



## Ulster County 2021 Climate Smart Communities Recertification Documentation

### PE3 Action: Incentives for Employee Carpooling & Transit

#### 2 POINTS DOCUMENTED

**Background:** Ulster County offers reduced fares for County employees on its Ulster County Area Transit service. The reduced fare amount is \$0.30 per ride and is valid on any UCAT route.

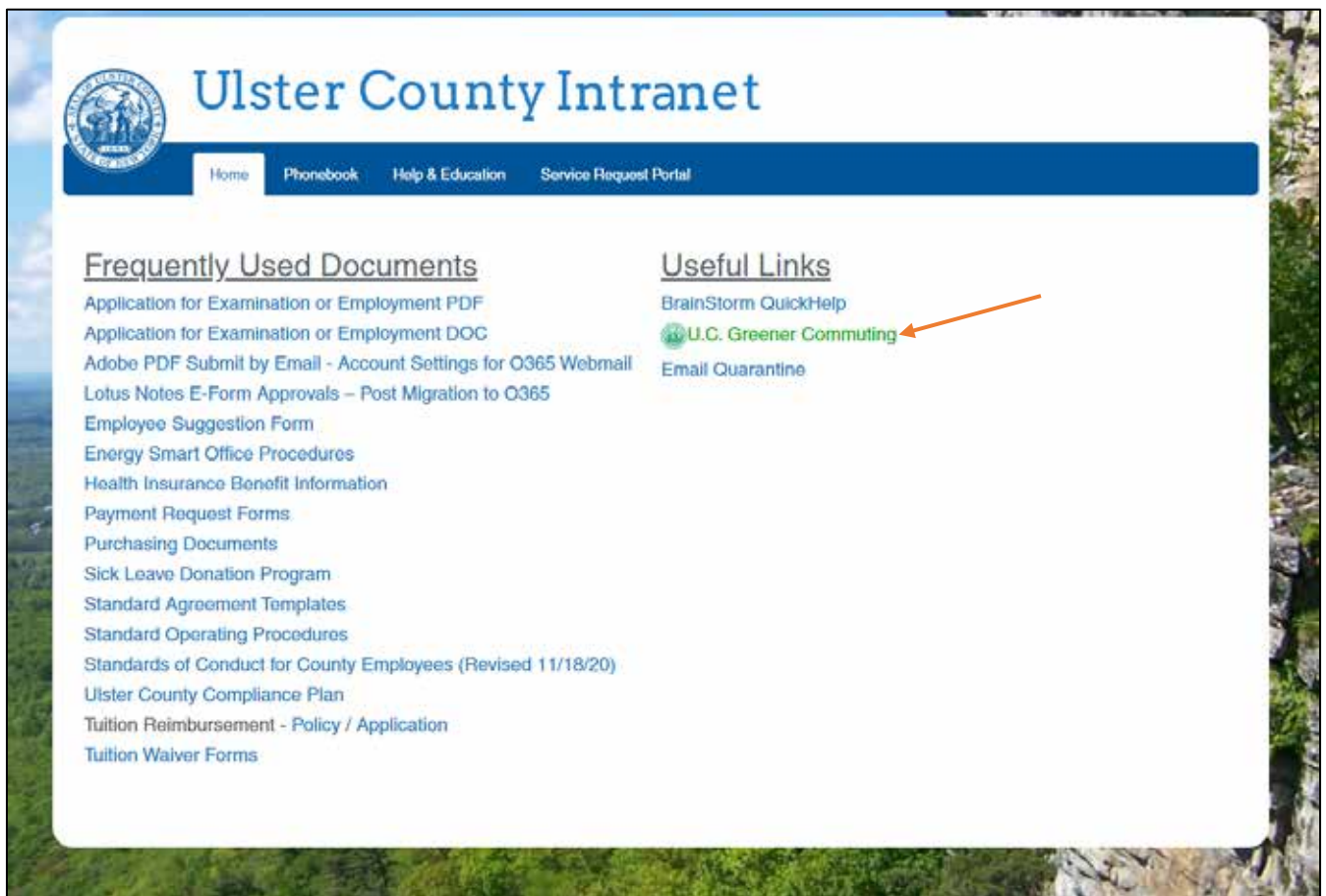
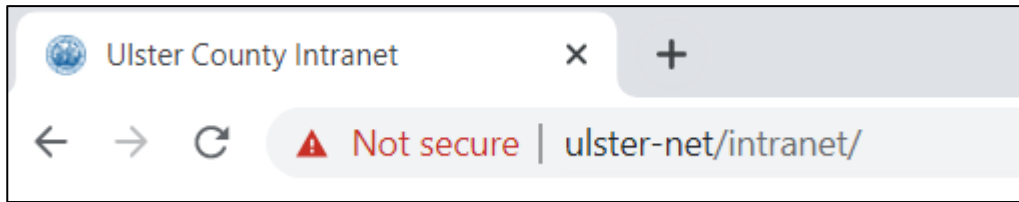
Ulster County promotes greener commuting options using a link on its Intranet page which is available to all County employees. The link leads to a 511NYRideShare page that lists commuting options, including the UCAT reduced fare benefit.

The reduced fare benefit is also listed on UCAT's website under fare information.

#### Documentation:

- Screenshots of Ulster County Intranet page
- Reduced transit fares on UCAT's website: <https://ulstercountyny.gov/ucat/rider-information>
- 511NYRideShare page: <https://511nyrideshare.org/web/ulster-county-greener-commuting/transit>
- Correspondence from UCAT indicating reduced fare usage by County employees in 2019

# Ulster County Intranet for County employees



The U.C. Greener Commuting link leads to a 511NYRideShare page.

# 511NYRideShare Page

<https://511nyrideshare.org/web/ulster-county-greener-commuting/transit>

[Home](#) [Commute Options ▾](#) [Clean Air NY ▾](#) [Community](#) [Electric Charging Stations](#) [Transit and Traffic Conditions](#) [Partners](#)

[Biking](#)  
[Carpool](#)  
[Carpool Tips](#)  
[Telework](#)  
[Vanpool](#)  
[Transit](#)  
[Guaranteed Ride Program](#)

## Welcome to

# Ulster County Greener Commuting

## Ridematching Portal

Visit our [New York Forward](#) page for up to date transit and transportation information for workers, and telework tips for those working from home.

Transit experts are available for assistance at 718-886-1343 or [info@511NYRideShare.org](mailto:info@511NYRideShare.org) or by clicking "Chat now" at the bottom right of this page.

## Learn about your options to improve your commute

No matter where you live, there are alternatives to driving alone. We have partnered with 511NY Rideshare to bring you transportation resources to improve your traveling experience!

Ridesharing can be a convenient option – allowing you to save money and connect with others. 511NY Rideshare offers ridematching for carpools and vanpools, a [Guaranteed Ride Program](#) for sustainable commuters, and resources

## Login



The map to the right makes it easy for you to plan your route using public transportation (UCAT, Kingston CityBus, Trailways, MetroNorth, etc.). Simply enter your start and end destinations and our map will do the rest!

### Ulster County Employees

Ulster County employees commute approximately 22 miles round trip every day. In an effort to lessen Ulster County's carbon footprint, we need your help!

Here's one way:

Did you know?

- County employees ride Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT) for only 30 cents per ride! Just show your County employee ID badge to the bus driver and enjoy this efficient, inexpensive and environmentally-kind commute.
- Every UCAT bus runs on clean biodiesel fuel.
- All UCAT buses are equipped with bike racks.
- Download the 'UCAT' app, which will give you the bus schedule *and* show you exactly where your bus is in transit. To download this app, search for 'UCAT' at the App Store or Google Play.



## NOTICE

IMPORTANT VACCINE INFORMATION ... [CLICK FOR DETAILS](#)

[ulstercountyny.gov](http://ulstercountyny.gov)

# Public Transportation

## Rider Information

[Departure Locations](#) | [\(/sites/default/files/DECEMBER%20SCHEDULE\\_1.pdf\)](#) [Holiday Schedule](#) | [\(/sites/default/files/DECEMBER%20SCHEDULE\\_1.pdf\)](#) [Other Transit Providers](#)

### UCAT CURRENT SCHEDULES

[\(/sites/default/files/FEBRUARY%20SCHEDULE.pdf\)](#)

## Dispatch office (schedule questions) 845-334-8458

After carefully monitoring the ongoing COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic in Ulster County and the greater Hudson Valley/Catskills region and the current status of COVID-19 in Ulster County, UCAT increased its fixed-route service in December to near pre-COVID levels. In addition to these changes, Paratransit and senior medical van services resumed and riders should call the scheduling office at 845-334-8120, available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. the day before their planned trip, and on Friday for a Monday trip.

UCAT buses may have additional staff aboard some buses to ensure riders are complying with social distancing guidance and mask usage. New procedures used by UCAT are as follows:

- Masks will be required to ride the bus and will be available to riders if they do not have one.
- Social distancing will be required by requesting passengers are seated in every other row, when possible.
- Full cleaning of the buses is done on a daily basis by a cleaning company using CDC-approved cleaning products.
- Drivers also complete additional cleaning of the buses throughout the day



## Fares

- Travel within Ulster County is \$1.50
- Travel outside of Ulster County is \$2.00.
- Travel within the City of Kingston is currently free on the Red, Blue, and Yellow buses only.
- Half fare is available for Seniors, ADA recipients, and Medicare cardholders between the hours of 9 am & 3 pm.
- Veterans ride for free with valid ID.
- Active military ride for free with valid ID.
- **Ulster County employees ride for \$0.30 per bus with valid ID**
- **SUNY Ulster** students ride all in-county buses for free with valid ID. Travel outside Ulster County is \$1.00
- **SUNY New Paltz** students ride the KPL, NPL & UPL buses for free with valid ID. All other in-county buses are \$0.75
- Children 46" and higher pay the full fare (all buses have marker line).

## Bike Racks:

[Please watch this video on how to use our bike racks: \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Yfo8lefYno\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Yfo8lefYno)

## Departure Locations

Kingston Plaza

Hannaford Kingston Plaza

Ellenville

Liberty Square

Highland

Along Route 9W

## NOTICE

### IMPORTANT VACCINE INFORMATION ... [CLICK FOR DETAILS](#)

Phoenicia	Main Street
Pine Hill	Main Street
Plattekill	Route 32 by Plattekill Post Office
Saugerties	Market Street by Post Office
SUNY Ulster	Gymnasium parking lot on campus
Woodstock	At the Village Green
Wallkill	Route 208 by Popp Park

### RIDERS RULES OF CONDUCT

The following rules of conduct will be enforced to ensure that all UCAT passengers have a pleasant ride while using our services.

1.

For your safety and good health, smoking including electronic/vapor cigarettes is **prohibited** on all UCAT buses. Drivers shall inform passengers in a courteous, but firm manner that it is **prohibited**.

2.

Federal regulations **prohibit** the operation of any bus with **passengers standing ahead of the white line**.

3.

**Passengers are prohibited from disturbing other passengers or the driver.** Drivers should courteously request that the offending action cease. Examples of such disturbances include, but are not limited to: excessive noise, throwing objects, physical violence, offensive or harassing behavior and speech, public intoxication.

4.

**Articles which because of their size or the nature of their contents may be dangerous to passengers shall not be allowed on the bus.** Articles prohibited on all UCAT buses include but are not limited to:

-

Car batteries

-

Gasoline, kerosene or any other flammable liquid

-

Weapons including but not limited to guns or knives

-

Illegal drugs

-

No beverages without a secure lid. No alcoholic beverages

-

No animals other than service animals for the disabled except those animals that can be safely carried in a closed and secure carrier

5.

Passengers are **prohibited** from **soliciting the sale of goods or services** on all UCAT buses.

6.

For your safety, passengers are **prohibited from throwing objects from the bus or sticking anything** including body limbs **out of the bus window**.

7.

## NOTICE

### IMPORTANT VACCINE INFORMATION ... [CLICK FOR DETAILS](#)

**Passengers are required to pay the proper fare** for all UCAT transportation.

9.

Passengers **may not place advertisements** on the inside or outside of the buses, **nor may they remove or deface** those placed on the buses by authorized representatives.

10.

Passengers are **prohibited** from **playing musical devices** on all UCAT buses unless headsets at a reasonable level of volume are being used.

11.

Passengers are **prohibited from performing any personal hygiene task while riding the bus** (i.e. clipping fingernails, toenails, putting on perfume, hairspray, etc).

#### **Penalties for riders who violate any of the Rider Rules of Conduct:**

- One (1) violation will result in a verbal warning
- Two (2) violations will result in a written warning
- Three (3) violations will result in the suspension of service for a minimum of 30 days

## Safety / Ridership

- Please call (845) 340-3333 before boarding for fare and bus stop information.
- Buses will stop along the route. Stand in a location where the bus can stop safely.
- Hail the bus with a clear hand signal.
- Have **exact** fare upon boarding.
- Fares are deposited in the farebox.
- Take a seat if one is available.
- Standees must remain behind the white line.
- The aisle must be kept clear of all loose objects at all times.
- Please refrain from talking to the driver except to remind them to stop.
- All buses are equipped with bike racks, a passenger is responsible for securing the bike on the rack.
- Gas-powered bicycles are not permitted inside the bus or on the bike racks.
- **All wheelchairs must be secured per the manufacturer's securement recommendations.**

## Holiday Schedule

UCAT is closed on the following holidays:

- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Presidents' Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Columbus Day
- Thanksgiving Day (On Friday following Thanksgiving, Saturday schedule is in effect.)
- Christmas Day
- Early Closing on Christmas Eve day and New Years Eve day (check social media for times)

## Other Things to Remember

- Weather and/or traffic conditions may affect the scheduled times.
- Notice will be given to local radio stations for weather delays. Updates will also be on social media pages and bus app
- The schedule is subject to change.

## Other Transit Providers

## NOTICE

### IMPORTANT VACCINE INFORMATION ... [CLICK FOR DETAILS](#)

New Paltz & Kingston & Pine Hill

[Trailways \(http://www.trailwaysny.com/\)](http://www.trailwaysny.com/) (800) 858-8555

Newburgh, Beacon

[Leprechaun \(http://www.leprechaunlines.com/\)](http://www.leprechaunlines.com/) (845) 565-7900

Saugerties & Kingston

Laidlaw (845) 338-5809

Dutchess County

[Dutchess Loop](#)

[\(http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/PublicWorks/PLLoopbus.htm\)](http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/PublicWorks/PLLoopbus.htm)

(845) 485-4690

(845) 340-3000 - 244 Fair Street, PO Box 1800, Kingston, NY 12402

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# Transit

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## Transit and it's Advantage

We all know the drill: Wake up. Coffee. Sit in traffic. Repeat. Break the routine and take the stress out of your commute. Enjoy the ride on a train, bus or ferry. Or simplify your commute by biking or walking to work.

- Catch up on work, read a book, nap or relax.
  - Get to know your neighbor, coworker, or that person you see on the bus every morning. You never know who you could meet on your commute!
  - Avoid the cost of car ownership -- and the headache of maintaining your car -- when you take transit or bike or walk.
- 

## We can help you with

- Customized door-to-door itineraries.
- Access to our FREE Guaranteed Ride Program (<https://511nyrideshare.org/web/statewide-511ny-rideshare/guaranteed-ride>). We'll give eligible candidates \$300 a year in total ride credits\* to use on a taxi, Lyft, or Uber ride to leave work in an emergency when you regularly take transit.
- Getting pre-tax benefits through your employer – we'll talk to them on your behalf if they don't already offer this.

*\*Limits apply*

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## What People are Saying

“ Starting my day with the subway and a walk instead of sitting in traffic has really improved my mood. ”

— Tom C. 511NY Rideshare Member

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## Did you know?

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- Every UCAT bus runs on clean biodeisel fuel.
- All UCAT buses are equipped with bike racks.
- Download the 'UCAT' app, which will give you the bus schedule *and* show you exactly where your bus is in transit. To download this app, search for 'UCAT' at the App Store or Google Play.



“ Last summer, I had to drive. I felt way more tired even though my commute took less time. I had to focus on the road, I couldn't work while I was commuting. Now, if I want to work or nap, I can take the bus or train. ”

— Kristina R., 511NY Rideshare

⊙ Enter start location or click on map...



📍 Enter destination or click on map...



Today



Leave now



Transit Options  
& Preferences



The map to the right makes it easy for you to plan your route using public transportation (UCAT, Kingston CitiBus, Trailways, MetroNorth, etc.). Simply enter your start and end destinations and our map will do the rest!

## Ulster County Employees

Ulster County employees commute approximately 22 miles round trip every day. In an effort to lessen Ulster County's carbon footprint, we need your help!

Here's one way:

## Nick Hvozda

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**From:** Michael A. Olivieri  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 7:14 AM  
**To:** Nick Hvozda  
**Subject:** UCE ries for 2019

Nick,

In the calendar year 2019, our systems report that Ulster County employees used the employee transit discount fare for a total of 2,043 trips, \$612.90 collected.

Thank you,

Michael A. Olivieri  
Public Transit Dispatch and Operations Coordinator  
T: 845-334-8135  
F: 845-340-8741

## PE3 Action: Incentives for Employee Carpooling & Transit

1 Points

2 Points

3 Points

### A. Why is this action important?

The transportation sector is the largest source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in New York State. Local governments can lead by example and encourage resource-efficient behavior among their employees by providing incentives for them to use alternative forms of transportation.

### B. How to implement this action

Contribute to reducing air pollution, GHG emissions, and traffic in the community by subsidizing or incentivizing employees to make non-single occupancy vehicle commutes. Incentives may include establishing transportation reimbursement accounts whereby employees determine their contribution of pre-tax salary for mass transit fares and passes, car and vanpools, and parking (e.g., park and ride), to encourage and reduce the employee's costs of alternative commutes. Other incentives may include cash gifts for those who rideshare, free or discounted public transit passes, or parking discounts or preferential parking for carpoolers and vanpoolers. Establish a formal policy with the human resources office regarding how the program shall be administered and used, create a registration process and monitoring system, and tailor benefits to the needs and circumstances of employees (e.g., rideshare will likely be more useful to employees who live in a rural part of a community, while bus passes will likely be more useful to an employee who lives in a more developed part of a community).

### C. Time frame, project costs, and resource needs

Establishing a commuter incentive program will require time and effort on the part of human resources and payroll, but there are numerous programs already established throughout the country on which a local government can model its program. A local government may also wish to pursue contracting with a third-party entity, such as [WageWorks](#), that can help administer the benefit through the payroll system.

### D. Which local governments implement this action? Which departments within the local government are most likely to have responsibility for this?

Any local government could establish a commuter incentive program, though it will be most beneficial in communities with more alternative commuting options, such as public transit, bike paths, and existing ride-share programs. Human resources and payroll staff will be instrumental in implementing this action.

### E. How to obtain points for this action

Local governments can earn points for this action by subsidizing or incentivizing employee alternative commutes.

#### POSSIBLE POINTS

Establish preferred parking for carpools and vanpools or a system for organizing ride-sharing 1

Provide subsidized or pre-tax transit pass incentives 2

## **F. What to submit**

The local government must provide documentation of the incentive program provided to employees, including level and type of incentives, and evidence that the program is communicated to new and current employees. If the program has been in place for 6 months or more, the number of employees enrolled in the program should be provided. The program must be currently active to receive points for this action.

All CSC action documentation is available for public viewing after an action is approved. Action submittals should not include any information or documents that are not intended to be viewed by the public.

## **G. Links to Additional Resources or Best Practices**

- [New York City Transit Benefit Program through WageWorks](#)
- [DOT, Ride Share Programs](#)

## **H. Recertification requirements**

The recertification requirements are the same as the initial certification requirements.