

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF ULSTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE MIKE HEIN

ULSTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE ANNOUNCES DISCOUNT CARDS FOR DISABLED PUBLIC TRANSIT RIDERS

Measure Designed to Compliment New User-Friendly Approach to Busing

Kingston, NY (October 15, 2009) – Ulster County Executive Mike Hein announced today that Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT), the department that runs the County's public transportation bus system, will soon be issuing Bus/Disability I.D. Cards to qualified disabled individuals. Card holders will be able to instantly demonstrate their eligibility to ride on any UCAT bus for half-price, everyday, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Disabled citizens can obtain a discount card by visiting UCAT's headquarters, located at 1 Danny Circle, in Kingston, NY. Applicants who request a card must show proof of identity and either a valid Medicare Card, letter from a physician, Social Security Income/Disability (SSI/SSD) award or other official documentation.

This initiative is part of UCAT's new, user-friendly approach to busing. It will be accompanied by a new easy-to-read bus schedule, which will include the discount eligibility and card information outlined above.

"We are examining all of our County operations in order to deliver services in a more efficient, cost-effective and user-friendly manner," said Ulster County Executive Mike Hein. "With this measure, and others, we are making public transportation a more convenient, safe and affordable option for all of our citizens, especially during these difficult times."

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"Ulster County Area Transit is striving for easy access to all our services for the disabled citizens of Ulster County. All of our vehicles have wheelchair access and in introducing our half- fare card, we will make it easier and faster to board a bus," said Bob DiBella, UCAT's Interim Director.

More information on the Bus/Disability Identification Cards and overall UCAT services, including schedules and fares, can be obtained by calling (845) 340-3333 or by visiting online at: www.ulstercountyny.gov/ucat/index.html

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