on budget, alongside key facility enhancements like the JLB top deck joint replacement and lift upgrades at 110 Watervliet Avenue.
- Current projects include the “Make Ready” initiative at 110 Watervliet Avenue, set for completion in November 2025, and a major \$29 million electrification effort funded by a Low/No Emissions grant, targeting completion in 2027. Transit station upgrades at 80 Broadway and Harriman East are also underway, with additional work on storage house resurfacing and lift replacements scheduled through 2026.
- Looking ahead, we are planning Redline BRT upgrades, intersection improvements, new stations, and park-and-ride enhancements across the region. Warren County facilities are slated for upgrades, including new layouts and amenities. The West Facility is also being considered for future expansion.

Next Meeting

Thursday, October 23, 2025, at 12:00pm via Microsoft Teams and at 110 Watervliet Ave.

Memorandum

October 23, 2025

To: Strategic and Operational Planning Committee

From: Christopher Desany, Chief Operating Officer

Subject: Approval of November Pick

Background

Staff have developed the November 2025 pick and are seeking the Board's approval to move forward. The November 2025 pick continues the service rebalancing effort begun in August, with similar operational savings anticipated. This pick includes a near-total replacement of Routes #451 and #452 with a new FLEX zone. The Saratoga Springs FLEX change is expected to save approximately 2,100 hours a year and to provide better service. The November pick is planned to run from November 30, 2025 to May 24, 2026.

Details

Saratoga Springs FLEX

A three square mile FLEX zone will cover every location currently served by Routes #451 and #452, except for Wilton Mall, which will require a transfer to Route #450. Operating hours will be 6 AM to 9 PM six days a week, and 8 AM to 7 PM Sundays. Pickup and dropoff points will primarily consist of existing bus stops. After 9 PM Thursday through Friday, the #452 Skidmore/Downtown loop will continue to operate as it does today.

Service Level and Coverage Changes, and Runtime Changes

- 10 All Eliminate deviations into Stuyvesant Plaza
- 18 Weekday Reduce mid-day frequency from 30 to 45
- 18 Saturday Reduce frequency from 30 to 45
- 22 Weekday Reduce frequency from 20 to 30
- 22 Saturday Reduce frequency from 20 to 35
- 100 Weekday Reduce evening frequency from 20 to 30
Reduce late night frequency from 30 to 35
Reduce mid-day frequency from 15 to 20
Reduce AM peak frequency from 20 to 25
Reduce PM peak frequency from 12 to 15
Increase run times for all above timeframes
- 100 Saturday Reduce frequency from 20 to 30, increase run times
- 100 Sunday Reduce frequency from 20 to 35, increase run times
- 106 Weekday Reduce mid-day/PM peak frequency from 20 to 30
Reduce AM peak frequency from 30 to 40, increase run times
- 106 Saturday Reduce frequency from 40 to 60 minutes, increase run times
- 106 Sunday Reduce frequency from 40 to 60 minutes, increase run times
- 190 Weekday Eliminate service

- 352 Weekday Eliminate service
- 354 Weekday Eliminate service
- 602 Weekday Eliminate service
- 605 Weekday Route replaces #602 and #354 on weekdays.
- 370 Weekday Adjust run times
- 451 All Eliminate service
- 452 All Eliminate service except for late night trips on Thu/Fri/Sat
- FLEX All Add new FLEX service in Saratoga Springs
- 540 Weekday Adjust run times
- 560 Weekday Adjust run times
Eliminate 8:09a, 12:05p trips (EB)
Eliminate 1:40p, 5:12p, 5:57p trips (WB)
- 713 Weekday Reduce frequency to 90 minutes, increase run times
- 737 Weekday Eliminate 7:50a, 4:52p, 8:15p trips (EB)
Eliminate 6:50a, 7:55a, 5:10p trips (WB)
- 922/923 Weekday Reduce mid-day frequency from 12 to 15
Reduce peak frequency from 10 to 12
- 922/923 Saturday Reduce frequency from 15 to 20

Proposed Action

I am recommending approval of the November service changes.

November 2025 Pick Service Changes

Strategic and Operational Planning Committee 10.23.2025

Goals



Service Rebalancing

- Ongoing effort to reduce operational costs and fiscal deficit
- November: Expected savings of **~35,000 annual hours / 10 regular crews**
 - Similar to August '25 pick

Enhance Service Quality

- Ongoing effort to improve on-time performance
- **New for November:** Savings on several routes reinvested into schedule time

Preserve Capacity

- Ridership data checked to ensure no uncomfortable or unsafe capacity loads

Overview of Proposed Changes



Troy Bus Routes

- Schedules recalibrated to improve efficiency and on-time performance.

10

Western Avenue

- Eliminate weekday deviations into Stuyvesant Plaza

18

Delaware Avenue

- Reduce mid-day frequency on weekdays
- Reduce frequency on Saturdays

22

Albany-Troy via Watervliet

- Reduce frequency on weekdays and Saturdays

100

Mid-City Belt

- Reduce frequency and increase run times (7 days / week)

Overview of Proposed Changes



106

Uptown Belt

- Reduce frequency and increase run times (7 days / week)

190

Fuller Road / Wolf Road

- Eliminate route

352

Altamont Ave / McClellan St

- Eliminate Route

354 602

Via|Port Mall / Nott St – Amsterdam / Schdy via Route 5

- Replace with Route #605 on weekdays

370

Schenectady / Troy

- Increase run times

Overview of Proposed Changes



Saratoga Springs Neighborhood Routes

- FLEX Conversion (details in following slide)

Northway Xpress

- Update run times; eliminate 5 unproductive trips on TX

Glens Falls – Saratoga Springs

- Reduce frequency to 90-100 mins and increase run times

Corporate Woods / Airport

- Eliminate 6 unproductive trips

BusPlus Blue Line

- Reduce frequency on weekdays and Saturdays

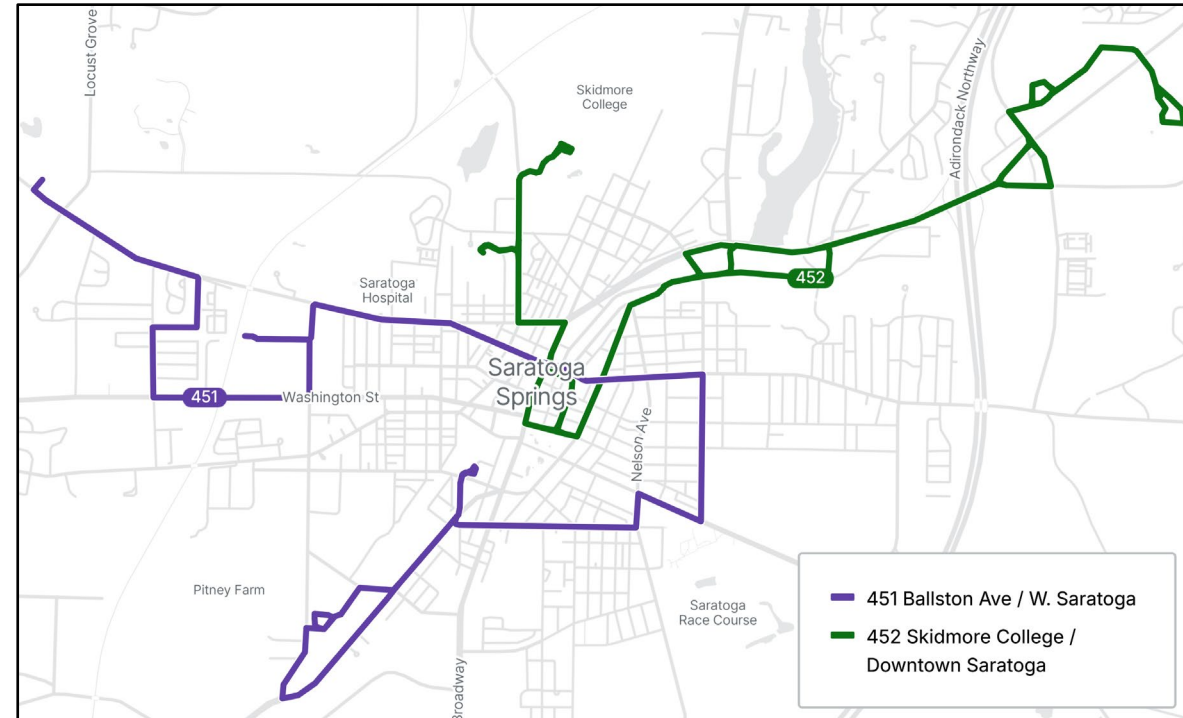
Saratoga Springs FLEX conversion

Current Routes 451 & 452

- Among least productive in CDTA system
- **451:** 4.3 rides / hr, **452:** 5.7 rides / hr (FY25)
- Several attempts to restructure fixed routes in Saratoga Springs since 2007

FLEX model

- **TDP:** FLEX works best in places with **high** transit need but **low** transit potential
- **Saratoga Springs** has transit-dependent population but demand is dispersed
- Better fit for FLEX than fixed routes
- Routes #450, #540 (NX), #713 unrelated



Routes #451 & 452.

NOT SHOWN: Routes #450, #713, NX

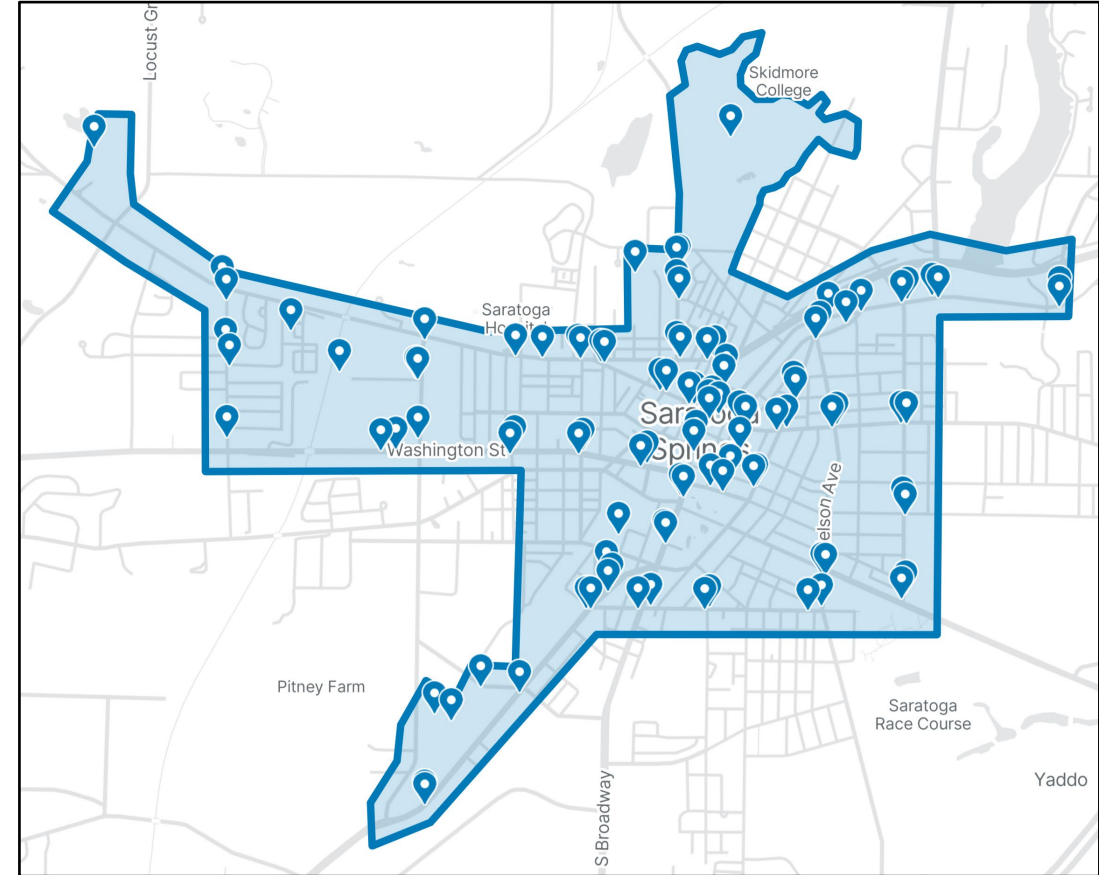
Saratoga Springs FLEX conversion

FLEX Conversion

- Eliminate Routes #451 and #452
 - Exception: Late night #452 trips
- 3 sq. mi. FLEX zone replaces coverage & span
- Point-to-point; uses mostly existing bus stops

Benefits of Conversion

- Shorter wait times
- Additional coverage within zone
 - Examples: Beekman Street, Washington Street
- Direct connections, fewer transfers
- Faster travel times
- Fewer operating resources



Proposed Saratoga Springs FLEX zone.
NOT SHOWN: Routes #450, #713, NX

Next steps

- **Board approves service plan**
- **Outreach to public and elected officials**
- **“Day Of” operations planning**
- **Pick rolls out on November 30, 2025**



THANK YOU!

Questions? | Comments? | Next Steps.