APTA MOBILITY RECOVERY & RESTORATION TASK FORCE
Non-Destination Riders and Essential Workers Think Tank
Polly Hanson
Senior Director, Security, Risk and Emergency Management
• Guide for Public Transportation Agencies and Concerned Stakeholders to those Experiencing Homelessness
• **Update TCRP Synthesis 121** *Transit Agency Practices in Interacting with People Who are Homeless* (2015), focusing on the case studies presented in the Synthesis to determine if the featured transit agencies have continued or revised their policies and strategies.
• Address public transportation partnering with stakeholder organizations by (1) helping identify stakeholders that public transit agencies may collaborate with and (2) presenting initiatives that can be jointly undertaken to pursue multifaceted community goals that pertain to homelessness.
• Recognize the diversity among those experiencing homelessness and how different personal experiences pertain to public transportation. This should address, at a minimum, the role of public transportation agencies as providers of mobility and safe spaces and how social service agencies can connect with people experiencing homelessness through transit services and facilities.
TCRP continued

• Identify a range of initiatives that can be led by public transportation agencies designed to (1) address the effects of increased homelessness on public transportation services and facilities, and (2) support those experiencing homelessness.
• Spotlight best practices and success stories that provide opportunities relevant to this research that are appropriate for a range of environments, public transportation agency sizes, modes, and locations.
TCRP continued

• **Address training and education** for public transportation employees and the community, at large, to be more effective and responsive to those who are experiencing homelessness.
TCRP continued

• Provide a catalogue of resources needed by public transportation agencies to better address the challenges associated with more people experiencing homelessness in our communities, including but not limited to funding and personnel.
COPS/DOJ Initiative

Solutions on Ending Homelessness – Police and Court Partnerships April 2020
Security & Emergency Management Roundtables

- Virtually June 2020
- Usually held in June
- Before the APTA Rail Conference
Closing session APTA
TRANSform Wednesday,
October 16, 2019

• Los Angeles Philharmonic violinist Vijay Gupta and his nonprofit Street Symphony
WORKSHOP
TRANSform2019

• Comfort, Compassion, and Community: How Transit Agencies are Changing their Approach to People who are Homeless
WORKSHOP TRANSform2019

• Moderator: Jeffrey D. Knueppel, P.E.
• Tim Chan
• Laura Hester
• Alex Z. Wiggins
• Flora M. Castillo
• Patrick T. Warren
This APTA led session brought transit CEOs, transit managers, law enforcement executives and health care professionals together in breakout sessions to explore best practices in three key areas: engagement and support, engineering and maintenance, and enforcement and monitoring.
Mobility and Rail Conference

• Presentations in 2018 and 2019
Leadership APTA 2018

• Public Transit and Social Responsibility

• Leadership APTA Authors:
• Lacy Bell (Sound Transit), Gabriel Beltran (DART),
• Elayne Berry (MARTA), Derik Calhoun (AC Transit),
• Tera Hankins (BART), and Laura Hester (NJ Transit)
Leadership APTA 2018

• 1. Why are transit systems attractive to homeless individuals?
• 2. How are agencies balancing ridership and the homelessness epidemic?
• 3. What are the biggest challenges related to homelessness for transit providers?
• Key findings from a survey of 49 transit agencies
• 1. **Transit providers must treat all individuals with dignity and respect.** Remember, that transit is a good for the entire community including homeless individuals.

• 2. **Incorporate outreach officers with law enforcement to connect individuals to services.** This is something that can be started on a small scale with the addition of one or two outreach officers targeted at locations that are known locations where homeless individuals congregate.

• 3. **Align transit service with social service destinations.** Depending on locations of those services, consider operating a fare-free route.

• 4. **Partner with local municipalities and the private sector to identify funding opportunities.** There may be opportunities for funding that are not typically considered for transit service if they are sought out in partnership with social service organizations.

• 5. **Develop creative solutions that do not require funding** such as hiring a homeless individual for an entry level position. These positions could even be stationed at facilities to provide attended restrooms or elevators.
Mobility and Rail NOW!

• Table Talk
• August 13, 2020
• from 2:15 – 2:45pm
Questions?