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PRESS RELEASE

Public Transportation Riders Can Now View Bus Routes and Timing on Google Maps

Simplifying Daily Life and Driving Economic Opportunity

Riders on Columbia County public transportation can now plan their trips using Google Maps. On the website or app, Riders can enter their starting point, destination, and departure time, and the platform will pull from Columbia County route data to offer bus stops, route, and timing. This new feature complements the BusWhere app, which provides live updates, as well as the full bus schedule available in printed and digital formats.

“Public transportation just got easier to use,” says Michael Chameides who coordinated this effort, which began last year when he Chaired the Public Transportation Committee Chair for the Board of Supervisors “This improvement benefits everyone because public transportation contributes to economic development, public health, and quality of life.”

“I especially want to thank Max Katz-Christy, who volunteered his time and expertise to build the technology interface that made this connection with Google Maps possible.”

Katz-Christy, a public transportation advocate and web developer, explains his motivation: “It shouldn’t be this hard for a small bus company to publish a digital schedule. I want to make it easier.”

This widely-used Google Maps feature will also help build awareness about public transportation options. People will see bus directions alongside driving and walking directions, making transit an easy-to-see choice for essential trips for the more than 42,000 riders who used public transportation in 2025 - an increase of 4% over 2024 ridership.

For many of our residents, public transportation is a vital link to jobs, healthcare, and essential services,” says Richard Scalera, Chair of the Transportation Committee. “Adding our routes to Google Maps was a key action in our 2023 Public Transportation Plan, and it’s a testament to our commitment to continuous improvement. We are dedicated to making transit more accessible and building a better quality of life for all of Columbia County.”

This improvement follows a series of public transportation enhancements, including the launch of the BusWhere app in November 2025. Last year, Columbia County launched a new route between Hudson and Chatham in June 2025. In 2023, Columbia County extended the Shopping Shuttle’s hours and established an updated Public Transportation plan. These improvements have led to a steady increase in ridership.

Columbia County operates several routes. Dial-a-ride services are also available for seniors, veterans, and people needing medical transportation.

More information on public transportation is available at publictransportation.columbiacountyny.com.