2026 COORDINATED PLAN UPDATE

ESSEX COUNTY TRANSPORTATION
1-800-914-9266

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Essex County Public Transportation has completed a draft Coordinated Plan Update. This Plan Update provides an opportunity to revisit longstanding transportation needs through a contemporary lens, informed by updated demographic trends, stakeholder input, and evolving mobility needs. The Plan Update seeks to identify strategies that improve mobility for transportation-disadvantaged populations and position Essex County to take advantage of emerging and innovative mobility solutions.

KEY FINDINGS



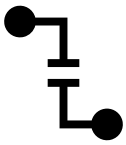
Essex County is **aging**, with over a quarter of the population age 65 and older.



Travel needs in the High Peaks area differs considerably from needs in the Champlain Valley, with **no "one size fits all"** type of transit that works.



Recruiting and retaining **bus drivers** is critical to being to offer currently scheduled service, and without more drivers, service cannot be expanded.



Traveling beyond the county by transit can be difficult due to **regional connectivity gaps**, especially to Franklin and Warren counties.



Residents live throughout the county, but services and jobs are concentrated in a few **key destinations** like Lake Placid and Ticonderoga.



Low service frequency makes using transit hard in the county, especially for trips outside the "9-to-5" workday.

https://engage-transpogroup.com/ecpt-coordinated-plan

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NEXT STEPS

Essex County Public Transportation is tasked with the following planning activities over the next five years, with an eye towards the next plan update. The initiatives are based on recommendations informed by the project findings, an Advisory Committee made up of key stakeholders from across the county, and an evaluation based on fiscal feasibility, available resources (including bus drivers), and benefits for riders using transit to access jobs and medical care.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

INITIATIVES	WHY THIS?
Establish Citizens and Partners Advisory Group	Knowledge gaps about available transit services are a key barrier for providers to coordinate on transit options for clients.
Establish Driver Recruitment Initiative	Critical need for drivers to support baseline service offerings and set foundation for further service improvements.
Establish Information Upgrade Initiative	Information about transit are difficult to find for residents and visitors and many services lack enough visibility.
Improve Rural Deviated-fixed Route Services	Travel patterns in Essex County have changed over time, and the rural routes can be updated to reflect current needs and key destinations.
Coordinate with Neighboring Counties	ECPT needs to be able to provide service in border communities, like Saranac Lake, which requires additional coordination with neighboring counties.
Expand Service Spans	Limited daily trips, and lack of weekend service, makes using transit difficult or impossible for many kinds of trips.
Study Local and Countywide Service Alternatives	Most travel in Essex County is local, but there are few options for traveling within many communities except by car.