1st FTA Streetcar & Bus Circulator Roundtable

• APTA considers this to be an important and significant meeting because of the partnerships that are being developed among city DOTs, transit agencies, and public transit communities.

• As more cities get involved in urban circulators, APTA’s key services are:
  - Technical and operations planning assistance.
  - Platforms for peer exchange collaborations with FTA, Community Streetcar Coalition and transit agencies.
  - Corridor Planning & Project Development.
  - Guidelines for procurements
Who Are Our Members?

- Transit Systems: 30%
- Business Members: 58%
- Gov./State Associations: 4%
- Other: 8%

Business Members: 58%
What is APTA?
APTA is the leading force in advancing public transportation

- Legislative analysis & policies
  - Congressional advocacy and education

- Financial sustainability
  - Environmental sustainability
  - Transit oriented development
  - Livable communities
  - Climate change

- Problem Solving
  - Collaboration
    - Learning

- Special projects
  - Collaboration with TRB

- Standards development org.
  - 500 industry participants
  - 250 standards published
  - White papers
  - Experts on technical issues

- Urban design
  - Corridor planning & project development

- Policy & Planning
  - Research
  - Statistics
  - Grassroots advocacy & coalition building

- Publications
  - Advocacy materials
  - Grass roots communications
  - Conferences & events
  - Advertising
  - News releases
  - Passenger Transport publication

- Safety & Security
  - Safety audits
  - Security advisor

- Government Affairs
  - Legislative analysis & policies
    - Congressional advocacy and education

- Sustainability
  - Financial sustainability
    - Environmental sustainability
    - Transit oriented development
    - Livable communities
    - Climate change

- Technical Services
  - Problem Solving
    - Collaboration
      - Learning

- Committees
  - Special projects
    - Collaboration with TRB
APTA Standards Program:

- Includes Standards, Recommended Practices, Guidelines and White Papers
  - Procurement Guidelines
  - Vehicle Design Guidelines
  - Operating & Maintenance Practice Standards

- Transit industry benefits
  - Liability
  - Lower costs
  - Greater reliability
  - Improved safety

- Industry influences final outcome
APTA Standards and the Standards Program are recognized by:

- ANSI
- US DOT (including JPO, FTA, & FRA)
- DHS and TSA
- Transport Canada
- Canadian Urban Transportation Assoc.
- Other SDOC – IEEE, SAE, ITE, AASHTO, ASME, ISO
Streetcar Subcommittee:

- One of APTA’s 250 committees is the Streetcar Subcommittee
- One of their current projects is the: North American Application of Modern Streetcars’

By
John Smatlak
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Project Goal:

“To facilitate the successful introduction of modern streetcar vehicles into North American systems by promoting understanding of the core technical and operational issues”
Five topic areas

1. Vehicle Configuration
2. Vehicle / Platform Interface
3. Vehicle / Track Interface
4. Power Supply
5. Standards
Topic 1. Vehicle configuration

**Key Issues:**

- The streetcar operating environment
- Off-vehicle fare collection
- Capacity
- Market direction
- Interior layout
- Partial versus 100% low floor designs
Topic 2. Vehicle / Platform interface

Key Issues:
- New Start versus legacy system
- Accessibility- differences between ADA and EU approach
- “Nearly Level” versus “Fully Level” boarding
- Vehicle width
Topic 3. Vehicle / Track interface

Key Issues:

- Implications of new vehicle configurations and running gear
- Track Design Criteria-unique aspects of streetcar track
- Vehicle and Track are a SYSTEM
- Don’t design only to minimums and maximums
Topic 4. Power supply

Key Issues:

• Aesthetics matter! Good vs. bad practice for traditional overhead wire
• Challenges in comparing systems and technologies
• Rapidly advancing energy storage technologies
• Proprietary design issues
• Operational balance in design (understanding operational limitations)
Topic 5. Standards

Key Issues:

• Crashworthiness
• Fire Safety
• ADA
• Braking Rates
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