



CDTA COMMITTEE AGENDA
Strategic and Operational Planning Committee
Thursday, October 22, 2026 | 11:00 AM
Microsoft Teams & 110 Watervliet Ave

Committee Item

Responsibility

Call to Order

Michael Criscione

Approve Minutes of Thursday, September 24, 2026

Michael Criscione

Consent Agenda Items

- Approve Proposed November Service Changes

Mike Williams

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 10, 2026, at 11:00am via Microsoft Teams and 110 Watervliet Ave.

Adjourn

Michael Criscione

Capital District Transportation Authority

Strategic and Operational Planning Committee

Meeting Minutes – September 24, 2026, at 11:00am; via Microsoft Teams and 110 Watervliet Ave.

In Attendance: Denise Figueroa, Michael Criscione, Peter Wohl, Patrick Lance, Georgeanna Nugent; Frank Annicaro, Chris Desany, Trish Cooper, Jaime Kazlo, Amanda Avery, Lance Zarcone, Sarah Matrose, Emily DeVito, Dave Williams, Jack Grogan, Rich Cordero, Stacy Sansky, Kelli Schreivogl, Steve Wacksman, Meghan Gonyo, Ethan Warren

Meeting Purpose

Regular monthly meeting of the Strategic and Operational Planning Committee. Board Member Pat Lance noted that a quorum was present. Minutes from July 23, 2026, meeting were reviewed and approved.

Administrative Discussion Items

Rensselaer DRI and JLB Station Update

- Chris Desany reviewed the City of Rensselaer's \$10 million Downtown Revitalization Initiative award and the East Street transit-oriented development concept surrounding the Joseph L. Bruno Rail Station.
- The preliminary concept includes approximately 900 affordable and mixed-income housing units, commercial and community uses, parks and public spaces, pedestrian and bicycle improvements, an East Street Greenway, and a transit-oriented entry plaza.
- The proposed development has an estimated overall value of \$400 million and is requesting \$4 million from the City's DRI allocation; individual projects have not yet been selected or approved for funding.
- CDTA's current role is cooperative, exploratory, and non-binding. No use or disposition of CDTA property, ground lease, financial commitment, or development arrangement has been authorized. Any future involvement would require additional due diligence, federal review, defined financial and operational terms, and separate CDTA approvals.
- CDTA will remain engaged to protect its operational and property interests. Ethan Warren, who serves on the City's Local Planning Committee, will recuse himself from the evaluation of this proposal because of CDTA's potential interest in the project.

Amsterdam FLEX Conversion and November Pick Changes

- Mike Williams reviewed the August service pick, which had projected approximately 15,000 annual platform-hour savings but ultimately resulted in a net increase of approximately 2,900 annual platform hours.
- The planned August service reductions were achieved, but updated Albany run times were needed to reflect current roadway conditions, resulting in additional vehicle requirements that offset the savings.
- The November pick will use targeted headway adjustments, selective run-time refinements, and improved blocking and interlining to recover approximately 15,600 annual platform hours while retaining the reliability improvements from the August recalibration.
- Staff also proposed replacing Amsterdam Routes 600 and 601 with a 3.5-square-mile FLEX microtransit zone. School trips, Route 605, and the Thruway Xpress would

remain fixed-route services.

- The FLEX conversion is expected to provide more direct trips, average wait times of approximately 30 minutes, additional service points, and expanded access in several Amsterdam neighborhoods. Public outreach is planned for October, with implementation scheduled for November 29, 2026.

Lessons in STAR

- Rich Cordero provided an overview of STAR, CDTA's ADA paratransit service for customers who cannot use fixed-route service for some or all trips. It is very important to control costs while maintaining reliable, ADA-compliant service.
- STAR is a resource-intensive service, with a \$65 cost per trip, 3% farebox recovery, 1.8 rides per revenue hour, and making up approximately 20% of CDTA's operating costs.
- April through July FY2027 ridership increased 8.6% to 132,093 trips, while on-time performance declined. The 0–10-minute measure fell from 80.2% to 69.0%, and the 0–25-minute measure fell from 96.0% to 91.4%. Missed trips increased, while customer complaints declined.
- Short-term priorities include improving scheduling, routing and dispatch visibility, supervisory oversight, STAR and FLEX coordination, and KPI reporting. Staff is also exploring additional service options and the co-mingling of STAR and FLEX trips to improve vehicle utilization and reduce costs.
- Longer-term efforts include evaluating updated mobility software, expanding customer-quality reporting, and collecting direct post-trip feedback. The Committee discussed reporting both 10-minute and 25-minute on-time performance to provide a more complete view of reliability.

Next Meeting

Thursday, October 22, 2026 at 11:00am via Microsoft Teams and 110 Watervliet Ave.

Memorandum

October 19, 2026

To: Strategic and Operational Planning Committee

From: Christopher Desany, Vice President of Planning and Infrastructure

Subject: Approval of November Pick

Background

Staff have developed the November 2026 pick and are seeking the board's approval to move forward. The November 2026 pick implements minor service changes to save approximately 15,600 annual platform hours.

This pick will also implement the conversion of Amsterdam neighborhood routes #600 and #601 to FLEX service, which is intended to be cost neutral. The November pick is planned to run from to November 29, 2026 through January 23, 2026.

Amsterdam FLEX

A new FLEX microtransit zone will cover most locations currently served by Routes #600 and #601, as well as several additional locations. Operating hours will be from 6:30am to 9:30pm on weekdays, 9:00am to 7:00pm on Saturdays, and 9:00am to 6:00pm on Sundays. Pickup and dropoff points will primarily consist of existing bus stops. School trips, Route #560 (Thruway Xpress), and Route #605 will remain in place and unchanged.

Regular Service Changes

Staff recommends the following regular service changes, saving an estimated 15,600 platform hours annually:

- 1 Weekday Reduce peak, mid-day, and early evening frequency from 15 to 17
- 18 Weekday Reduce peak frequency from 30 to 35
Reduce off-peak frequency from 45 to 50
- 106 Weekday Reduce evening frequency from 35 to 45
- 114 Weekday Reduce frequency from 30 to 35
- 355 Weekday Reduce peak, mid-day, and early evening frequency from 30 to 34
- 370 Saturday Reduce frequency from 40 to 50
- 910 Weekday Reduce mid-day and peak frequency from 12 to 13
Reduce late night frequency from 35 to 40
- 922/3 Weekday Reduce peak and early evening frequency from 12 to 13
Reduce midday frequency from 15 to 16

Proposed Action

I am recommending approval of the November service changes.

November 2026 Pick Service Plan

Planning Committee 10.22.26

November Pick



Minor headway adjustments

- **Example** - Route #1: 17 min weekday headway (currently 15)
- **Example** - Route #18: 35-50 min weekday headway (currently 30-45)
- **Example** - Purple Line: 13 min weekday headway (currently 12)

Improved blocking solution with more efficient interlining (CSched)

Recovered annual savings: **-15,600 hrs** (-300 weekly)

Overview of Proposed Changes

1

Central Avenue

- Reduce headway from 15 to 17 mins between 7:00am-8:00pm on weekdays

18

Delaware Avenue

- Reduce headway from 30 to 35 mins btw 5:30am-10:00am on weekdays
- Reduce headway from 45 to 50 mins btw 10:00am-3:30pm on weekdays
- Reduce headway from 30 to 35 mins btw 3:30pm-6:00pm on weekdays
- Reduce headway from 45 to 50 mins btw 6:00pm-11:00pm on weekdays

106

Uptown Belt

- Reduce headway from 35 to 45 mins btw 7:00pm-10:30pm on weekdays

114

Madison Ave/Western Ave

- Reduce headway from 30 to 35 mins on weekdays

Overview of Proposed Changes

355

Schenectady/Colonie

- Reduce headway from 30 to 34 mins btw 5:00am-12:30am on weekdays

370

Schenectady/Troy

- Reduce headway from 40 to 50 mins on Saturdays

910

Purple Line BRT

- Reduce headway from 12 to 13 mins btw 11:00am-7:00pm on weekdays
- Reduce headway from 35 to 40 mins btw 12:00am-2:00am on weekdays

922

923

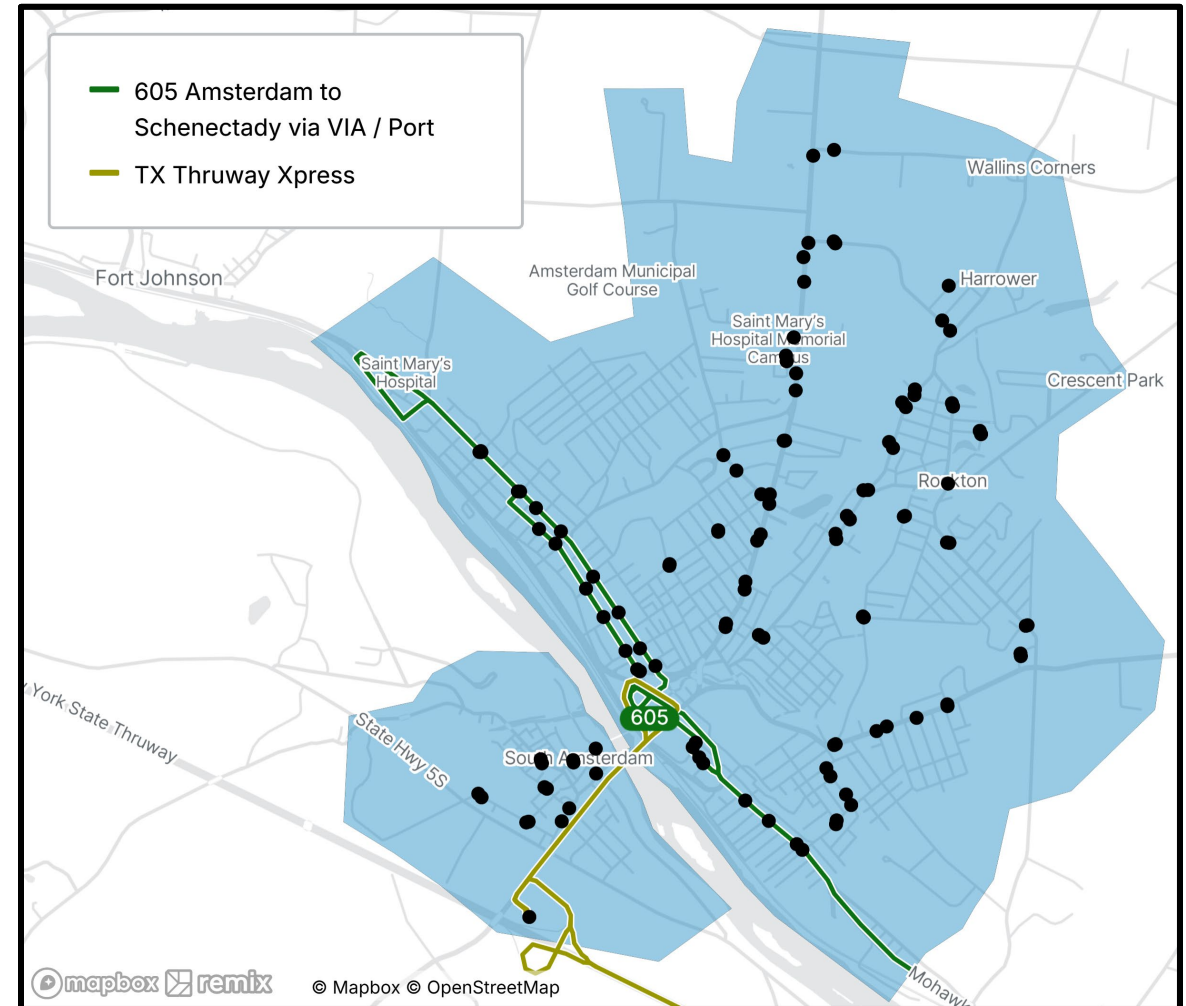
Blue Line BRT

- Reduce headway from 12 to 13 mins btw 6:00am-10:00am on weekdays
- Reduce headway from 15 to 16 mins btw 10:00am-12:30pm on weekdays
- Reduce headway from 12 to 13 mins btw 12:30pm-3:30pm on weekdays

Amsterdam FLEX Conversion

Add FLEX zone covering #600 / #601 stops and...

- **Routes #600 and #601**
 - Eliminate regular trips
- **School trips**
 - No change
- **Route #605**
 - No change (like #450 in Saratoga)
- **Thruway Xpress (Route #560)**
 - No change (like NX in Saratoga)



Service Proposal

Duplicate current fixed -route service levels

Weekdays

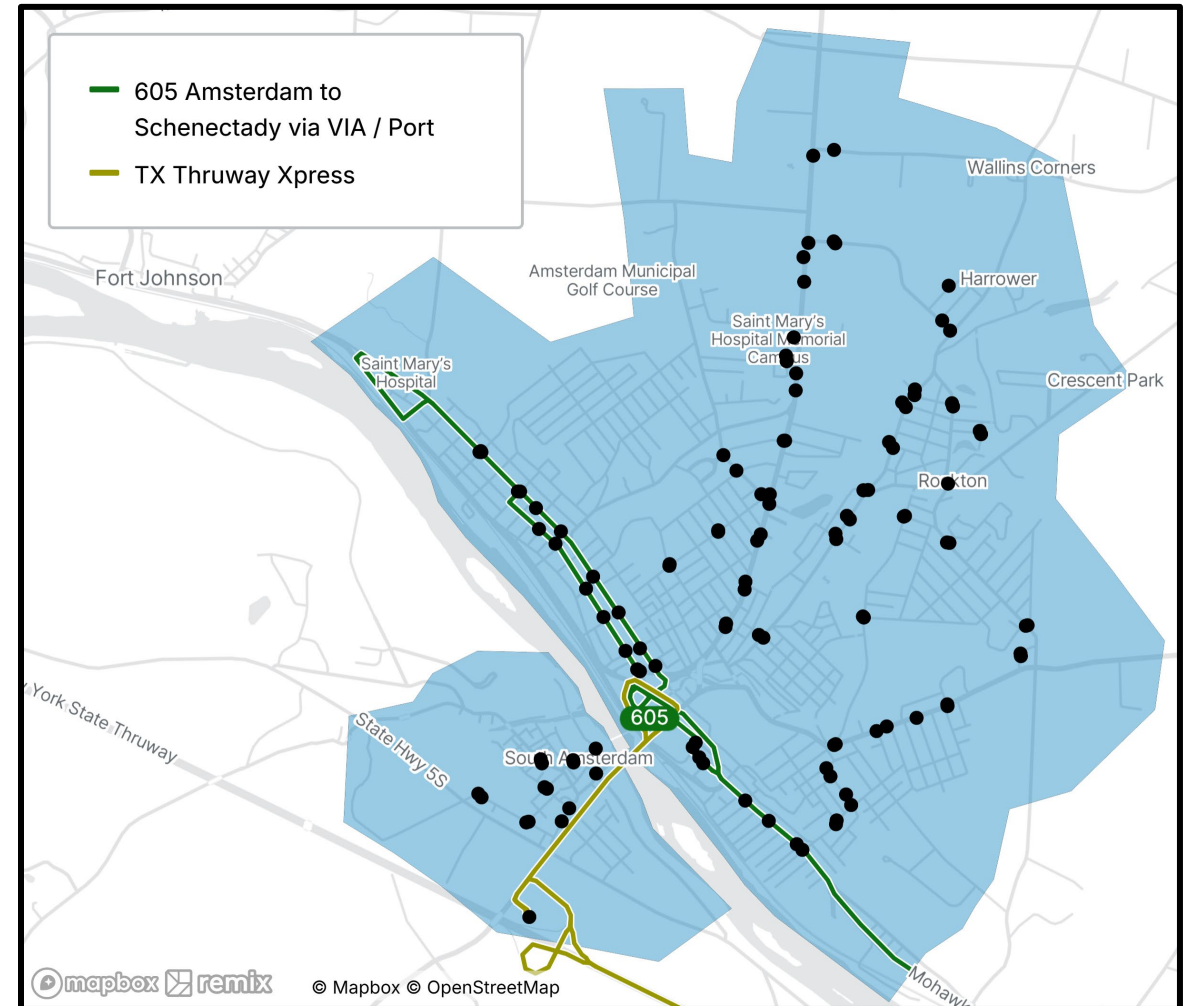
- FLEX operates from **6:00am-9:30pm**

Saturdays

- FLEX operates from **9:00am-7:00pm**

Sundays

- FLEX operates from **9:00am-6:00pm**



Next steps

- **Board approves Service Plan**
- **Outreach to public & elected officials**
 - FLEX Public information session in Amsterdam on **November 10th, 2026**
- **Pick rolls out on November 29th, 2026**



THANK YOU!

Questions? | Comments? | Next Steps.