

Ruth Groff
Supervisor Report
April 2024

- **Meetings of committees:**
 - **Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council (ITCTC), Planning Committee:** March 19, 10:00 AM
 - TIP amendment to update FTA 5307 Table-FFY 2024
 - Allocation of remaining balances from FFY 20/21 and 22/23 to the following:
 - Five New Projects:
 - Operating assistance – TCAT
 - Transit Facility Parking lot rehab project
 - TCAT office space project
 - TCAT Boiler replacement project
 - Bus transmission/engine replacement
 - One Existing Project:
 - TCAT replacement cars
 - ITCTC area is receiving \$5.45M federal funds for Bridge NY
 - Of the 5 applications received for this funding, NYSDOT identified Falls Road over Taughannock Creek as the project to receive the funding. The ITCTC Planning Committee endorsed and recommended that project to go to the Policy Committee.
 - Director’s Report
 - The updated Crash Report is now online on the ITCTC website.
 - Ithaca Carshare has restarted.
 - Ithaca Bikeshare is a huge success.
 - NYSDOT
 - There will be an open house regarding the repaving of Route 13, on April 3 at Ithaca High School. Information will be forthcoming.
 - Ithaca
 - The Stewart Avenue bridge is planned for construction in the summer of 2025.
 - Traffic will be rerouted to the Thurston Avenue bridge.
 - Pedestrian and bike traffic will still be open on the Stewart Ave. bridge during construction.
 - **Capital Improvement Committee:** March 25, 10:00 AM
 - The committee reviewed the projects from prior meetings and added a couple in the section for projects between \$50k and \$500k. We will be moving forward with writing a narrative for each project and with reviewing the timing of each project.
 - **Parks, Recreation, and Trail Working Group:** March 26, 11:30 AM
 - Discussed recommendations to be sent to the Town Board regarding Jonas Falls, and Trails and Sidewalks. Reviewed a preliminary version of a FAQ document being compiled to highlight points frequently asked by landowners regarding trails. The Beautification Grant for Banners was awarded to Lansing for banners along the town center corridor.
 - **Highway Building:** March 28 and April 11, 10:00 AM
 - Regular meeting with Colliers Engineering and LeChase. Agendas included Geotechnical, Schematic Design Progress, Owners & Construction Manager Action Items, Next Steps, update of Project Schedule. They are still on schedule to break ground in the first part of 2025.
 - **Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG):** March 28, 3:00 PM
 - Jay Franklin, the County’s Director of Assessment, gave a presentation on “Assessment 301,” where he highlighted the job of the Assessor, assessment cycles, annual equity maintenance, and tax levies.
 - There were presentations about municipal grants and assistance by the Tompkins County Department of Planning and Sustainability – Municipal Parks and Trails Grant, Business Energy

Advisor (BEA), Housing Affordability and Supportive Infrastructure Grant, Community Housing Development Fund, and Natural Infrastructure Capital Program.

- Robert Lynch gave a brief report on TCAT's electric buses, indicating that they have all been taken out of service, due to serious structural and mechanical issues.
- The Council passed a Resolution on County Wide Emergency Response, resolving that TCCOG urge the Tompkins County Legislature to abandon any municipal cost-sharing approach for the Tompkins County Rapid Medical Response (RMR), and that TCCOG fully support the funding of the RMR program through the County tax levy.
- **Southern Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Water Commission:** April 4
 - 3:30 PM – Budget meeting
 - 4:00 PM – Regular meeting
 - Steve Riddle presented a slide show regarding the various types of water main breaks, with explanations as to the proper pipes and protections that should be installed to prevent or mitigate such breaks.
- **Tompkins County Rapid Medical Response:** April 11, 4:30 PM
- **Town Supervisors:** April 15, 10:00 AM
- **Other:**
 - **Tompkins County Public Information Advisory Board:** March 27, 4:30 PM
 - The Public Information Advisory Board (PIAB) hosted an event to help develop and strengthen relationships between local officials and members of the media who cover topics of interest in Tompkins County. The event intended to spark conversations to improve the reporting and information sharing process so both elected officials and the media can better meet their communications goals. The panel included representatives from Tompkins Weekly and the Ithaca Voice, followed by representatives from the County Legislature and Ithaca Council. In attendance were reporters from several other papers and radio stations, and elected officials from around the county.
 - **Pre-Demolition of 2 Auburn Road:** March 28, 8:30 AM
 - Dave Herrick, Mike Moseley, Scott Russell, Heather Dries, and I met with Anthony Contento, the contractor on the project, for a pre-demolition conference. The topics covered with Mr. Contento were as follows: required documents, demolition execution, environmental impacts, staging area, payments, submissions for approval, local regulations, and labor laws. Mr. Contento is confident that the demolition can start in the last week of April, dependent on approval of all documents that have been submitted to the required authorities.
 - **Supervisors Roundtable, sponsored by Association of Towns:** April 10, 1:00 PM
 - A roundtable discussion among Supervisors from around the state. The topics revolved around competitive benefits and civil service as roadblocks to filling positions and employee retention.
 - Many municipalities are struggling with EMS services.