Multimodal Collaboration through Data Sharing

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August 1, 2018



Outline

- About the Lextran-Fayette Urban County Government... (and its transit authority)
- Challenges to Multimodal Planning in Lexington
- Transit Data Needs for Multimodal Planning
- Transit Route Facilities Inventory Project Goals and Timeline

.extran

Project Status and Lessons Learned

Lexington-Fayette County

- The horse capital of the world.
- Population of about 310,000.
- One of the first urban growth boundaries in the United States.
 - Offers protection to horse farms
 - Increased density and efficiency of providing public services
- Consolidated city and county government.



"Consolidated" City and County Government

- Lexington Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) coordinates the transportation planning process for Fayette County and neighboring Jessamine County.
- Lexington Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG)
 - Streets and Roads Division
 - Traffic Engineering Division
 - Planning, Preservation, and Development Division
- Transit Authority of LFUCG
 - 65 fixed-route buses, about 4 million unlinked trips per year
 - Complementary paratransit service and a rideshare program



Challenges to Multimodal Planning in Lexington

- Although government is consolidated under LFUCG, Lextran operates as a quasi-governmental authority established in state law.
- Transportation planning, land-use planning, and engineering work well together in city government.
- Multimodal planning organized through the Lexington Area MPO.
- Lextran participated in collaborative efforts through membership on transportation planning committees.



Transit-Focused Data Needs for Multimodal Planning

- Lexington Area MPO for multimodal integration with sidewalk and cycling data
- Streets and Roads Division for resurfacing and maintenance of local roads
- Traffic Engineering Division for signal control
- Planning, Preservation, and Development Division for zoning and land-use analysis
- Kentucky Transportation Cabinet for state road maintenance and design

Data consistency across agencies is critical!



Transit Route Facilities Inventory

- Goal: To create a living database of bus stops and contextual data that is centrally housed and accessible to diverse users.
 - Across government agencies, both state and local
 - For various purposes—planning, customer-facing information, maintenance, analyses, and so forth
- WSP was tasked with creating an inventory of all bus stops in Lexington and to meet the data needs of outside government agencies.



Project Timeline

- Phase I: Project Planning
 - Who needs what data?
 - How can we support outside planning functions and meet our internal needs?
- Phase II: Data Collection
 - Finding the right blend of technology and planning expertise.
 - Quality controls amid service changes.
- We are here Phase III: Technology Integration
 - Where does the data live?
 - Balancing security with access-how can we best communicate among data users?
 - Phase IV: Long-Term Maintenance



Data Collection

- WSP, Lextran, and the Lexington Area MPO collaborated to generate a list of needed data.
 - Latitude and longitude
 - Adherence to the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements
 - Evaluation of access to stops via sidewalks, bike lanes, crosswalks, etc.
 - Surrounding land-use analysis based on LFUCG zoning
 - Safety and security factors
 - Condition assessments for the Transit Asset Management rules
- WSP contracted Raxar Technologies to develop a mobile application that could meet the data needs.











Next Steps Phase III: Technology Integration Phase IV: Long-Term Maintenance

- Starting point: ArcGIS Online shared data portal with LFUCG.
- Current data being maintained by Lextran on an as-needed basis.
- Development of seamless data hosting and access at a reasonable cost:
 - Generation of maintenance work orders
 - Real-time customer information
 - Integration of sidewalk, pedestrian movements, cycling, traffic, and other planning data.



Conclusion

- Partnering with a vendor to conduct an inventory of transit routes is a common project for transit agencies to undertake—doing so with a focus on data needs of partnering governmental agencies for multimodal planning.
- Sharing data is easy. Integrating data is hard.
- Technology that is flexible enough to handle a wide range of uses—internal maintenance work orders to external analyses—can be cost prohibitive for a smaller agency. Collaboration is key.

