



County of Rockland
Department of Planning & Public Transportation
NEWS RELEASE

August 9, 2010
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**County Announces Public Comment Period for Proposed
Bus Route Elimination**

Low ridership and funding cuts determined proposed action

POMONA, NY – The Rockland County Department of Public Transportation opened a Public Comment period today for residents to provide input on a proposal to eliminate the Transport of Rockland (TOR) Ferry Xpress shuttle bus route due to low ridership and declining funds.

Comments regarding the proposed elimination may be made in writing or in person by September 10, 2010 to the Rockland County Department of Public Transportation, Building T, 50 Sanatorium Road, Pomona, NY 10970; by phone to 845-364-3333; or by email to transithelp@co.rockland.ny.us. Residents may also comment via the Department of Public Transportation's website at www.rocklandgov.com (click on the bus).

The County's proposal includes ONLY the elimination of the Ferry Xpress shuttle bus route. There are NO changes proposed for the Haverstraw-Ossining ferry service itself. Ferry service between Haverstraw and Ossining will continue to operate its published schedule. Free parking at the Haverstraw Ferry Landing will remain available to ferry commuters. There are NO proposed changes to any other TOR bus routes.

"Since its inception, ridership on the Ferry Xpress shuttle bus route has not grown to the level of sufficiency to support the route," said Transit Administrator Michael J. Gurski. "It has also seen steadily declining ridership over the past three years and is currently carrying an average of just 13 riders per day. In this time of declining operating funds, the County simply must reevaluate the cost efficiency and usefulness of its services."

Faced with declining system-wide revenue and subsidies, the County's Department of Public Transportation had already been considering the elimination of the Ferry Xpress shuttle bus service. Subsequently, the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), which was providing 50 percent of the funding for the service, recently informed the County that they could no longer provide that funding. As a result, the County is proposing that the Ferry Xpress shuttle bus service be eliminated, effective September 30, 2010.

While NYSDOT and the County have discussed the Ferry Xpress shuttle's poor performance for some time, the County is taking this action very reluctantly. Fortunately, because the TOR #91 and TOR #95 buses provide similar yet more frequent service than the Ferry Xpress shuttle bus route, shuttle bus riders should be able to transition to the TOR #91 or TOR #95 without significant impact.

The Ferry Xpress shuttle bus route was created in 2004 as a joint venture of the County of Rockland, NYS DOT and Metro-North Railroad. The shuttle bus transports passengers from Mt. Ivy along Highway 202 to the Haverstraw Ferry Landing. The Ferry Xpress provides six trips to the ferry dock on weekday mornings and nine trips back to Mt. Ivy in the evenings.

The published Legal Notice regarding the proposed service reduction, along with a public comment email link, is available through the County's website at www.rocklandgov.com (click on the bus).

###