

September 7, 2010

Mr. Ernest K. Ott
Community Outreach Manager
ITNAmerica®
90 Bridge Street
Westbrook, Maine 04092

Re: Tompkins County, NY Letter of Interest in *ITNEverywhere*

Dear Mr. Ott,

The purpose of this letter is to express our interest in having Tompkins County be considered as one of the four *ITNEverywhere* pilot affiliates in New York State. The undersigned agencies have been working together for years to help improve overall mobility options in the Tompkins County area.

We recognize significant hardships and limited mobility options experienced by seniors, persons with disabilities, limited income households, youth and rural residents.

- We recognize public resources are scarce. There is a compelling need to develop cost-effective mobility services, especially using volunteers.
- We think ITNAmerica's business model is very innovative and could provide us the ability to integrate existing and future mobility services.

Anchored by a highly regarded public bus transportation system, Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit, Inc. (TCAT), and paratransit service, Gadabout Transportation Services, Inc., the mobility options for Tompkins County include: car share (Ithaca Carshare); a rural van service pilot (CityVan), a vanpool service (VPSI), and a ride sharing system (Zimride) that will be implemented by November 2010. In the last two years the Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation planning process has resulted in a variety of programs aimed at enhancing mobility for all persons: Way2Go community mobility education and information; volunteer driver programs; community travel training; etc. In addition, the county's largest employer and activity generator, Cornell University, has in operation a mature Transportation Demand Management program that is complementary of other community wide efforts.

The Ithaca-Tompkins County area has demonstrated its commitment to enhanced mobility through its planning (see the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan of the Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council (ITCTC) and implementation of programs as mentioned

above. Further, in 2011 ITCTC will begin a regional mobility planning project with neighboring counties to increase mobility alternatives for inter- county travel.

We believe that our area is a good fit for *ITNEverywhere*. Through the Metropolitan Planning Process and the Coordinated Plan process we have in place administrative structures to allow the transportation players to work together. The staff and leadership of the key transportation related agencies are familiar with enhanced mobility concepts and have a history of working together in a variety of projects.


With this letter of interest we express our desire to work with ITNAmerica to refine an agreement to participate in *ITNEverywhere*. Final approval of an agreement will require action by the Tompkins County Legislature, ITCTC and GADABOUT's governing boards.

We are available to provide additional information or answer any questions you may have. For ease of communications please use Dwight Mengel, Chief Transportation Planner, DSS, as the main contact person: phone (607) 274-5605; email dwight.mengel@dfa.state.ny.us .

Sincerely,




Patricia Carey, Commissioner
Tompkins County Department of Social Services



Fernando de Aragon, Executive Director
Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council



Lisa Holmes, Commissioner
Tompkins County Office For the Aging



Judith Willis, Executive Director
GADABOUT Transportation Services, Inc.

cc: J. Mareane, County Administrator