

Keep up with CAT with our text notification service

Did you know that you can get CAT-related news sent directly to your cell phone by subscribing to our text notification service?

The texts include notifications of major service alerts that impact services for a day or longer, including schedule adjustments, bus stop closures and route changes. In addition, subscribers will be notified of upcoming events and public meetings.

Since the service was launched, we have informed customers about the removal of stops, holiday schedules, career opportunities, and new discount programs. Subscribers were also among the first to learn about our new mobile ticketing option.

If this service sounds good to you, simply text RIDECAT to 41411 in order to subscribe.

Message frequency may vary. Message and data rates may apply. Text STOP to cancel. Terms and privacy policy: smstc.us/privacy-tm



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CAT customers continuing to tout benefits of mobile ticketing

Since CAT launched the Token Transit mobile ticketing service in March, hundreds of customers have taken advantage of the many benefits the app provides. If you didn't know, the Token Transit app lets customers purchase electronic tickets using their smartphones. Customers can then simply show their digital ticket to board the bus or paratransit vehicle.



Among the customers who have embraced the service is CAT rider Todd Holloway, who said that mobile ticketing is easy to use and convenient.

Your ticket is always with you on your phone, Holloway said. In addition, Holloway said he also enjoys the fare capping feature, which limits

how much riders pay by upgrading passes when your fares add up to a certain amount. If a customer takes two rides in one day, that customer won't be charged any more that day because the customer already paid the equivalent of a day pass. The same feature applies to weekly and monthly passes.

Try it for yourself and experience the benefits. Just download the Token Transit app in the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store.

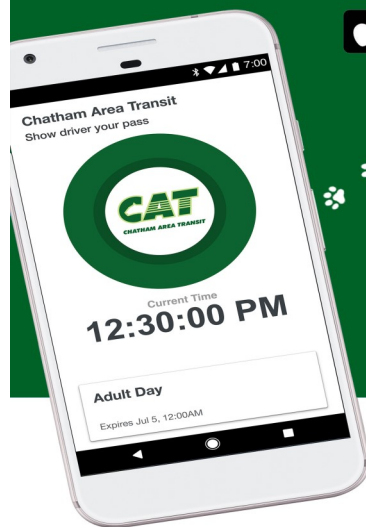
Scan the QR code with your phone's camera to download the Token Transit mobile ticketing app and start saving today!



Never overpay for riding the bus!

 **Download the Token Transit App**

Download on the  **App Store** or  **Google play**



June/July 2021 edition

Dot shuttle resumes service, extends to Eastern Wharf development



CAT officials recently displayed a Dot bus at the new Eastern Wharf development, which is part of the redesigned Dot route.

On June 21, Chatham Area Transit resumed operating the free downtown Dot shuttles, which have been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The shuttle service is funded by the city of Savannah and is comprised of two loops, Forsyth and Downtown, which connect Savannah's visitor centers, parking facilities, attractions, shops, restaurants and hotels.

The shuttles arrive every ten minutes at 18 stops throughout the downtown Historic District and operate seven days a week. The shuttles will operate at half capacity and on an adjusted schedule.

Dot schedule

Mon.-Fri: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Holiday: 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
 (See route map on page 3)

Continued on page 3

CAT Board approves FY2022 budget

The Chatham Area Transit Authority recently approved a \$30.3 million operating budget for the 2022 fiscal year, which begins July 1.

The operating budget retains the 2021 fiscal-year tax rate, 1.15 mills, paid by property owners within CAT's Special Service District (SSD), which includes Savannah, unincorporated Chatham County and a portion of Garden City.

The balanced budget was developed amid significant financial challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, including ridership declines as reduced service hours and capacity limits were implemented. At the same time, CAT faced increased expenses related to new safety measures such as employee health screenings, intensified sanitation processes, personal protective equipment and bus operator safety shields.

Capacity on CAT vehicles remains reduced and the pandemic is expected to continue having an impact on fare and tax revenue

during the next fiscal year. Almost \$1.49 million in fixed-route fare revenue is projected during the 2022 fiscal year, which is about 34 percent less than pre-pandemic levels. Overall revenues are projected to increase, however, due to federal grant funding provided to assist transit agencies in the wake of the health and economic crisis.

About \$38.5 million for capital projects is budgeted in the spending plan, with more than 61 percent of that cost expected to be covered by grants. These capital investments include new buses and paratransit

vehicles, a ferry maintenance facility and bus stop amenities. In addition, funding is included to cover the cost of two electric bus charging stations as CAT moves forward with plans to incorporate zero emission vehicles into its fleet.

The budget also includes \$107,537 to build up CAT's reserve fund for emergencies, with the long-term goal of setting aside enough funds to cover at least 90 days of operating expenses.



CAT launches safety survey

Chatham Area Transit is conducting an online survey to understand the level of perceived safety at CAT fixed-route bus stops and the potential for improvements.

The results of the survey will be used to evaluate the safety features of CAT bus stops and the possibility of future enhancements.

Customers are asked to take a few minutes to complete the brief survey. All responses will be confidential and considered when developing and implementing safety measures.

Customers can find the survey online at <https://surveyhero.com/c/84ad2aad>.



Scan the QR code with your smartphone's camera to take the safety survey



Join the team: CAT is hiring

Looking your next career opportunity? CAT is hiring operators for our fixed-route and paratransit services. In addition, we are hiring Savannah Belles Ferry captains to transport passengers along the Savannah River.

These employees, which we consider "ambassadors of goodwill", help residents and visitors meet their daily needs by getting them to work, school, health appointments and grocery stores.

Starting hourly rates range from \$12.45 to \$26 per hour.

Interested?

Find info about the openings and other opportunities at www.catchacat.org/about-cat/cat-careers/.

Scan the QR code with your smartphone's camera to learn about the career opportunities at Chatham Area Transit



JOIN THE CAT TEAM!

OPEN POSITIONS FOR BUS OPERATORS, PARATRANSIT DRIVERS, & FERRY CAPTAINS

STARTING SALARIES FROM \$12.45 - \$26

Dot service (continued from page one)

The Downtown loop has been rerouted and now stops at a new parking garage located in the Eastern Wharf mixed-use development, east of the Downtown Historic District. In addition, the new route now travels primarily along Bryan and Congress streets and no longer uses Liberty Street.

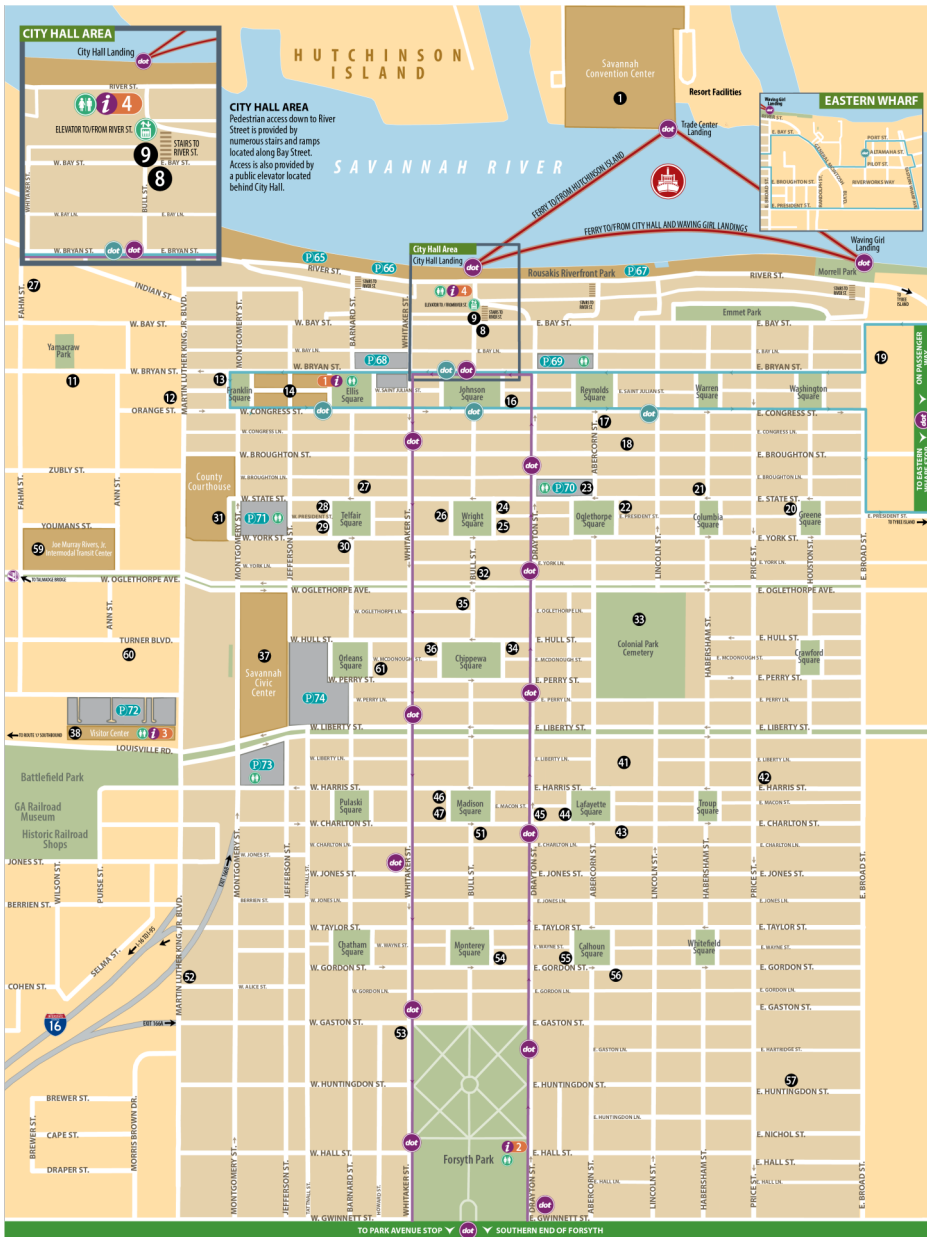
The Forsyth route remains unchanged, with shuttles traveling north along Drayton Street and south along Whitaker Street between Congress Street and Park Avenue.

Dot passengers, as well as passengers of all CAT services, are required to wear masks, as mandated by the Transportation Security Administration. Passengers without a mask can request one from an operator.

The Dot route map can be viewed online at <https://www.catchacat.org/getting-around/ride-free-downtown/dot-express-shuttle/>.



Scan the QR code with your smartphone's camera to open the online Dot map



CAT continuing to require masks



Chatham Area Transit is continuing to require that passengers wear masks to help prevent the spread of Covid-19, as required by the Transportation Security Administration. In May, the TSA extended the Federal face mask requirement for all transportation networks, including public transportation, through Sept. 13. Passengers without a mask can request one from an operator.

The mask requirement is one of several safety measures implemented by CAT since the start of the pandemic to protect customers and employees. Additional measures include the installation of operator safety shields, reduced vehicle capacity levels, daily employee health screenings and enhanced cleaning of vehicles and facilities.