Michael P. Hein, County Executive Chairman

## **AUGUST 7, 2017**

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Kingston and Ulster County Invite the Public to Weigh in On Public Transit Service Electronic Survey Open through August 31.

The Ulster County Transit System Integration Plan was initiated in September 2016 by the Ulster County Transportation Council (UCTC) at the request of both the City of Kingston and Ulster County. The request was a result of the Ulster County/City of Kingston Sales Tax Agreement that acknowledged the importance of intermunicipal cooperation and included language to "facilitate a single bus transit system within the County..." A survey has been created in an effort to gather information from the public on the quality of the existing Citibus service and how that service can be improved.

The Integration Plan is exploring the current transit service in Ulster County, focusing on the City of Kingston, and will evaluate the benefits and costs associated with consolidating services, particularly when considering the overlapping service areas of UCAT and Citibus.

The Integration Plan envisions a county-wide single carrier transit system that will be able to coordinate routes, respond to changes in demand, and make the transit user's experience much more seamless and service more predictable. A county-wide system is envisioned as one that will offer a single point of contact, feature easier-to-understand schedules, and be more accountable to its users.

A draft plan is expected to be completed in September 2017. A public meeting series is being planned in conjunction with the release of the plan. Further information will be made available in the coming weeks.

The general public is now being asked to participate in a general survey regarding their opinion and use of the Citibus and UCAT services. *You don't have to be a rider to participate – all opinions are welcome.* 

The survey, along with all project information – including drafts, fact sheets and technical memoranda – can be found online at

## http://ulstercountyny.gov/planning/planning/active-studies/transit-system-integration

The survey will be used to provide insight into customers' wishes and needs for transit service, providing valuable input into the design of an integrated transit network. The results of the survey will be included in the final draft plan.

## **For More Information, Please Contact:**

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Individuals who lack access to a computer can be sent a paper survey upon request through the contact above. Para recibir una encuesta en español, por favor comuníquese con Brian Slack 334-5590.