FTA: Partnering with Public Transit

FTA WANTS TO ACT as a partner with the public transportation industry to navigate new mobility challenges and figure out what works, Executive Director Matthew Welbes told attendees at the APTA Mobility Conference during the May 20 FTA Update General Session.

Welbes said, “Our partnership with all of you is critical and we look forward to participating in many more APTA Mobility Conferences in years ahead.”

Traditionally, Welbes said, the term “public transportation” has referred not only to bus and rail, but to more specialized services such as ferries and funiculars (inclined planes). New modes such as ridesharing may not be considered public transportation in that sense, he said, but the modes have a mutually beneficial relationship.

In describing FTA’s interest in funding “new ways to think about service,” he mentioned a current FTA Notice of Funding Opportunity for $15 million in research funds through the new Integrated Mobility Innovation (IMI) Demonstration program, comprising Mobility on Demand, Strategic Transit Automation Research and Mobility Payment Integration.

He also referenced other FTA programs, including one that provides funding for crime prevention and public safety.

FTA UPDATE CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Mobility Conference Welcomes Attendees to Louisville

Nearly 1,800 people participated in the 2019 Mobility Conference: APTA’s enhanced Bus & Paratransit Conference and International Bus Roadeo, May 18-22 in Louisville, KY. The new “mobility” branding reflected the changing environment in which bus and paratransit systems operate.

Many of the sessions were interactive, with the audience and presenters engaging in dynamic, open discussions across a broad range of topics. Among the highlights from the Opening General Session were remarks by Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer, representing the Transit Authority of River City (TARC), host system for the conference, Executive Director Ferdinand Risko Jr. and the agency’s former leader, J. Barry Barker; and a presentation by keynoter Jarrett Walker.

Mayor Greg Fischer
Louisville, KY
Fischer thanked Barker for his service over the years and urged attendees to visit the street named after Barker while in town.

We are strong advocates with you all in terms of exhorting our administration in Washington for a serious response to the infrastructure needs of our country.

OPENING GENERAL SESSION CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Focusing on the New Mobility Landscape

The 2019 Mobility Conference brought nearly 1,800 people together to explore the changing mobility landscape.
Growing the Bus Infrastructure Our Communities Need

BY DONNA DEMARTINO
Chief Executive Officer
San Joaquin Regional Transit District
Stockton, CA

I AM EXCITED to see the public transit industry evolve, as seen in the recent name change of APTA’s Bus and Paratransit Conference to the Mobility Conference. This evolution will help ensure that our communities continue to look to and understand that public transit is still a great way to get around. Public transit must and is adapting to meet the changing needs of our communities.

San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD) is taking bold steps to create mobility options that meet the evolving needs of the public. Even the definition or perception of mobility is shifting with the changes in customer expectations and demographics. While the term “mobility” once referred specifically to transportation for those with physical limitations, it now refers to options for the general public to travel more freely.

To meet the changing ridership demands of both the millennial and baby boomer generations, RTD recently introduced a new micro-transit option called Van Go! This new, on-demand ride hail service provides a customer-centric approach that is both fast and accessible, making convenient trips throughout the county to connect passengers to their desired destinations.

To further meet the needs of our riders, RTD created a partnership with Uber in introducing a service called RTD Go! Through this partnership, passengers receive 50 percent off (up to $5 per ride) using a promo code on their Uber app. RTD Go! allows passengers to make first-last mile connections to and from our fixed-route services and trips needed earlier or later than service hours available through Van Go! and RTD’s regular bus service.

As we provide these new options, we must recognize that bus service is still the core element of the public transportation network. With more than 51 percent of all transit trips occurring on buses, local and federal investments in bus services are critical. Bus service is a lifeline to take people to work, school, doctor’s visits, grocery shopping and recreational opportunities. Robust bus services—particularly BRT and high-density circulators—can still spur economic growth in local communities across the country.

But wait, how can that be true? Aren’t we seeing ridership declines and reading about passengers fleeing from public transit, especially bus services? Doesn’t that prove the bus is obsolete? No!

Despite discouraging ridership statistics, 77 percent of Americans still believe public transit is the backbone of a multi-transit lifestyle, according to APTA research.

While recent ridership statistics are alarming and discouraging, do they really mean people don’t want to ride the bus? There are many reasons for the decline, but I would like to offer an alternative explanation for the largest part of the decline in bus ridership. If you look at National Transit Database statistics, you could easily understand that bus ridership is declining primarily because there are 13,294 fewer buses on the street nationwide than in 2012. This 18 percent reduction in fleet size directly corresponds to the 19 percent reduction in service miles and a 12 percent decline in ridership. This trend aligns directly with the timeline of cuts to bus capital and operating funding programs—and even before ridership began to drop.

It makes sense, doesn’t it?—fewer buses and reduced service miles result in lower ridership. To prove the point, you need only look at the public transit agencies across the country that have been able to revamp and increase services in their communities; they have seen a correlating uptick in ridership. The rise of transportation network companies (TNCs) and the decline in bus ridership is a wakeup call. We must adapt to remain relevant, but TNCs and even public transit’s mobility-on-demand services will not address our very real and ongoing concerns about traffic congestion mitigation and protecting our environment. Creating modern, high-capacity, environmentally sensitive bus services will prioritize public transit over single-occupancy vehicles is still very important.

Across the country, with the good work of the Congressional Bus Caucus, we see our federal representatives recognizing the need for more robust investments in bus funding. Speaking on behalf of the caucus during the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Members Day hearing in April, Rep. Darin LaHood (R-IL) testified, “As co-chair of the Bus Caucus, I am supportive of increasing funding for the Bus and Facilities Grant program to pre-MAP-21 funding levels. Bus service is a lifeline for people to get to work, school and everyday visits. The benefits of federal bus investment will spur economic growth in local communities, such as Bloomington-Normal and Peoria in Illinois.”

As an industry, we appreciate the recent plus-ups in federal investments and acknowledgments like this from LaHood. I know we will use the bus funding plus-ups and legislative support to grow the bus infrastructure needed by our communities.

As the landscape of public transit continues to evolve and we adapt to the demands of our riders, we must not abandon our focus of prioritizing public transit over single-occupancy vehicles. We must continue to work with our federal representatives to secure funding to create the robust bus systems our communities need: bus services that are supported by our new mobility-on-demand services and bus services that support our nation’s rail services.

“Commentary” features authoritative points of view from various sources on timely and pressing issues affecting public transportation. Statements and opinions expressed in Passenger Transport are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of APTA. APTA would like to hear from you. If you are interested in submitting an original, thought-leader Commentary for consideration, please contact Senior Managing Editor David A. Riddy at driddy@apta.com.
TriMet Launches First Public Transit Farecard on iPhone in North America

Riders in the Portland, OR-Vancouver, WA, region can now add their Hop Fastpass card to Apple Wallet and use their iPhone or Apple Watch to ride TriMet, C-TRAN in Vancouver and Portland Streetcar.

Hop is the first public transit farecard in North America to launch in Apple Wallet. Riders with physical Hop cards can convert a plastic card into a Hop card in the Hop app.

TriMet, C-TRAN and Portland Streetcar are also the first public transit agencies in the world to introduce Apple Pay Express Transit on iPhone or Apple Watch with both farecard and credit and debit card options, offering multiple ways to pay for trips.

With Apple Pay Express Transit, passengers on the three systems hold their iPhone or Apple Watch near any of the more than 1,200 INT-supplied fare validators located at rail platforms, on buses and on streetcars around the region—there is no need to wake or unlock the device, open an app or use Face ID or Touch ID.

“TriMet has long been a leader in the transit industry, focused on the

TRIMET’S HOP FASTPASS CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Valley Metro Celebrates Light Rail Expansion

VALLEY METRO recently opened its new Gilbert Rd./Main St. light rail station in Mesa as part of the 1.9-mile Gilbert Road Extension—expanding service to 28 miles and 38 stations across Mesa, Tempe and Phoenix.

“Adding two more miles of service into Mesa means increased connections for local residents,” said Scott Smith, Valley Metro CEO. “It is gratifying to see the community embrace light rail and focus on the many positive impacts that will occur as a result of this long-term investment.”

Since construction began in 2006, there have been 27 completed projects along the service in Mesa valued at $240 million in residential, commercial and educational development. Another 18 projects are planned, for an additional investment of $135.5 million.

“Light rail in Mesa has been a force for revival and renewal,” said Mesa Mayor John Giles. “Not only does it provide options for our residents to reach important destinations, it has resulted in $240 million of completed economic development projects with more on the way. Without light rail, investment on this scale, over the past few years, would not have occurred.”

“This is a wonderful day for Mesa residents and our entire region,” said Phoenix Mayor and Valley Metro Rail Chair, Kate Gallego. “The light rail system is important for so many because it offers independence and inclusivity.”

The Gilbert Road Extension broke ground in October 2016 and includes the system’s first roundabout and a transit center with bus service and a park-and-ride.

NFI Group Acquires Alexander Dennis

NFI GROUP INC. has acquired, for approximately $405 million, Alexander Dennis Limited (ADL), adding to the company’s other brands of New Flyer, MCI, ARBOC and NFI Parts.

ADL is a leading manufacturer of buses and motorcoaches, specifically double-decker vehicles. With a history spanning more than a century, the company has more than 31,000 vehicles in service in the United Kingdom, Europe, Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand, Mexico and Canada and the U.S. NFI, which traces its roots back to 1930, has more than 74,000 vehicles in service in Canada and the U.S.

NFI has entered into an agreement with ADL executives Colin Robertson, chief executive officer, and Michael Stewart, chief financial officer, to continue leading the firm.

New Chief Officers Named Wiggins, Munster, RTA New Orleans

THE REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (RTA) in New Orleans has named Alex Wiggins its new chief executive officer and Jared Munster chief administrative officer.

The appointments coincide with the RTA Board of Directors awarding a new operations and maintenance contract to Transdev, the company that holds the current contract. However, unlike the previous contract, the vendor will only perform operations for the agency. By Sept. 1, for the first time, RTA will directly employ approximately 70 staff members to administer financial, policy-making, planning and other key functions.

Wiggins joins RTA from Los Angeles Metro, where he is chief of the System Safety and Law Enforcement Division. Earlier he was chief of staff at Seattle DOT, chief administrative officer for the North County Transit District, Oceanside, CA, and deputy executive director of Metra in Chicago. Teams under his leadership at two public transit agencies have achieved Gold Standard recognition for infrastructure security from the Department of Homeland Security.

Munster currently serves as RTA’s interim executive director. His activities have included overseeing an extensive study that prompted the board to vote for a transition to an operating structure in which the agency will perform administration and a contractor will perform operations and maintenance.

June 3, 2019 | 3
Collin County Transit Expands Service to Town of Prosper

Collin County Transit, a partnership among the Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA), the city of McKinney (TX) and the McKinney Urban Transit District (MUTD), began operating in the town of Prosper June 3.

Collin County Transit consists of a subsidized, on-demand taxi voucher program for seniors, persons with disabilities and low-income residents within participating MUTD cities, providing trips to popular destinations including grocery stores, senior centers, libraries and medical centers.

Trips can be booked 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Customers pay using a pre-issued taxi debit card, with the customer contribution matched at three to one to a maximum value of $600 per month.

"Expanding Collin County Transit service to the town of Prosper is a great opportunity for DCTA to provide alternative transit options for a fast-growing community," said DCTA Chief Executive Officer Raymond Suarez. "The need for innovative mobility options is a must for thrive in the changing transportation landscape, we must remove barriers to riding and make it easier and more convenient for our riders. That requires strategic and critical partnerships with private-sector companies to apply the same innovation and determination they use to gain and maintain customers," said Kelsey. "We are thrilled to work with our partners to give Portland-Vancouver area riders access to the first transit farecard for use in Apple Pay Express Transit." Thomas Schaisch, INIT project engineer, called the Hop card in Apple Wallet "another innovative tool empowering public transit use in the region and showcasing the unique advantages of an account-based fare system. We can all be proud of this ground-breaking development," he added.

TRIMET’S HOP FASTPASS

Customer experience and ways to simplify riding transit. Now with the Hop card in Apple Wallet, our riders and our region take a major leap forward in transit fare payment," said Doug Kelsey, TriMet general manager. INIT partnered with TriMet, Moov (becoming REACH NOW), Jacobs and others on this project. "For transit to

Join Technical Tours at APTA’s Rail Conference

THE TORONTO Transit Commission (TTC) will host four technical tours June 26, 2-4 p.m., during APTA’s Rail Conference, June 23-26 in Toronto. Mark your calendars and plan to attend these unique, behind-the-scenes tours.

- Leslie Barns Streetcar Facility
  Opened in 2015, Leslie Barns was the first new streetcar in the world. Facility houses and services the majority of the TTC’s low-floor light rail vehicles.

- Transit Control Centre
  TTC’s Transit Control Centre manages 77 kilometers (47.85 miles) of heavy rail/medium capacity rail track serving 75 stations. During peak hours, TTC operates as many as 117 trains on four lines servicing a daily average of more than one million riders.

- Wilson Subway Yard and Bus Garage
  The Wilson Complex is the largest of TTC’s three subway yards and seven bus garages. The 60-acre facility began operations in 1977. Wilson Transportation Division serves Line 1 ( Yonge-University-Spadina) and Line 4 ( Sheppard) heavy rail services. The facility also houses a bus garage and maintenance facilities for Toronto Rocket (TR) open gangway heavy rail cars.

- Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension
  Tour the 8.6 kilometers (5.375 miles) Toronto to subway extension that opened to the public in December 2018. The new Line 1 extension connects the TTC subway system across the municipal boundary between the city of Toronto and the Regional Municipality of York.

APTA FACT BOOK TRENDS

LEADING IN CLEAN TECHNOLOGY

Share of Hybrid Electric Buses
2009: 4.9%
2018: 20.9%

(According to APTA’s 2018 Vehicle Database)

DENVER LIGHT RAIL

Tributed $25 million to support the buildout of the new rail line, with an additional $3 million of in-kind contributions, land and right-of-way. They contributed approximately 12 percent of the project cost, far more than the 2.3 percent match RTD typically asks of its local partners. RTD received $92 million from an FTA Small Starts grant and $9.4 million from Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grant funds toward the total cost of $233.1 million.

Lone Tree Mayor Jackie Millet called construction of the extension “a story of collaboration and perseverance,” adding, “Lone Tree has witnessed firsthand how investments in transportation infrastructure have improved the quality of life for existing residents and businesses and attracted top-tier employers to the city.” She said Sky Ridge Medical Center, Charles Schwab and Kiewit have all built campuses adjacent to the new Sky Ridge Station.
Reaching Out to Keep Riders and Encourage New Ones

Each public transit agency has its own circumstances in dealing with declining ridership, but some lessons can be shared.

The main success story, emphasized by all four panelists at a May 22 session, is finding ways to operate at no direct cost to the passenger, subsidized by an educational institution or employer.

Doug Arsenault, public affairs administrator with the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) in Columbus, noted his agency’s pass program for Ohio State students along with C-pass, through which downtown employers can cover public transit fares for their employees. He explained that employers have been seeing less investment downtown; by providing the transit passes, they can bring employees back to the downtown area. Arsenault compared the program to other employee benefits such as health insurance.

Donna Bowers, director of operations for Rock Region METRO in North Little Rock, AR, reported that her system has fare agreements with three institutions of higher learning that allow full-time students to ride free, using passes paid for by the respective schools. The agency also has fare agreements serving all students attending one of the district’s five high schools and all full-time students at a charter school. (Separately, Bowers noted that ridership on her agency’s streetcar jumped 233 percent in the first quarter of the year after it began operating fare free.)

Joseph Raquel, director of planning at Foothill Transit in West Covina, CA, cited his agency’s partnership with area institutions of higher education to implement the Class Pass for students.

The pass program began with one college five years ago and now students account for one-fifth of all boardings on that route; other routes serve other participating schools.

Amy McAbee Cummings, deputy executive director/director of planning for the Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County (RTC) in Reno, NV, said her agency is launching a UPASS program and will fund it for the first year; it subsequently will be funded with student fees.

Implementing new technology is another way the panelists mentioned to boost ridership. According to Arsenault, COTA saw positive results in 2017 after overhauling its entire route map, creating simpler, more direct and more accessible bus routes and eliminating or changing legacy routes that no longer served the public adequately.

Cummings reported the many ways new technology can make taking public transit easier. Passengers can use their cellphones to buy tickets and see when the next bus will arrive; RTC sends text alerts to riders who have signed up for the service; and riders also benefit from RTC’s introduction of cleaner, quieter electric buses and the growing availability of onboard Wi-Fi.

She also spoke about ways to improve the quality of the service, working with a downtown partnership to make sure passengers have everything they need. The team includes several formerly homeless members, she said, who can reach out to people in need while not inconveniencing regular riders.

Arsenault summed it up: “Agencies need a willingness to take risks, to spend money to make money, not just meet demands. Public transit can provide solutions: how much better is your quality of life if you don’t have to drive?”

Arthur L. Guzzetti, APTA vice president-mobility initiatives and public policy, moderated the session.

Conference Videos Available to View

Visit www.apta.com/mobility-conference-videos to view videos of major sessions from the 2019 APTA Mobility Conference.
A World of New Mobility

Attendees at the 2019 Mobility Conference: APTA’s enhanced Bus & Paratransit Conference explored and discussed critical priorities and challenges facing bus and paratransit systems and the changing environment in which they operate. Here’s a highlight of some of the event’s sessions, speakers and activities.

Photos by Steve Barrett Photography
Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer at the Opening General Session.

APTA Chair David M. Stackrow Sr.

APTA President and CEO Paul P. Skoutelas

Conference attendees—including Stackrow and Skoutelas—explored a variety of bus models and technologies at the Bus Display.

Conference attendees packed the general and educational sessions.

APTA staff returning home after the Mobility Conference paused to thank veterans of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War who were departing Washington’s Ronald Reagan National Airport on an Honor Flight after visiting their respective memorials in the nation’s capital.

Customer Service Challenge contestants acted out various scenarios before a live audience.

Exhibitors at the Products & Services Showcase displayed the newest and most innovative mobility products and technologies.
To Build a Future Workforce, Provide Education

IF THE PUBLIC transportation industry is to secure the future employees it needs, it must participate in the education and training process.

That’s the lesson Pamela M. Christian, director of Los Angeles Metro’s E3 Initiative/Human Capital & Development, shared at an educational session on “Transit’s Future Workforce: New Practices, Partners and Innovations.” Christian discussed LA Metro’s intent to establish a public charter high school with a transportation career-focused curriculum, funded through a half-century county sales tax for infrastructure and related issues including employment.

The goal of the E3 Initiative, as described by Christian, is to prepare Los Angeles County youth for career and college pathways in the global transportation infrastructure industry by teaching them transferable science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) industry skills.

She noted that 69 percent of current Metro employees are at least 40 years old, meaning that numerous jobs with the agency will become available in the near future.

Metro and LA County plan to break ground in 2020 for the school building, on a site in South Los Angeles that Christian noted has been blighted for 25 years. When complete in 2021, the site will also house mixed-use development: affordable housing, commercial use and a public transit plaza.

Samantha Einarsen, lean and change management administrator for Pierce Transit in Lakewood, WA, described her agency’s transparent performance management process, which gives employees an increased role. By “moving past the paper-based process” and incorporating the employee’s ideas, she said, the worker can concentrate more on aspirational goals and on using negative experiences as a basis for learning.

Kelli O’Leary, assistant vice president-engagement for the Jacksonville (FL) Transportation Authority (JTA), reported on her agency’s work with regional partners to invest in its workforce at a time when technological advancements have been responsible for “the biggest improvement to life in the past 50 years.” Her agency recently launched “JTA University,” which, she said, provides “workforce readiness with the necessary tools” and offers internships to college students.

Ferdinand L. Risco Jr., executive director of the Transit Authority of River City, host system for the conference, and chair of the APTA Workforce Development Committee, moderated the session.

David M. Stackrow Sr.
APTA Chair

Stackrow also showcased success stories of APTA member bus and paratransit systems, calling them examples of the New Mobility future. Getting to that future, he emphasized, requires an updated strategic plan.

Successful strategic planning is about the collective wisdom of an organization. Based on all we heard from our members, we developed a new purpose statement: “APTA leads public transportation in a New Mobility era, advocating to connect and build thriving communities.”

Four priorities have emerged from our strategic planning efforts: 1) securing and growing funding and resources; 2) attracting and maintaining a skilled workforce; 3) ensuring safe, secure and resilient systems; and 4) leading and managing the changing mobility ecosystem.

We are one industry, guided by a new plan for success. We learn from each other, and are becoming more vital to the communities we serve.

Paul P. Skoutelas
APTA President and CEO

After welcoming attendees and thanking TARC, Skoutelas praised the inventive initiatives and pioneering programs underway at public transit agencies across the country.

Before the program began, Skoutelas asked attendees to join in a moment of silence for Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority bus driver Thomas Dunn, who was attacked and killed by a passenger in Tampa, FL, the previous day.

Last year, we talked about the transformational change that was coming to our industry. Today, we’re at the center of that change. The world may be changing, but so are we.

Everyone in this room is doing something new; we’re among innovators who are writing the next chapter of America’s mobility future.

We are innovating and investing—two realities that ensure public transit has a bright and important future.

Ferdinand L. Risco Jr.
Executive Director, TARC

Risco welcomed visitors to Louisville and, like the mayor, encouraged them to explore the city via public transit. He also spoke about his system and his predecessor, Barker:

TARC is one of the first public transit agencies to implement an integrated Mobility as a Service platform that allows customers to seamlessly plan trips across multiple modes, including TARC buses, rideshare, bikeshare and scooter services—all from a single app.

TARC’s former executive director, Barry Barker, transformed the agency from 1994 through 2018. He has been honored nationally and locally for a team-based approach to management and a customer-focused approach to service. We’re grateful for all he has done for this city and for transit.

We are proud of our BRT system that is currently under construction and will connect Southwest Louisville to downtown, providing a valuable connection to the city’s workforce.

Jarrett Walker
President and Principal Consultant, Jarrett Walker + Associates

Walker’s presentation focused on leveraging mobility innovation to improve the customer experience.

The notion that new and innovation are the goal is equivalent to saying that all new ideas are better than all old ideas. So, ignore the word “new” and be careful with “innovation.”

Innovative can mean: Questioning practices and processes; Rejecting “we’ve always done it this way”; Demanding that all practices make sense now.

Proterra Inc. sponsored the session.

APTA Shares Mobility Innovation At Special Exhibit

ATTENDEES AT APTA’S MOBILITY CONFERENCE were able to access on site the resources available through the online APTA Mobility Innovation Hub at a special exhibit booth.

On display were videos, sample products and examples of cutting-edge service delivery initiatives from public transit agencies across the nation.

APTA members are encouraged to visit the Mobility Innovation Hub regularly to share their own ideas and new practices and to make recommendations for additional resources, topic areas and success stories to add to the hub. Visit www.apta.com/research-technical-resources/mobility-innovation-hub.

OPENING GENERAL SESSION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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DISCOVER THE LATEST IN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION!

2019

RAIL CONFERENCE

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2019 Rail Conference
Rail Products & Services Showcase Exhibitors

Sunday, June 23, 2019 / 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
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* NEW APTA MEMBER

Exhibitor list as of 5/20/19
UTC Aerospace Systems and Rockwell Collins are now Collins Aerospace.
collinsaerospace.com/rail

DB Engineering & Consulting
Railways for the world of tomorrow.

2019 Rail Conference, Toronto, June 23–26, 2019
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APTA Honors Bus Systems for Safety, Security

APTA ANNOUNCED the winners of the 2019 Bus Safety and Security Awards at a General Session during the 2019 Mobility Conference in Louisville, KY.

The following public transit organizations received Gold Awards for Bus Safety:

Public transportation systems providing fewer than four million annual passenger trips: Rock Island County Metropolitan Mass Transit District (MetroLINK), Moline, IL. This agency has taken a proactive approach in reducing the number of preventable collisions through operator safety training, safety recognition/reward program and vehicle technology, leading to a 46 percent decrease in preventable collisions per 100,000 miles with a 6.7 percent increase in miles driven over the time period of 2014-2018.

Public transportation systems providing more than four million and fewer than 20 million annual passenger trips: Omnitrans, San Bernardino, CA. Omnitrans has created several programs that show its commitment to a robust safety culture, including new coach operator training, an audible turn signal program, improved mobility device securements, camera safety innovations and safety campaigns. As a result of these initiatives, the agency has seen a consistent 32 percent reduction in the preventable accident frequency rate over a five-year period.

Public transportation systems providing more than 20 million annual passenger trips: Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Austin, TX. Capital Metro partnered with the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) to identify the true causes for an increase in bus accidents and develop countermeasures to reverse the trend. The evaluation by TTI revealed a 69 percent reduction in rear-end crashes from safety campaign ads installed on the back of 60 buses.

Private companies providing contracted transportation management and services to public transportation systems: Transdev (in service to the Regional Transit Authority of New Orleans). Transdev’s number one priority is safety. When Transdev started providing service for the Regional Transit Authority (RTA), the company noticed a serious issue with bus accidents and quickly established an accident reduction plan. As a result, RTA saw a 10 percent decline in the first year of the plan and a 20 percent drop in the second year.

These agencies received Gold Awards for Bus Security:

Public transportation systems providing more than four million and fewer than 20 million annual passenger trips: Omnitrans. In the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Omnitrans and select partner agencies created an innovative emergency communications system to ensure communication with first responders when cellular towers are down.

Public transportation systems providing more than 20 million annual passenger trips: Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority. GCRTA recognizes the potential for active shooters on the system and partnered with TSA to conduct a full-scale active shooter exercise.

These agencies received certificates of merit:

Certificate of Merit for Safety: Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, Buffalo, NY. NFTA adopted a hands-on, multimodal approach to reducing employee injuries, resulting in the best employee safety performance in its history with an overall recordable injury reduction of 33 percent, a 40 percent reduction in lost time cases and a 12 percent reduction in lost work days. Certificate of Merit for Safety: Pace Suburban Bus, Arlington Heights, IL, which implemented the “Security Enhancement Through Assessment Program” to increase security awareness among operators and employees. Pace employees and TSA inspectors placed unattended bags on random buses throughout the system to increase operators’ awareness to their surroundings and cause them to complete more thorough pre-trip inspections.
Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District Named Grand Champion at 2019 Bus Roadeo

The Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (Oakland, CA) was crowned Grand Champion at APTA's 44th Annual International Bus Roadeo, earning the highest combined team score for both operators and maintainers.

The Intercity Transit (Olympia, WA) team took second-place overall achievement honors, while the team from Dallas Area Rapid Transit (Dallas, TX) secured third place. The event was held in conjunction with the APTA Mobility Conference in Louisville, KY. A total of 78 operators and 38 maintenance teams participated.

“The roadeo highlights the dedication of our incredible professionals as they provide safe and reliable transportation to their riders every day. I congratulate the winners and all the participants who displayed excellent skills, precision and dedication to their work,” said APTA President and CEO Paul P. Skoutelas.

In the bus operator competition, Robert Wood, driving for Intercity Transit (Olympia, WA), was named best driver. Second place went to Caleb Suttle of Ben Franklin Transit (Richland, WA), and Abniger Chan of the Colorado Association of Transit Agencies (Denver, CO) placed third.

Orange County Transportation Authority (Orange, CA) took top honors in the maintenance competition, with the team from Central Ohio Transit Authority (Columbus, OH) in second place and Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Los Angeles, CA) third. This event tests mechanics’ abilities to troubleshoot mechanical problems and fix them quickly.

APTA also honored Misti El-Shabazz of Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation (Indianapolis, IN) champion of the Customer Service Challenge Award. This competition judges professionalism, customer service and problem-solving skills.

Improving Bus Security and Reducing Bus Operator Assaults Focus of Session

The security of employees and passengers is paramount for public transit systems across the country. But the challenges are many. Weekly, news media report stories about bus operators and other transit employees being yelled at, criticized or assaulted.

Ideas and resources to help ensure security and reduce assaults was the focus of a session at the APTA Mobility Conference. And sadly, the session opened with a moment of silence for Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority bus operator Thomas Dunn, who was killed in the line of duty in Tampa, FL, by a passenger just two days before. Dunn managed to steer his bus to safety before he died.

Moderator Ronald A. Pavlik Jr., chief of police, Metro Transit Police Department, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), opened the session, talking about how helpful an APTA peer review was to his agency to identify issues.

He also offered the following statistics from WMATA:

- Service disputes and verbal altercations attributed to 44 percent of operator assaults in 2018.
- 12 percent of assaults were due to a fare dispute.
- 12 percent of operators were assaulted for unknown reasons, with no clear motive behind the assault.
- Operators were most frequently assaulted by people throwing objects (41 percent).
- Personal weapons (hands, feet) were used in nearly one-third of cases.
- 28 percent of personal weapons cases were the result of a service dispute between the patron and the operator.
- Operators were spat upon in 21 percent of the cases.

As a result, WMATA created the Bus Operator Reduction Assault Program to help operators learn techniques to reduce the chances of being assaulted, learn what is considered self-defense versus retaliation, how to properly use the safety equipment on the bus and establish procedures for reporting incidents.

All incoming operators attend this training, as well as operators who have been involved in an assault.
Managing the Curb

For many years, street parking for single-occupancy vehicles has taken up space along streets that could be used for other modes—and, with the growth of transportation options, the time has come to rethink the importance of the curb.

That was the theme of “Managing the Curb,” a May 21 General Session during the APTA Mobility Conference, that brought together public- and private-sector speakers to share their perspectives on improving land use for optimal results.

Moderator David Dixon, vice president, planning and urban design leader, urban places, Stantec, cited trends that suggest an influx of people to urban areas: for example, he said, more than 80 percent of net new households between 2020 and 2040 will consist of singles and couples, and an educated workforce will become increasingly important. "I always supported curb parking," he said, "but now I see that replacing parking with drop-off spaces increases throughput as congestion grows."

According to Dixon, urban development will "densify and intensify" in coming decades and self-driving vehicles will become more prevalent, freeing up parking lots and garages for other uses. At the same time, single-occupancy vehicles may remain practical in suburban areas.

Panels at the session agreed with Dixon’s belief that privately owned vehicles may become increasingly unnecessary as the demographics change.

Catherine Prince, mobility project manager for the Transportation and Mobility Department in Fort Lauderdale, FL, noted a "huge drop" in driving, and the need for parking, among "snowbirds" who winter in Florida and students on spring break.

"We need to reprioritize curbs for people," Prince said. "We need to create more flexible corridors in the future and move toward more flexible streets that allow for more modes in the same space." For example, repurposing a curb lane for traffic rather than parking can provide for consistent movement in the corridor.

Other speakers described finding a balance among the needs of various transportation modes. Jeffrey F. Paniati, executive director and chief executive officer of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, noted that businesses and the public have differing requirements, which have to be taken into account in determining street use, and that mobility-on-demand technologies allow that to happen.

Andrew Johnson, chief executive officer of The Rapid in Grand Rapids, MI, also cited the "intense competition for streets" and the need for public transit providers to “avoid an us-versus-them situation.” Coordinators of mobility, he said, can create a better environment by making the partners more interested in sharing the road.

Jim McAttee, president/owner, Transit Insight, said he is excited to see a future where "public transit agencies push themselves forward in this process. The agency can be the place that solves mobility issues.”

Other topics included how bus stops will change in coming years; if there’s a role for free first- and last-mile shuttles along with Transportation Network Companies providing that service for a fee; and the importance of making sure all modes have a seat at the table.

Johnson summed up: “Buses and trains remain the backbone of public transportation. What we need to do is provide inviting spaces for all, where people can wait.”

Celebrating and Developing Champions: The Jockey and the Trainer

**PAT DAY, ONE OF THE** world’s most successful jockeys, and Tom Van Berg, renowned horse trainer, are recognized champions in their field. At an inspirational and insightful Closing General Session, they shared their life lessons with APTA members and, in so doing, told stories about discipline, faith and luck—and developing champions.

Day’s riding career spanned 30 years with more than 8,800 winning races. He is a six-time American leading jockey for number of wins and a four-time Eclipse Award winner for outstanding jockey. Day is also the all-time winning jockey at Churchill Downs racetrack, an achievement that includes his 1992 Kentucky Derby win astride Lil E. Tee—one of his nine individual Triple Crown race victories.

Day, a member of the Racing Hall of Fame, and Van Berg, owner and trainer, Van Berg Racing Stables LLC, Louisville, KY, offered insiders’ perspectives on the controversy surrounding the recent Kentucky Derby winner who was ultimately disqualified, reminisced about their favorite horses and shared their love of the horse racing industry.

When asked how champions are made, Day said ability alone is not enough: “It’s about the competitive nature and how much heart they have.”

The session was sponsored by the APTA Business Member Activity Fund.

IMPROVING BUS SECURITY

- A total of 1,338 operators were trained in 2018, compared to 267 in 2017.
- One-on-one classes for operators who have been involved in multiple bus operator accidents began in December 2018.
- Six operators involved in multiple assaults have attended one-on-one training.

John P. Condon, vice president sales, North America, Vapor Bus International-A Wabtec Company, Buffalo Grove, IL, offered the following key takeaways:

- Operator protection doors offer a first line of defense against assault. They must be robust to offer protection yet also offer a high level of operator comfort so that they will be used.
- Be sure to consider lifecycle cost, ease of maintenance and service availability when making a product selection.
- The latest innovations include electric fans for superior air circulation and an electric window that the operator can quickly open or close.

Michael Kuzmich, regional director, business development, Clever Devices Ltd., Woodbury, NY, offered the following advice on keeping passengers and operators safe from unauthorized use of vehicles:

- A fare operator PIN is required to move the vehicle.
- Employee ID authentication assures that the correct person is operating the vehicle.
- Seat vacancy switch prevents unauthorized use of the vehicle should the operator leave the driver’s seat for a configurable period of time.
- PIN can be generated by dispatch/central control if the operator forgets the code during a service day.
- In an emergency, dispatch or authorized safety personnel can remotely disable a vehicle to allow for safe deceleration.
Santa Clara VTA Encourages Cooperation with Speed Policy

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) in San Jose, CA, is on target to help speed up its service by recruiting support from the 15 cities and county it serves to prioritize public transit above single-occupancy vehicles.

The agency’s new “Transit Speed Policy” calls for municipalities to adopt their own compatible policies that give public transit greater priority and to ensure that future growth will not make transit slower.

The plan calls for partnerships between the agency and local cities. VTA can make its public transit routes straighter and more direct—as is proposed in its new transit service plan—and can lengthen the distance between bus stops so buses spend less time stopped and more time moving.

Currently, riders can purchase their fares before boarding the bus, directly from their cellphone, with EZ Fare, which makes the payment process quicker. VTA will explore new ways to make boarding the bus faster, including allowing all-door boarding.

Because cities control factors that slow buses and light rail trains down, such as traffic signal timing and how road space is allocated, those cities can adopt policies that help to speed up public transit service. That means more green lights for high-capacity, space-efficient modes like public transit and bus-only lanes in areas where traffic congestion slows buses down.

Making these kinds of changes will mean that cars receive lower priority, perhaps waiting a few more seconds at a red light. But buses can move more people at one time than cars, so efficiency takes a front seat.

VTA is pursuing support from local cities throughout Santa Clara County to address growing traffic congestion in an area that includes Silicon Valley, home to some of the most iconic, and largest, tech companies in the world.

Pierce Transit Welcomes Electric Vanpool Vans

PIERCE TRANSIT in Lakewood, WA, joined representatives of Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU) and Washing- ton State DOT May 29 to dedicate the region’s first hybrid-electric vanpool vans, unveiling the vehicles as they were stationed at eight new charging stations in the TPU parking lot.

Pierce Transit Chief Executive Officer Sue Dreier said at the event, “Pierce Transit is a national industry leader in providing innovative, environmentally friendly transportation options. Like Pierce Transit, Tacoma Public Utilities also has a strong commitment to sustainability. It seems fitting for our two agencies to partner on such a promising new program that has the potential to reshape the future of ridesharing.”

TPU Director Jackie Flowers added, “We know that we need to make changes now to reduce Tacoma’s greenhouse gas emissions, 73 percent of which come from fossil fuel-dependent vehicles. Not only will these vans be powered by electricity; by charging here at TPU, they will be powered by some of the cheapest and cleanest power in the country. We’re proud that Pierce Transit chose us to set the example.”

The pilot program will provide eight TPU vanpool groups with a clean commute powered by 97 percent carbon-free electricity. The plug-in hybrid vans can run 32 miles on battery power before needing to be recharged or tap into gasoline. Vanpool drivers will drive the vans to work, charge them on site at TPU during the day and drive home on carbon-free electric power, depending on speeds and total round-trip miles.

Pierce Transit acquired the vans through Washington State DOT’s Vanpool Investment Program, with the state funding nearly 80 percent of each $42,000 vehicle. If the pilot program proves successful, the agency hopes to acquire more vehicles and offer the program to other customers and employers.
MetroLINK in Moline, Ill., added five new battery-electric buses from Proterra to the three electric vehicles it already operates at ceremonies May 29. In addition to expanding its battery-electric bus fleet, MetroLINK developed an innovative solution to deploy the latest depot charging equipment while maximizing safety and efficiently using existing bus storage space. Rather than installing wall-mounted or pedestal-mounted chargers and distributing the dispensers and cords next to the electric buses, the agency worked with a local engineering and electrical firm to design and install a ceiling-mounted system. MetroLINK used an FTA 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Grant to help pay for the five new buses and charging equipment. The agency plans in the future to replace nine current CNG-powered buses with battery-electric vehicles, CNG, or a combination. Eighty percent of the fleet operates on CNG.

Moline’s MetroLINK Welcomes Proterra Buses

Against the efforts of Mayor Ahmad, Island to Island, four fifth-place finishes, using the five vehicles, were held.

Jeff Nelson, center holding scissors, at ribbon-cutting ceremonies welcoming the system’s five newest battery-electric buses from Proterra. Others in attendance included Rock Island Mayor Mike Thoms, front row third from left; FTA Region VII Administrator Mokhtee Ahmad, fourth from left; Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-IL), sixth from right; and Moline Mayor Stephanie Accl, fifth from right.

Ill buses in the Greater Dayton (OH) Regional Transit Authority (RTA) fleet participated in the region’s “United Against Hate” campaign during Memorial Day weekend events and through the end of May. “As our buses travel tens of thousands of miles each day across the Dayton region, they reinforce the true spirit of our community by displaying the message that we are United Against Hate,” RTA Chief Executive Officer Mark Donaghy said. “RTA is proud to join our friends and neighbors throughout the area who want to spread the word that we value diversity, opportunity and inclusion.”

The United Against Hate social media campaign was created as a way for the Dayton community to stand together in solidarity against hate. The unified efforts began by city officials after a KKK-affiliated group was approved to hold a rally in the city and counter-protests were planned over Memorial Day weekend in downtown Dayton and were shared by several local leaders and prominent businesses in the region.

RTA Joins ‘United Against Hate’ Message in Dayton

A Greater Dayton RTA bus displaying the “United Against Hate” header sign.

Midwest Bus Remanufactures Buses for Transdev North America — Midwest Bus in Owoos, MI, recently remanufactured 20 40-foot Gillig buses for Transdev to operate as part of a shuttle fleet in Florida.

AVTA Introduces Three New Routes — The Antelope Valley Transit Authority (AVTA) in Lancaster, CA, has announced three new bus routes: two that serve weekend Lancaster Jethawks minor league baseball games at The Hangar throughout the 2019 regular game season and one that expands commuter services to local aerospace employers with a new weekday route to Mojave Air & Space Port.

‘Ride & Read’ with Laketrans — Laketrans in Painesville, OH, is joining with six area libraries this summer to encourage both the use of public transportation and participation in the libraries’ summer reading programs. Passengers are encouraged to take Laketrans to each of the libraries to collect a stamp on their “Laketrans Passport” participants who receive stamps from all six libraries are eligible to win a grand prize.

San Diego MTS Partners with Lyft — The San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) has partnered with Lyft to provide discounted rides on “Transit Tuesdays” this summer. The service offers 25 percent discounts on Lyft trips to and from select MTS transit centers through Aug. 27 with the use of a discount code.

Youth Ride for $1 on Omnitrans — Omnitrans in San Bernardino, CA, is offering a summer youth discount that allows riders age 18 and under to travel for just $1 on any of the system’s routes. The Summer Youth Fare accounted for more than 39,000 trips in its first year, 2017, and almost 50,000 in 2018.

Promoting Apprenticeships for Women at LA Metro — Women Build Metro Los Angeles (WBMLA) recently hosted an apprenticeship readiness fair to introduce women to careers in construction and business trades, including opportunities to meet with recruiters from trade unions, construction-related businesses and prime contractors. WBMLA was established in support of the agency’s Project Labor Agreement and Construction Careers Policy mandate, with members from both the public and private sectors.

Unlimited Summer Weekend Travel on Metra Passes — Metra commuter rail in Chicago is enabling monthly pass holders to use their tickets for unlimited weekend travel across the system until Labor Day. This change means that ticket holders can travel outside the zones indicated on their passes at no additional cost on weekends.

TransLink Installs Information Kiosks - TransLink recently unveiled its first of more than 50 state-of-the-art commuter information kiosks at Surrey Central Station in Surrey, BC. Customers can use the kiosks to plan their trips, view live transit schedules, see upcoming departure times, be alerted to updates on the network and receive emergency messages and notifications.

Citilink Offers Youth Summer Fun Pass — Young people (ages 5-18) in Fort Wayne, IN, can take unlimited bus rides all summer long with Citilink’s Youth Summer Fun Pass. The pass costs $25, or 30 cents a day.

Students Ride for a Quarter in Riverside — The Riverside (CA) Transit Agency (RTA) invites students in grades two to 12 to ride anywhere in the RTA system this summer for just 25 cents if they also show their school ID. The program ends Sept. 2.

King County Metro Seeks Operators — King County Metro Transit in Seattle recently conducted a one-week recruiting effort for full-time public transit operators. Metro estimated that it needs to hire about 650 full-time operators over the next two years to continue to operate and increase service while also addressing staff retirements.

BART Reaches Out to Homeless — San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) employees recently joined nearly 60 Salvation Army officers, staff and volunteers to distribute food, hygiene kits and socks to homeless residents and provide information about available resources.

NCTD to Improve Bus Stop Amenities — The North County Transit District, Oceanside, CA, has entered into an agreement with IBJ Group to design bus stop improvements and provide construction support for 18 BREEZE bus stops as part of the agency’s Bus Stop Optimization Program.

Industry Briefs

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June 3, 2019 | 13
The City of Watervliet Transit will receive proposals for bus services until 5:00 p.m. CDT on June 19, 2019. Proposals are to be delivered in a sealed envelope or package by the Watervliet City Hall, 272 W. Lincoln Ave., Watervliet, Michigan 49098.

NOTICE BIDDERS

Notice to Bidders, that bids for COTA-Maint 136-3000 Purchase of Trolleys due no later than 1:00PM on July 11, 2019. Bids should be addressed to Stacy Samsky, Director of Procurement, Capital District Transportation Authority, 110 Watervliet Avenue, Albany, New York 12206 (518-437-3142, samskyk@cota.org). Bids that fail to meet all requirements and/or submitted in accordance with the instructions.

All questions regarding the technical content of the request for bid are to be submitted by writing to Stacy Samsky, Director of Procurement, Capital District Transportation Authority, 110 Watervliet Avenue, Albany, New York 12206 (518-437-3142, samskyk@cota.org) by June 19, 2019 at 11:00AM.

The contract for the above will be awarded to the lowest bidder. The Authority requires that all bidders be responsive to this invitation and that bidders be responsible. The Authority will follow procedures for determining the responsibility of bidders.

The Authority hereby notifies all potential service providers that disadvantaged, minority and women-owned business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this notice and there will be no discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, national origin, disability or marital status in the award of the contract or any subcontract.

The complete Invitation for Bids may be obtained free of charge at: www.cota.org or by contacting Stacy Samsky at 518-437-3142. Only bidders who complete the online vendor registration form will be able to access the IFB.

July 17, 2019

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

TO THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK

To Provide: Consultant Services For The Procurement of 40-foot Hybrid Diesel Electric Buses

The County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Public Works & Transportation (WCP&WST) and under a contract with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), is seeking proposals from qualified companies to provide consultant services for the Procurement of 40-foot Hybrid Diesel Electric Buses. The Selected Consultant shall develop technical specifications and provide related services and assistance for the Procurement of 40-foot Hybrid Diesel Electric buses based upon the latest clean diesel technology. The consultant must be a New York State business entity, and/or new business enterprises from WCP&WST and Liberty Lines Transit, Inc., the County’s primary bus operator, the Consultant shall develop technical specifications which reflect the current requirements of the Bee-Line operating environment. Specifications shall also comply with New York State and Federal Transportation (FTA) requirements.

The successful proposer must comply with the terms of the financial assistance agreements with the FTA and New York State. The proposer is subject to requirements of Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 26, participation of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in Department of Transportation Financial Assistance Programs. Any name appearing on the Comptroller General’s list of ineligible contractors for federally financed and assisted construction is not an eligible bidder and will not be considered.

The County of Westchester reserves the right to reject any and all proposals. Details concerning the technical skills, relevant experience, and lowest cost, as determined by a selection committee, will be offered a contract. HJ G. Greeshan, Jr., PE, Commissioner Westchester County Department of Public Works and Transportation, Room 518, Westchester County Office Building, 148 Regent Ave., White Plains, New York 10603.
contracted services, with a fleet of 706 full-sized buses, 79 articulated buses, and 64 minibuses. DPTW’s system also include a 25-mile dual elevated Metromover track and a 20-mile Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line that is among the longest in the United States, and a 4.4-mile dual elevated Metromover track.

From a rider's perspective, DPTW provides a competitive benefits package that include medical, dental, vision, term life insurance, group legal, disability income protection, a 401k retirement plan, personal leave, retirement, wellness, and discount programs as well as paid vacation and sick time.

Managers have a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration, Business Administration, Mechanical, Electrical/ Electronics, Industrial Engineering, Engineering Technology or related field. A minimum of six years of progressively responsible experience in mass rail transportation operations or maintenance to include supervisory experience direction, management, planning, and coordination of a large workforce of administrative, technical, skilled and operating personnel for executing revenue operations and maintenance of fixed guideway rapid transit systems and rolling stock. Proof of education and work experience to meet minimum qualifications must be presented as certified by the professional certification.

Interested candidates must apply only at https://www.miamidade.gov/global/humanresources/jobs/.

**DALLAS AREA RAPID TRANSIT MARKETING ASSOCIATE**

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) is seeking a Marketing Associate to be responsible for the development and implementation of all marketing and advertising programs for customers and the project management of assigned initiatives. For full details on the position and where to apply, please visit our website at https://www.dart.org/hr/human-resources.aspx?zoom=all and apply online.

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MAINTENANCE PIONEER VILLAGE TRANSIT AUTHORITY, SPRINGFIELD, MA**

The Pioneer Village Transit Authority, located in scenic Western Massachusetts, has a unique history, a long tradition of serving the community and a strong commitment to meeting the transportation needs of residents. The position will work closely with the Director and assist with providing oversight and direction in the day-to-day maintenance activities for VTA's fleet and facilities, including oversight of maintenance employees at two locations. Must have a strong maintenance background including at least five years of demonstrated experience in a similar role, preferably within the public transit industry. Must have knowledge of working knowledge of maintenance and technologies used in public transit buses and vans and have demonstrated experience with facilities maintenance and capital projects. Can experience and directly related transferable skills will be valued.

Please review a detailed position description and qualification requirements at www.vpta.com. Starting salary is up to $85,000, with excellent benefits including health, dental, 401k, generous paid time off, and pension. Normal work schedule is expected to be M-F, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Schedule flexibility and ability to work occasional weekend hours is required. If you would like to be considered for this outstanding career opportunity, please upload your cover letter and resume electronically via our website, or mail to VTA/CRC, Attn: HR Director, 665 Cottage Street, Springfield, MA 01104.

**TRANSPORTATION PLANNER – THE NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

The North Central Texas Council of Governments Transportation Department is seeking an entry- or mid-level Transportation Planner to support implementation of transportation projects and administration of federal transit grant programs. This position will work with public and private transportation providers, local governments, private businesses, communities and stakeholders. In addition, responsibilities include preparation of presentations, correspondence, documents, reports, and applications. Applicants will be expected to have a strong understanding of transportation policies and procedures. The starting salary includes paid holidays and vacation days.

Please apply online at https://www.ncctcog.com/.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

The Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) is the eighth largest transit system in the U.S. and one of the nation’s innovators in rail and bus service to an average of half a million passengers daily. With 38 rail stations and over 100 bus routes, MARTA is the key to achieving a thriving and evergreen city. Whether you are coming in from the airport, commuting to work, biking, walking, parking, visiting, going to an event, or enjoying a meal, MARTA is the easiest and most cost-effective way to get around the city anywhere.

We are currently seeking candidates for the following positions.

**Position of Director of Maintenance of Way – IRC56269**

The Director of Maintenance of Way is Responsible for the planning, implementation, and operation of the Maintenance of Way Program.

**Position of Program Manager Cars – IRC58849**

Position of Program Director of Passenger Service – IRC55761

**Sr. Compliance Analyst (Contract) – IRC57920**

The Pulse Bus Operator – IRC52069

If you are one of any of these exciting career opportunities, please visit our website at www.itsmarta.com to get more information and to apply.

**DALLAS AREA RAPID TRANSIT DIRECTOR**

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) is seeking a Director of Service Planning, Research & Analysis to provide leadership, staff and contractor supervision and project oversight for the efficient and effective development of the Service Planning, Research and Analysis section of the Service Planning and Development Department. This position is responsible for overseeing the work of the analysis, evaluation of existing and planned services; statistical, demographic and geo-spatial analysis, ridership, revenue and expenses analysis, as well as equity analysis for the Agency. For the full job description and information on how to apply, please visit our website at https://www.dart.org/hr/human-resources.aspx?zoom=all and apply online.

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (METRO)**

**CHIEF RISK, SAFETY AND ASSET MANAGEMENT OFFICER**

Metro is seeking a Chief Risk, Safety and Asset Management Officer for the agency’s Risk Management section to oversee the Metro’s job safety and health program. The incumbent will be responsible for creating an efficient, proactive program that emphasizes the importance of safety and health in all operations.

**PARK CITY TRANSIT GRANTS AND CONTRACTS ADMINISTRATOR**

Job Summary:

Oversees City transit grant programs including applications, grant monitoring, compliance and reporting. Oversees contracts as necessary through project managers. Ensures system compliance to applicable State of Utah and federal laws and regulations. Manages and oversees the development, implementation and review of all aspects of Metro’s asset management objectives and initiatives. Required qualifications include a Bachelor’s degree in Public Safety, Public Administration, Business, Accounting, or a related field, and five years of related work experience in the development and implementation of transit projects or programs and in safety, risk management, asset management for a public agency. The salary range for the CERT Officer is $17,000-$24,000. Please apply by June 17, 2019. For consideration, please email a letter of interest and resume to kim.fleming@povma.com.
PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

DETROIT—APTA Secretary-Treasurer Freddie C. Fuller II and Michigan DOT Director Paul Ajegba recently received the inaugural Transportation Leadership Awards from the National Society of Black Engineers at its 45th Annual Convention. Fuller is also board chair of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials.

PHOENIX—Tripshot, a Silicon Valley-based mobility company, has hired Rob Antoniak to run its new office in downtown Phoenix; his title is vice president of business development and strategy. Antoniak formerly was chief operating officer for Valley Metro, where he worked on mobility on demand and the agency’s partnership with autonomous vehicle company Waymo.

PHILADELPHIA—STV announced the promotion of Brandon Swartley to vice president. Swartley joined STV in 2015 and is the Transportation & Infrastructures Division’s chief electrical engineer of power systems.

PORTLAND, OR—Sharon Kelly has joined WSP USA as a vice president and senior project manager in the firm’s Portland office. She has more than 40 years of experience in transportation and land use planning, including working on three projects that received FTA National Awards for excellence in environmental document preparation.

AKRON, OH—The METRO Regional Transit Authority Board of Trustees elected Robert DeJournett and Nicholas Fernandes as board president and vice president, respectively. Both men were initially elected in 2018.

PALM DESERT, CA—Bill Jahn has been named president of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), the nation’s largest MPO. Jahn, a city council member and former mayor of Big Bear Lake, previously was first vice president. Also elected were: first vice president, Randon Lane, Murrieta City Council, and second vice president, Rex Richardson, Long Beach City Council member.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY, WA—Gerry Martin recently marked his 40th anniversary with Community Transit, becoming the first employee to reach this milestone in the agency’s 42-year history. He joined Community Transit in 1979 to perform preventive bus maintenance and now is the lead of the agency body shop.

WASHINGTON, DC—Operation Lifesaver Inc. has named new leaders for three state programs: Aaron Mays in Kansas, Mark Sexton in Oklahoma and Gary Koerner in Wisconsin. Mays succeeds Tara Mays as Kansas state coordinator. He is president of The Mays Group, a family consulting firm specializing in association management and government relations, and serves on the Topeka City Council. Jessica Mays, business manager for the Mays Group, is now the assistant state coordinator. Sexton has been an Operation Lifesaver volunteer since 2015 and serves as long time Oklahoma State Coordinator Sherry Solz, who retired in 2018. He is a 30-year veteran of the Oklahoma City Police Department and a law enforcement liaison for FRA.

Koerner, who succeeds Susan Klinger in Wisconsin, has been involved with Operation Lifesaver since 2012 and has served as vice chair and chair of the Wisconsin Operation Lifesaver board. Koerner is lead electrician for Appvion, where he has worked for 32 years.

DAYTON, OHIO—Mark Donaghy, chief executive officer of the Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority (RTA), has been named vice president of the Bus Coalition, a national advocacy organization that works alongside APTA and the Community Transportation Association of America to support funding for federal public transit bus and bus facility programs.

Also, the Ohio Public Transit Association (OPTA) recently presented RTA Chief Capital Officer Bob Ruzinsky with its top honor, the Leonard Ronis Award, for his work as a public transit leader. OPTA cited Ruzinsky for his support of public transit systems in navigating state and federal grant programs to pay for capital projects and planning for current and future operating costs.

CINCINNATI—TJ Thorn, Cincinnati Metro vice president of safety and security/chief safety officer, has been named an associate instructor for the Transportation Safety Institute (TSI), Transit Safety and Security Division, providing safety training for transportation professionals around the U.S. He has more than 25 years of experience in environment, health and safety in the manufacturing and transportation industries.

ST. CLOUD, MN—Metro Bus has promoted three-year employee Dave Green to chief operating officer. He has more than 19 years of experience in various management and leadership roles in the public and private sectors.

ALLENTOWN, PA—Michael Lichtenberger has been appointed to the board of directors of the Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority. He has worked nearly 40 years in the financial services industry and serves as interim chief operating officer at EnTrust Merchant Services of Bethlehem, PA, as well as group executive at Sherwood Management Group LLC of Allentown.

JACKSONVILLE, FL—David Cawton, a former newspaper and TV journalist, has joined the Jacksonville Transportation Authority as its media relations manager and chief spokesperson. Cawton has spent the past two years as a reporter at the Jacksonville Daily Record and earlier he was a television anchor and reporter in Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas.

PHILADELPHIA—Ryan Morson has joined Stantec as associate, transit stations leader, buildings. He has more than 15 years experience and most recently was an owner’s representative for Amtrak who helped write the Amtrak Station Program and Planning Guidelines.

MILWAUKEE—REV Group Inc. announced the appointment of Matt Scheuler as vice president of sales for REV Bus. Scheuler has worked for Collins Bus since 2007 in posts including vice president of sales and marketing, director of sales and leadership roles with special projects and aftermarket service and support.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY, WA—Community Transit has hired Mary Beth Lowell as its new director of communications and public affairs. She previously was interim chief marketing and communications officer for Swedish Hospital in Seattle, where she also led communications teams for Providence St. Joseph hospitals in Centralia, Everett and Olympia, WA.

PEORIA, IL—CityLink named Angel Marinich as an assistant general manager, part of the First Transit Inc. team that manages the agency’s services. Marinich has more than 20 years of public transportation experience: 18 years with MV Transportation Inc., most recently as general manager of CityLift paratransit in Peoria and CountyLink paratransit in rural Peoria County, and five years at Denver’s Regional Transportation District.

CHICAGO—Peter Windschmitt has joined Quandel Consultants as director of railroad operations. Windschmitt has worked in the rail industry for more than 15 years, beginning at Union Pacific Railroad. Later, as chief planner at HNTB, he led operations planning for Brightline (now Virgin Trains USA), the nation’s first privately funded intercity passenger rail service, which ultimately will connect Miami and Orlando, FL.

FORT WORTH, TX—Jon Erik (AJ) Arjanen has joined Trinity Metro as vice president and chief operating officer for rail. He previously was vice president/general manager for Martin Marietta/ Rock & Rail LLC, in Lakewood, CO, and earlier worked for Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway in Fort Worth as operations director.

SAN ANTONIO, TX—VIA Metropolitan Transit announced the hiring of Kammy Horne as senior vice president of planning and development. Most recently she worked for HNTB as vice president and Austin Planning Group director in the firm’s South Central Texas offices. She is a graduate of the Leadership APTA Class of 2012, co-chair of the Environmental Subcommittee and a member of numerous committees.

BREMERTON, WA—Hayward Seymour, director of fleet and facilities maintenance for Kitsap Transit, has announced his retirement after almost 40 years in the public transit industry. During his career he has served five different agencies in the public and private sectors.

TAMPA, FL—Tampa Mayor Jane Castor has joined the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority Board of Directors, representing the city.