

# WE NEED ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION!

## Tell Legislators that Transportation is a Civil Right!

*“Transportation is back as a major civil rights issue. Today’s focus is not on getting a seat at the front of the bus but on making sure the bus takes us where we need to go.”*

*~ Angela Glover Blackwell, Founder and CEO, PolicyLink*

### DEFINING A “COMPLETE COMMUNITY” BY ITS TRANSPORTATION

Nothing defines a community’s ability to integrate its citizens better than the quality, variety, and accessibility of its transportation options. Bus systems offer fixed, flexible and accessible route service for residents to move freely throughout the community to access jobs, school, commerce, and any events and activities that the community has to offer. Taxis fill the gap between the fixed routes of busses and the un-walkable distances in rural areas. For walkers and bicyclists, curb cuts, accessible crosswalk systems, and clean sidewalks ensure safe opportunities to move throughout a community. While a challenge, the vision of a “Complete Community” is not impossible for Cortland County.

### WHAT DOES ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION MEAN?

Accessible does not always mean “for people with disabilities.” In fact, accessible simply means that ANYONE can access a service when they need it. Affordability, lifts / ramps, audible / tactile signals, and curb cuts are simply accommodations for people with disabilities. However, those accommodations offer a more complete experience and benefits to everyone in a community.

### CORTLAND COUNTY PUBLIC ACCESS NEEDS

#### Bus System:

- Expand bus service to nights and weekends!
  - Expand the number and frequency of county-wide routes!
  - Expand the number and frequency of inter-county routes!
- Increase reliability and timeliness of all bus routes!
- Maintain affordable fares!



#### Taxi & Ride-Share Services:

- Broaden taxi oversight to the County level!
- Mandate companies to offer ADA compliant taxis!
- Increase company responsibility for reliable, timely, clean, safe and courteous service!
- Mandate affordable and fair rates for county-wide and inter-county trips!



#### Pedestrians & Bicyclists

- Continue to Upgrade deficient City and County curb cuts and crosswalk systems to achieve ADA compliance!
- Increase safe route options for pedestrians and bicyclists to travel without fear of injury!
- Implement new policies to keep sidewalks clear of unnecessary obstructions and obstacles!



### COST OF AN INACCESSIBLE COMMUNITY

- **Lost quality of life for residents with no alternative transportation** - Not everyone in our community drives a car. Many people, including people with disabilities, seniors and veterans, rely on public transportation to go to work, school, go shopping at local businesses, and attend medical appointments!
- **Lost commerce with business** - It is a proven fact that communities with quality public transportation experience better commerce. People shop locally if they can get to their favorite stores!
- **Lost employment opportunities** - Improved commerce leads to increased need for labor. By improving public transportation, we create new jobs. Public transportation also offers people a reliable way to get to their existing jobs, no matter what day or time they work!

## CONTACT YOUR CITY AND COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

It is important that our elected officials hear our voices loud and clear regarding transportation and access to a complete community! Use the information below to contact your City Alderperson and County Legislator and tell them about what you NEED in our community.

- Invest in our public transit system to expand service hours and develop inter-county routes!
- Move oversight of Taxi companies out of the city police department and into the County!
- Coordinate private (i.e. college and nursing facility) transportation with County efforts!
  - Update crosswalks and sidewalks so they are accessible for ALL pedestrians!

### CITY OF CORTLAND COMMON COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Ward 1 - Julie E. Bird</b> 142 Madison Street Cortland, NY 13045 <a href="mailto:ward1@cortland.org">ward1@cortland.org</a>	<b>Ward 2 - Kathryn Silliman</b> 30 Pleasant Street Cortland, NY 13045 <a href="mailto:ward2@cortland.org">ward2@cortland.org</a>	<b>Ward 3 - Ken Dye</b> 13 Hamlin Street Cortland, NY 13045 <a href="mailto:ward3@cortland.org">ward3@cortland.org</a>
<b>Ward 4 - John G. Bennett, Jr.</b> 199 Tompkins Street Cortland, NY 13045 <a href="mailto:ward4@cortland.org">ward4@cortland.org</a>	<b>Ward 5 - Clifton Dutcher</b> 7 Kent Drive Cortland, NY 13045 <a href="mailto:ward5@cortland.org">ward5@cortland.org</a>	<b>Ward 6 - Carlos Ferrer</b> 4 Euclid Avenue Cortland, NY 13045 <a href="mailto:ward6@cortland.org">ward6@cortland.org</a>
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### COUNTY LEGISLATOR CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>LD 1 - John Troy (D)</b> 21 Summit Street Cortland, NY 13045 <a href="mailto:jtroy@cortland-co.org">jtroy@cortland-co.org</a>	<b>LD 2 - Amy Cobb (D)</b> 3 Stevenson Street Cortland, NY 13045 <a href="mailto:acobb@cortland-co.org">acobb@cortland-co.org</a>	<b>LD 3 - Thomas Hartnett (D)</b> 19 Pearl Street Cortland, NY 13045 <a href="mailto:thartnett@cortland-co.org">thartnett@cortland-co.org</a>
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