



3rd
National RTAP
Technical Assistance Conference
TRANSPORTATION AT THE **CENTER**

Conference Program

October 29-November 1, 2017

Hilton Omaha

1001 Cass St, Omaha, Nebraska

nationalrtap.org/conference2017

Welcome to Omaha!

On behalf of the entire Conference Committee, we want to welcome you to Omaha, Nebraska for the National Rural Transit Assistance Program's 3rd Technical Assistance Conference. The theme this year is "Transportation at the Center," in part because Omaha is right in the center of this beautiful country and because transportation is at the center of all of our lives, getting us to work, school, medical appointments, shopping, social events, and more.

We are thrilled about the speakers, workshops, panel discussions, vendor exhibits, and other events that are planned for this conference. We hope you make the most of it and come away from the week with new knowledge, insight, energy, and connections. If there is anything we can do to make the conference a better experience for you, please visit the registration desk or contact a National RTAP staff member. You can also email conference@nationalrtap.org.

Enclosed in this program is a detailed conference schedule, with session descriptions, locations, and speakers. There is also a listing of all vendors, a map of the hotel, and speaker bios. Besides the information here, even more information about the conference is available in the mobile app (see below).

National RTAP would like to thank the conference partners and local host, including the Federal Transit Administration, Nebraska Department of Transportation, Advance: Innovation and Safety in Transit, Nebraska Association of Transit Providers, Omaha Metro, Omaha Convention & Visitors Bureau, National Aging & Disability Transportation Center, National Center for Mobility Management, and National Transit Institute.

Conference App

For those of you with smart phones or tablets, we have a mobile app with all session and speaker information, as well as other information about the vendors, Omaha, and the conference. We will be conducting post-session surveys in the app, as well as some polls and other activities. We encourage you to download the app, create your own personal schedule, and engage with other attendees!

How to Download the App:

1. Go to your App Store or Google Play and search for the app 'CrowdCompass AttendeeHub'
2. Download the app to your phone
3. Open the app and search for 'National RTAP 2017'
4. Tap on the download button
5. Tap on the 'App Info' icon and find the 'App Quick Start Guide' in About this App to get started!

Note: You will get a verification email during this process and it may end up in your Spam folder.

If you have any questions about how to download or use the app, or any other questions about the conference, visit the registration desk for assistance!

Sunday, October 29th

GTFS Builder Hands-On Workshop

12:30PM – 5:00PM, Sunday, October 29

Washington City

Speakers: Marcy Jaffe, Amelia Bostic

Attendees will be given homework to prepare before the workshop. The homework consists of information for one route including stop locations, route schedule and general information about the agency. The work shop will walk attendees through the process of using GTFS Builder to create a GTFS file for the one route.

Intercity Bus Route Development Workshop

12:30PM – 5:00PM, Sunday, October 29

Grand Central Ballroom A

Speakers: Bonnie Buchanan, Fred Fravel, Stephanie Gonterman

Staff from Isaacs & Associates, KFH Group, and Jefferson Lines will lead participants in a workshop on developing intercity bus routes and provide valuable expertise and guidance.

Super Circular and FTA Award Management Workshop

12:30PM – 5:00PM, Sunday, October 29

Grand Central Ballroom B

Speaker: Richard Garrity

This session is designed to familiarize FTA recipients and subrecipients on new OMB grants management guidance and FTA's new Award Management Requirement requirements. This is critical information to any entity that uses FTA grant funds.

Transit Asset Management Implementation for Tier II Providers and Sponsors Course

12:30PM – 5:00PM, Sunday, October 29

Grand Central Ballroom C

Speaker: Margaret Akofio-Sowah, Doris Lee

This National Transit Institute (NTI) course provides an overview of and implementation guidance for Tier II providers intending to comply with the

Transit Asset Management (TAM) Final Rule (49 CFR 625). Tier II providers are defined as federal transit funding recipients that own, operate, or manage one hundred or fewer vehicles in revenue service during peak regular service across all non-rail fixed route modes or in any one non-fixed route mode, subrecipients under the 5311 Rural Area Formula Program, or any American Indian tribe.

The course is intended to outline the requirements, underlying TAM principles, improve transit asset management understanding and practices among smaller providers, and provide support to Tier II parties charged with implementation of the asset management requirements, including: Group TAM Plan Sponsors, such as State Departments of Transportation or Metropolitan Planning Organizations; subrecipients with more than one hundred vehicles in bus only revenue service; and subrecipients with one hundred or fewer vehicles in revenue service that have chosen to opt-out of a Group TAM Plan.

The goal of this course is to facilitate an improved understanding of asset management and increased compliance with 49 CFR 625 for Tier II Providers. The course is directed at mid- and senior-level managers from TAM Plan sponsoring agencies (Group Plan Sponsors and Group Plan Opt-outs), who will be responsible for the implementation of the TAM Final Rule within their agencies.

Tribal Transit Financial Management Training

12:30PM – 5:00PM, Sunday, October 29

Grand Central Ballroom D

Speaker: Maxine Marshall, Dana Lucas

DMP, a Federal Transit Administration contractor, will lead a workshop for tribal transit providers on financial management. DMP also lead the tribal transit assessment project and the workshop at the National RTAP conference in Denver in 2015.

Website Builder Workshop

12:30PM – 5:00PM, Sunday, October 29

Grand Central Ballroom E

Speakers: Frank Condon, Thomas Craig

Do you have a website for your transit agency? Are you able to update it on a regular basis? Did you

know you can build and maintain a website for your transit agency for free? Join us as we show you some of the features and benefits of the Website Builder tool, powered and supported by National RTAP, and walk you through the initial steps to get started. This workshop will also cover the critical information to include in a transit website and other best practices.

Sunday Break

2:30PM – 3:30PM, Sunday, October 29
Grand Central Foyer

Welcome Reception

5:30PM – 7:30PM, Sunday, October 29
Blackstone Ballroom

Join your friends and fellow transit professionals for a welcome reception to kick off the conference. There will be a blessing by Larry Wright, Jr., Chairman of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska. Appetizers will be served and there will be a cash bar.

Monday, October 30th

Monday Breakfast

8:00AM – 8:30AM, Monday, October 30
Blackstone Ballroom

Plenary I: Welcome and Keynote Speaker

8:30AM – 10:00AM, Monday, October 30
Blackstone Ballroom

Speakers: Kyle Schneweis, Kristina Cerise

This session will feature a welcome by Kyle Schneweis, P.E., Director of the Nebraska Department of Transportation, followed by Kristina Cerise's keynote presentation, "More with Less: Research-Based Methods for Increasing Productivity and Innovation." A description for the latter is as follows.

Transportation planning is a complex and multidisciplinary field. Transportation jobs are complicated but crucial. There are real problems that need real solutions. Demands on rural agencies are high even when staffing and funding are low. The result

is pressure for increased productivity and innovation from each employee.

There are real solutions waiting to be discovered outside traditional planning and transportation literature. Solutions that are not about finding the right multi-modal policy, switching your fleet, or adjusting rider fees. Solutions based, instead, on cognitive and behavioral science research findings about simple (and fun!) ways to increasing employee productivity, creativity and satisfaction using resources we already have—namely our human brains and biases.

Did you know that allowing employees to view a humorous YouTube video has been proven to improve productivity? Or that the promise of a small piece of candy increased the speed and accuracy of doctors? Do you know about the two-minute rule? The 20-second rule? Hint: they have nothing to do with the amount of time food is allowed to stay on the floor.

This engaging lecture reviews information, research, and ideas from best-selling books (e.g. The Happiness Advantage, Getting Things Done, The Power of Habit, Brain Rules) and examines how to apply the research findings in rural transportation agencies to improve performance of those who work behind a wheel or behind a desk.

Monday Morning Break

10:00AM – 10:15AM, Monday, October 30
Grand Central Foyer

Admin & Planning: Building More Effective Transit Boards

10:15AM – 11:45AM, Monday, October 30
Grand Central Ballroom A

Speakers: Jonathan Brooks, Michael Walk

The workshop addresses the roles and responsibilities of transit boards and delves into practices common to highly effective boards. Presentation material is drawn from recent board workshops in Idaho and Texas. Participants will receive a brief handbook to refer to during and after the workshop.

The workshop will address the following specific topics: 1) Role and responsibilities of the transit board as a whole, 2) Effective board practices/basics: role of board members & chair, ethical governance, advisory vs governing boards, governing vs managing, effective board meetings, and impact of agency size on board function, and 3) Toolboxes for boards: strategic planning and SWOT, performance and benchmarking, and board improvement/development/self-assessment.

Compliance: State Asset Management and Safety Plans for Smaller Systems

10:15AM – 11:45AM, Monday, October 30

Grand Central Ballroom B

Speakers: Walt Diangson, John Filippone

The FTA has adopted Safety Management Systems (SMS) under FAST Act's National Public Transportation Safety Program (NPTSP) as a way of improving and standardizing approaches to safety for all modes of service within the public transportation industry. While voluntary for bus systems now, it makes good sense and is "the right thing to do" for bus transit and paratransit to plan and implement SMS for their organizations.

The mission, and thus purpose, of all transit systems is to move people safely, efficiently and reliably. To accomplish this mission, any transit system must be able to provide safety policies, procedures, rules, training, data, equipment, management and leadership to support the achievement of this goal.

As demonstrated in other industries, FTA has adopted SMS as the primary approach to help all its grantees achieve improved safety and the achievement of a strong and effective safety culture. SMS is defined as "The formal, top-down, organization-wide, collaborative, data-driven approach to managing safety risk." Once SMS has been adopted by a transit system and leadership commitment to safety has been established, the management system focuses on the identification of all hazards and risks facing the transit system throughout all functional areas as the first step towards elimination, minimizing and/or controlling such threats. SMS then requires the transit agency to

identify all safety-related responsibilities organization-wide and assure that the required resources for safety success are provided.

Leadership is critical to the success of SMS. A leadership's commitment to safety means that the transit system has the responsibility of applying operating, planning, promotional, assurance, technical, and management techniques and principles to the safety aspects of the transit system on an ongoing basis. This process is simply "system safety." FTA's approach to SMS considers that not all funded transit operations are the same. FTA has recognized that transit systems vary in terms of sizes, service environments, modes, labor, customers and operating characteristics.

Tribal, rural and small urban systems have limited resources, different operating conditions and are general non-rail operators. Many transit managers at this level "wear many hats." For those reasons and more, FTA has stated that SMS is adaptable. The FTA safety management system is adaptable to meet the needs and available resources of all tribal, rural and small urban transit system safety activities and tools, such as RTAP's safety training and guides. SMS provides tested and experienced-based processes, activities and tools to manage safety effectively, even for a small transit agency.

This conference session will assist small transit agencies in understanding the basis, intent, expectations and approaches adopted by FTA for improved safety management and performance. The training objectives are: --To understand transit safety from a "newly adopted" and systematic approach known as Safety Management System (SMS); --To increase awareness of the principles and key elements of SMS that are critical for tribal, rural and small urban transit systems; --To illustrate how to adapt to and transition from existing safety programs and processes to SMS; and --To facilitate required and voluntary adoption of the National Public Transportation Safety Program (NPTSP) of FAST Act and implementation of SMS by individual transit systems.

The target audience includes all transit coordinators and managers, operation managers and supervisors, supporting staff personnel (safety, risk

management, training, dispatching, and human resources), state DOT oversight personnel and grant coordinators and all other staff with safety responsibilities.

Coordination: Statewide Mobility Management Initiatives

10:15AM – 11:45AM, Monday, October 30

Grand Central Ballroom E

Speakers: Mike Spadafore, Zenotha Robinson, Corinne Donahue

The presentation will include background information on how the states of Mississippi, Nebraska, and Kansas are organized into regions and how using legislative, program, and regional stakeholders each state developed mobility management strategies and sometimes even mobility manager positions. This session will cover some examples of successful activities facilitated by mobility managers at the state level.

Operations: Hiring and Retaining Great Employees in Rural and Small Urban Communities

10:15AM – 11:45AM, Monday, October 30

Grand Central Ballroom D

Speaker: Rob Lynch

Hiring and maintaining a great staff can be difficult for transit agencies of all sizes, but it can be especially challenging for smaller agencies. This session is geared towards small urban and rural operators having difficulty securing the needed workforce to deliver safe, efficient, and effective mobility services to their community. The session will discuss hiring best practices, onboarding, employee incentives and how to maintain an inviting workplace.

Technology: Tribal Transit Technology

10:15AM – 11:45AM, Monday, October 30

Grand Central Ballroom C

Speaker: Angie Gilliam, Amy Hill

Learn about the types of technology being used at tribal transit agencies. Hear the pros and cons during

two presentations and then join the discussion with your experiences.

Plenary II: FTA Update and Luncheon Sponsored by Greyhound

12:00PM – 1:30PM, Monday, October 30

Blackstone Ballroom

Speakers: Mokhtee Ahmad, K. Jane Williams

K. Jane Williams, Acting Administrator, Federal Transit Administration, US DOT, will provide an update from the FTA and the direction of the new administration in Washington.

Admin & Planning: Risk Management: Insuring Your Operations

1:30PM – 3:00PM, Monday, October 30

Grand Central Ballroom A

Speakers: Sarah McDonnell, Madelyn Carlson

By knowing insurance options, transportation providers can help reduce insurance costs and mitigate risks for their organization. In Washington State, nonprofits were faced with increased insurance premiums that threatened transportation service to persons with special transportation needs. In 2004, NPIP (Non-Profit Insurance Program) was created by and for nonprofit organizations to provide risk management and stable, affordable insurance. Learn more about the NPIP model and how effective risk management can help organizations meet their operational objectives.

Compliance: Tribal Transit Compliance Issues and Promising Practices

1:30PM – 3:00PM, Monday, October 30

Grand Central Ballroom B

Speakers: Michia Casebier, Robert Mills

This panel presentation will explore strategies employed by three different successful tribal transit programs: the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government, which funded its transit system startup without FTA funds; the Craig Tribal Association, which spearheaded transit system development for three Prince of Wales Island Alaska Native Villages; and the

Yavapai-Apache Nation, whose transit system is now connected to Greyhound's route through Camp Verde to Phoenix.

The session also will detail techniques for writing competitive transit grants despite diminishing funds and limited access to FTA grant support staff and information. Workshop participants will walk away with vital transit grant development resources, contacts, links to essential transit grant regulation information, and an understanding of the most important elements to address in their tribal transit plans.

Coordination: Mobility Management: Creating Healthcare-Transit Connections

1:30PM – 3:00PM, Monday, October 30

Grand Central Ballroom E

Speakers: Nancy Hoehn, Judy Shanley

Mobility management brings together a diverse range of providers to support innovative transportation options for riders with disabilities and older adults. The FTA-funded National Center for Mobility Management (NCMM) works with mobility management systems to support the participation of a range of human services providers that traditionally, are not thought of when a community, region, or state, is considering its mobility assets.

Session objectives are to: Provide an overview of innovative partnerships, with representation medical and transit providers whose focus is on social determinants of health; Share resources and tools that enable communities to develop and sustain mobility management systems that demonstrate how to engage these unique partners; and Offer recommendations regarding evaluating and sustaining mobility management networks to improve mobility options for people with disabilities and older adults.

Operations: Innovative Partnerships for Compliance, Operations, and Technology

1:30PM – 3:00PM, Monday, October 30

Grand Central Ballroom D

Speakers: Kari Ruse, William Bivin

This presentation will focus on finding innovative solutions to transit-related issues. The state DOT utilized the vast resources at the state university to address compliance, develop technologies, improve safety, and streamline operations at the state and local level. The partnership launched in 2013 and will continue at least through 2021. Contracting with the University of Nebraska allowed the State DOT access to additional resources and extended staff. Successes include developing a comprehensive driver training program, promoting statewide mobility management, and creating technology tools to improve service delivery.

Technology: General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) Data: Uses, Tools, and Best Practices

1:30PM – 3:00PM, Monday, October 30

Grand Central Ballroom C

Speakers: Marcy Jaffe, Amelia Bostic, Thomas Craig

Learn more about creating GTFS files using GTFS Builder, publishing timetables on your website with GTFS data and using GTFS data beyond Google.

Monday Afternoon Break

3:00PM – 3:15PM, Monday, October 30

Grand Central Foyer

Admin & Planning: Inclusive Planning Benefits and Strategies

3:15PM – 4:45PM, Monday, October 30

Grand Central Ballroom A

Speakers: Kari Banta, Virginia Daze

This interactive session offers an introduction to inclusive planning as well as case examples of successful implementations. Get an overview of inclusive planning benefits, FTA requirements, and processes. The presentation will cover the results of strategies used Section 5310 and Section 5311 in Texas and Oregon, as well as the experiences of projects supported by the Administration for Community Living to engage older adults and people with disabilities in transportation planning.

Compliance: Drug and Alcohol Program Compliance and Tools

3:15PM – 4:45PM, Monday, October 30

Grand Central Ballroom B

Speakers: Jeff Waxman, Robbie Sarles

This session will present a summary of the NPRM, comments received, and the DOT's final rule changes. In addition, the session will present a discussion of current "hot topic" issues, including the status of medical and recreational marijuana state legislation, and the impacts of this legislation on the D&A program.

Coordination: Partnerships for Access and Health

3:15PM – 4:45PM, Monday, October 30

Grand Central Ballroom E

Speakers: Jonnie Kusek, Frank Thomas, Heidi Guenin

The health of people in our communities is important to the health of the community itself. Rural programs nationally struggle with partnerships and helping residents access healthcare.

This session will look at the national perspective and examples of creative rural transit. Panhandle Trails Intercity Public Transit and the Oregon Highly Rural Veterans Transportation Grant Program work to build mobility from existing resources and use grant programs to increase community mobility and health.

Coordination and collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders is key. Local, regional and out-of-state healthcare providers; mental health agencies; health and human services; local governments and neighboring American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and villages; community programs; and veteran service offices all have a stake in your success and coordination can result in additional transportation options for patients to receive healthcare needed and to reach many other vital services.

Operations: Title VI and Civil Rights: The Changing Face of America and What It Means for Public Transit

3:15PM – 4:45PM, Monday, October 30

Grand Central Ballroom D

Speaker: Carol Wright Kenderdine

Title VI requirements and Civil Rights legislation have been around for a long time, and it is easy to become complacent. This presentation will highlight current and emerging issues that will increase your awareness and make sure your transit agency is compliant.

Technology: Technology for State Data Collection Systems

3:15PM – 4:45PM, Monday, October 30

Grand Central Ballroom C

Speakers: Jooho Lee, Andreas Aeppli, Beth Siegfried, Yu-Che Chen

Many states are turning to online data collection and grant management systems. Learn from Nebraska DOT's and a transit agency's experience and hear about TransAM, open source platform for managing transportation assets.

Vendor EXPO Open

4:30PM – 7:00PM, Monday, October 30

Grand Central Foyer

Please meet the exceptional vendors who provide goods and services that keep your systems running at peak efficiency and reliability, and learn what they have to offer your agency.

Vendor Reception Sponsored by PC Trans

5:00PM – 6:30PM, Monday, October 30

Grand Central Foyer

Tuesday, October 31st

Vendor Breakfast

8:00AM – 9:00AM, Tuesday, October 31

Grand Central Ballrooms C, D, & E

State RTAP Manager Breakfast (*invite only*)

8:00AM – 9:00AM, Tuesday, October 31
Grand Central Ballrooms A & B

Vendor EXPO Open

8:00AM – 10:00AM, Tuesday, October 31
Grand Central Foyer

Student Research Poster Presentations

9:15AM – 10:00AM, Tuesday, October 31
Grand Central Foyer

Posters by University of Nebraska at Omaha Students:

- “Benchmarking Case Studies for Mobile Application of Public Transit in U.S.,” Yunseung Kim, Doctoral Student
- “Mobility Management: How to Measure the Performance of Mobility Management Programs?,” Bit An, Doctoral Student
- “Nebraska Pupil Transportation,” Sai, Suyang, Chethan, Graduate Students

Tuesday Morning Break

10:00AM – 10:15AM, Tuesday, October 31
Grand Central Foyer

Admin & Planning: Starting or Revamping Your Transit System

10:15AM – 11:45AM, Tuesday, October 31
Grand Central Ballroom A

Speakers: Garth Frable, David Kack, Leslie Fijalkiewicz

In this session, three panelists will share their experience and expertise regarding different stages of starting or revamping a transit system: a feasibility study; developing, implementing, and expanding a new service; and the overhaul of an existing system.

Compliance: ADA and Accommodating Passengers with Disabilities Workshop

10:15AM – 11:45AM, Tuesday, October 31
Grand Central Ballroom B

Speakers: Tricia Martinez, Jeff Waxman

The program will address what transportation providers need to do in order to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The presentation will include a discussion of different requirements for different modes of transportation—fixed route, demand responsive, transit, intercity bus, etc.—as well as how these different operators interline with each other to provide seamless transportation for disabled individuals. Finally, we will share common challenges in accommodating individuals with disabilities and how to address them.

Coordination: Coordination Infrastructure: Process as Destination

10:15AM – 11:45AM, Tuesday, October 31
Grand Central Ballroom E

Speakers: Murat Omay, Bobbi Petit, Angie Jones

Technology is a tool. It doesn't build partnerships, listen to the community, or have creative ideas about mobility, but it can help you with those goals. FTA is looking at Mobility-On-Demand (MOD) and communities large and small are looking at ways to make responsive mobility happen. Sometimes it is using your phones and drivers, and sometimes it is using technology to aggregate demand and share information. Come and see what FTA is doing and how rural communities are taking what they have and making more.

Operations: Smart Scheduling to Improve Paratransit Services and Reliability

10:15AM – 11:45AM, Tuesday, October 31
Grand Central Ballroom D

Speakers: Sylvia Castillo

In order to improve customer service and better optimize vehicles in service, VIA combined trips from these human service agencies in such a way as to reduce the number of vehicles traveling from these agencies by 50% or more. This turned out to be a win-win situation for VIA's customers (customers are picked up on time and travel the same amount of time to their destination), the human service agencies (customers leave their facility on time), and VIA (improved productivity leading to cost savings).

Technology: Resolving Demand Response Use on Trip Planners

10:15AM – 11:45AM, Tuesday, October 31

Grand Central Ballroom C

Speakers: Marcy Jaffe, Thomas Craig

Why can't you get your Demand Response service on Google Transit? Learn a couple of work arounds to get your service visible on trip planning software.

Plenary III & Luncheon: Keynote Speaker

12:00PM – 1:30PM, Tuesday, October 31

Blackstone Ballroom

Speaker: Billy Mills

The world is changing. Entire governments have been dismantled, new governments are being redesigned, universities reengineered, businesses restructured, all to prepare us for a changing world.

Olympic Gold Medalist Billy Mills will discuss how the legacies of Manifest Destiny and the Doctrine of Discovery have shaped the histories of the indigenous people in the United States. He will share how the social and political structures in place today have been influenced by those legacies: institutionalized racism influences our rule of law and governs much of our decision making today as we visualize the future of our countries and our places in the larger global society.

Billy will also share with you what remains consistent in a changing world and a value based concept on self-empowerment that will help all of us, individually and collectively, to not only meet change but to also reach within the depths of our capabilities and to perform to the greatest of our potential. He does this while weaving powerful and compassionate stories through his personal quest for Olympic victory.

Admin & Planning: Tribal Communication and Partnerships

1:30PM – 3:00PM, Tuesday, October 31

Grand Central Ballroom A

Speakers: Edward Fairbanks, Connie Sipe, Charla Sloan

Good communication is critical for effective partnerships. When tribal nations are involved,

understanding the tribe's history, government, and cultural differences goes a long way. This session will discuss Minnesota DOT's Tribal State Relations Training and will provide examples of two partnerships between tribal and non-tribal entities to deliver public transportation in Alaska and Oklahoma.

Compliance: Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Workshop

1:30PM – 3:00PM, Tuesday, October 31

Grand Central Ballroom B

Speaker: John Edmondson

This session will provide guidance to rural transit administrators and operators on determining the pool of Federal funding programs subject to the requirements of DBE planning, the nature of contracting opportunities for rural transit providers, and the development of required DBE plans.

Coordination: State Level Coordination and Regional Service Development

1:30PM – 3:00PM, Tuesday, October 31

Grand Central Ballroom E

Speakers: Tim Geibel, Kari Ruse, David Kack, William Troe

Regional economies need regional access. The speakers in this session have worked with regional and state partners to build regional partnerships combining rural fixed route, intercity and paratransit operations in various ways to respond to different needs and opportunities. The state can assist in this process through planning, program support, and grants. The operational partnerships often begin as local efforts to better align service delivery, improve quality of operations and increase regional mobility. Where they end up is always interesting.

Operations: Establishing and Nurturing a Strong Safety Culture

1:30PM – 3:00PM, Tuesday, October 31

Grand Central Ballroom D

Speakers: Walt Diangson, John Filippone

As with social cultures and corporate cultures, a safety culture binds people, together as members of

groups. A safety culture is the set of enduring values and attitudes regarding safety, shared by every member of every level of an organization or group, including tribal, rural and urban transit and paratransit systems. A true culture of safety consists of shared beliefs, practices and mind-sets in regards to safety that exist within an organization.

As to how to achieve a strong safety culture in a bus transit or paratransit organization, FTA has suggested adoption of the Safety Management Systems (SMS) approach. While it is possible to have a good safety culture without a formal SMS, it is not possible to have an effective SMS without a good safety culture. That is because a safety culture serves as the underpinning of all your safety programs. A strong safety culture will determine how effective or successful such efforts will be.

Attendees of this session will walk away better prepared to establish and/or nurture the safety culture at their agency.

Technology: Best Practices in Technology Procurement

1:30PM – 3:00PM, Tuesday, October 31

Grand Central Ballroom C

Speakers: Pat O'Donnell, Thomas Craig, Rob Tassinari

The do's and don'ts of procuring hardware, using video surveillance as an example. In addition, the session will consider different approaches to technology procurement and discuss processes that have been successful and processes that cause problems. A demonstration of National RTAP's ProcurementPRO will also be presented to show an easy way to determine the required federal clauses and certifications.

Tuesday Afternoon Break

3:00PM – 3:15PM, Tuesday, October 31

Grand Central Foyer

Admin & Planning: Building Support for Transit: Advocacy, Marketing, and Social Media

3:15PM – 4:45PM, Tuesday, October 31

Grand Central Ballroom A

Speakers: Amelia Bostic, Michele Brooks, Bettye Scott

This session will feature examples of different strategies to build awareness and support for transit in your community through advocacy, marketing, and social media. Two of the speakers will talk about this topic in terms of developing, implementing, and growing a new service, and the third will talk about using "reverse marketing" and social media to spread the word and engage your community.

Compliance: Transit Asset Management, Strategic Planning, and Vehicle Procurement

3:15PM – 4:45PM, Tuesday, October 31

Grand Central Ballroom B

Speaker: Kelly Shawn

This session will focus on the impacts of FTA's Transit Asset Management (49 CFR Part 625) regulation in managing fleet replacement, procurement and disposition of vehicles, while increasing the ability to make long term planning decisions. Participants will learn how to develop a Transit Asset Management plan and/or participate in a State-wide sponsored plan using existing data and simple, yet compliant structure.

Coordination: Integrating New Rules for Medicaid's Home & Community Based Services (HCBS)

3:15PM – 4:45PM, Tuesday, October 31

Grand Central Ballroom E

Speakers: Kristen Haar, Jeremy Johnson-Miller, Mark Lander

The State and agencies around Iowa are to fully implement the federal Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Settings rule by March 17, 2019. The HCBS Settings rule means much more choice and independence for persons with disabilities with services through waiver programs.

Mostly gone will be sheltered workshops and group homes replaced with community employment opportunities and choice of housing options. This increased community integration will be very positive

for persons with disabilities on these waivers, with the ability to work, live, and socialize where they choose. However, this rule's application will mean a major shift in operating procedures for Iowa's public transit agencies – especially the rural, demand response systems.

The Iowa DOT Office of Public Transit has been working very closely with disability advocacy organizations and its public transit agencies to educate about this rule and to foster local conversations about transportation options available and services needed because of this rule. This panel discussion will provide several viewpoints on this collaborative effort.

Operations: Transit & Tea: A Social Approach to Transit Orientation

3:15PM – 4:45PM, Tuesday, October 31

Grand Central Ballroom D

Speakers: Amber Simmons, Julie Dupree

Transit and Tea is designed to “take the scary” out of riding the bus. It's a social approach to transit orientation that focusses on how to incorporate the bus into your life and not on the mechanics of being “trained to ride.”

Technology: National Transit Database Annual Reporting for 5311 Recipients

3:15PM – 4:45PM, Tuesday, October 31

Grand Central Ballroom C

Speaker: Melissa Conte

This presentation will cover annual reporting to the National Transit Database (NTD) for recipients of 5311 funds, including State DOTs and tribes. The presentation will focus on reporting requirements, NTD data used in FTA's apportionment and upcoming changes to the NTD.

Halloween Night Out: Masquerade at the Museum

6:00PM – 10:00PM, Tuesday, October 31

Joslyn Art Museum

Join us at the Joslyn Art Museum for a night away from the conference. Dinner, music, an exhibit, a

photo booth, and much more will be provided! Tickets should be ordered in advance. Transportation to the museum leaves from Lot F. Learn more about the museum at www.joslyn.org.

Wednesday, November 1st

Breakfast

8:00AM – 8:30AM, Wednesday, November 1

Grand Central Ballroom

Roundtable Discussions

8:30AM – 10:00AM, Wednesday, November 1

Grand Central Ballroom

State Programs, Intercity Services, Transit Managers and Tribal Transit Programs will have a chance to meet together with National RTAP staff and FTA to talk about needs and issues in their program areas. What are you working on and what are your challenges and lessons to share? What webinars, trainings, or other technical assistance do you need? The results will be read out at the town hall.

Morning Break and Check Out

10:00AM – 10:30AM, Wednesday, November 1

Grand Central Foyer

Plenary Session IV: Town Hall

10:30AM – 12:00PM, Wednesday, November 1

Grand Central Ballroom

Staff from National RTAP, the National Aging & Disability Transportation Center, and the National Center for Mobility Management will facilitate a group discussion and will be available for questions.

Conference Wrap-up & Boxed Lunch

12:00PM – 12:30PM, Wednesday, November 1

Grand Central Ballroom

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Hilton Omaha Floor Plan



Speakers

First Name	Last Name	Title & Company	Biography
Andreas	Aeppli	Principal, Cambridge Systematics	<p>Andreas Aeppli is a Principal of CS with more than 30 years of experience in goods movement policy, carrier economics, reliability and maintenance analysis, rail system operations, and information systems, including large system deployments. Presently he is overseeing implementation of Cambridge Systematics' TransAm asset management system with clients in Massachusetts, Virginia and New York.</p> <p>Previously, Mr. Aeppli led the development of a railcar asset management system that was deployed at industrial and leasing companies, and conducted studies on fleet management, performance measurement, and reliability for industrial, railroad, and public clients. Mr. Aeppli holds an MS in Transportation from M.I.T., and a BA in Economics from Claremont McKenna College.</p>
Mokhtee	Ahmad	Administrator, Federal Transit Administration, Region VII	<p>Mokhtee Ahmad joined FTA in November 1998, when he accepted the position of Regional Administrator for Region VII (Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas - MINK) in Kansas City, Mo. As the Regional Administrator, he provides leadership to the Regional Office in the administration of FTA's programs and the management of federal financial assistance.</p> <p>Mokhtee came to the federal government from the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), Topeka, Kansas. His tenure at KDOT began in 1983, when he was the Assistant Chief of Transportation Planning. He was responsible for providing leadership and management in the areas of rural public transit programs, urban transportation programs, rail program, and bicycle and pedestrian programs to the different teams. He initiated and collaborated on several publications for KDOT such as the department's annual publications of Selected Statistics; Age and Alcohol Traffic Accidents, and Accident Statistics. Prior to joining KDOT, he was the Financial Economist and State Demographer for the State of Kansas in the Department of the Budget. He was responsible for analyzing tax legislation from 1978 to 1983; estimating the fiscal impact and writing the fiscal notes to the legislature; and writing bill notes for the governor on the economic impacts of the proposed legislation. He also participated in the revenue forecasting committee for the state's budget revenue estimates. As the state demographer, he was responsible for disseminating and analyzing the 1980 Census for Kansas.</p> <p>Mokhtee's career also includes teaching at the universities and in public schools - Washburn University (adjunct instructor in Economics and Business Statistics - 1978 to present); University of Nebraska in Omaha (visiting instructor in Economics and Business Statistics - 1977 / 1978); University of Tulsa in Tulsa, Oklahoma (Assistant Professor in Economics - 1975 / 1977); and Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa (Instructor in Economics -1973 / 1975). During the 1967-1968 school year, he taught mathematics at Paul Junior High School in Washington D.C. His education includes a Bachelor's of Science in mathematics from the University of Oklahoma, a Bachelor's of Science in Economics from Iowa State University, and the completion of the all the requirements for a PhD in Economics minus a dissertation from Iowa State University.</p>
Margaret	Akofio-Sowah	Consultant, Asset Management & Business Strategy, WSP USA	<p>Dr. Margaret-Avis Akofio-Sowah is an asset management and business strategy Consultant with the WSP USA Advisory Services group, based in the Washington, D.C. area. In this role, she provides services for clients in asset management strategy and implementation, Federal asset management guidance,</p>

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			<p>asset management training, business process improvement, and program management. In her work, she also leverages her knowledge of organizational development and change management in advancing asset management programs.</p> <p>Dr. Akofio-Sowah's work has included developing an asset management training course for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), supporting the establishment of an enterprise asset management program management office (EAM PMO) at the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority (NYMTA), and coordinating development of a group asset management plan for the Locally Operated Transit Systems (Tier II – small providers) in the state of Maryland. She is a co-author of the FTA's asset management guide for small providers and the primary developer of the TAM Plan Template for Small Providers.</p> <p>Prior to joining WSP, Dr. Akofio-Sowah completed theoretical and practical research in transportation asset management, receiving her Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Civil Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) in Atlanta, GA. At Georgia Tech, her research was focused on transportation asset management implementation, looking specifically at how to make program implementation effective and sustained in transportation agencies using change management and organizational development concepts. She has authored several peer-reviewed publications in notable journals, including the Transportation Research Record and the ASCE Journal of Infrastructure Systems.</p> <p>Dr. Akofio-Sowah received her Bachelor of Science in Engineering Science from Smith College in Northampton, MA and her Master of Science in Civil Engineering from Georgia Tech, in addition to her PhD. She has an Advanced Teaching Certificate for engineering education from Georgia Tech and has classroom experience in teaching civil infrastructure systems analysis, performance measurement, economic decision-making and project evaluation.</p>
Kari	Banta	Program Manager, Section 5310 and RTAP Texas Department of Transportation	<p>Kari Banta, MS, is a committed advocate of public involvement. As the Texas Dept. of Transportation's (TxDOT's) program manager for FTA Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities), she has worked collaboratively with staff from across the department to expand and improve the department's public involvement process. Her team's work has yielded impressive results, increasing attendance and participation at public meetings through thoughtful event promotion and by focusing on the special accessibility needs of Texas' seniors and individuals with disabilities.</p> <p>In addition to working to improve transit for the people her program serves and the ride providers she collaborates with, Kari's interests include quirky cinema, off-the-beaten-path television, and underground rock music. And birds, flightless and otherwise. She just loves them.</p>
William	Bivin	Rural Transit Manager, Nebraska Safety Center	<p>William Bivin serves as PI on the University of Nebraska Kearney's Advance project. He has a Master's degree in Management from Doane University, and his interests include leadership coaching and intercultural competence.</p>
Amelia	Bostic	Mobility Manager, Western Piedmont Regional Transit Authority	<p>Amelia Bostic is a Mobility Manager at Western Piedmont Regional Transit Authority. She attended college at St. Petersburg College, in Clearwater FL majoring in Mass Communications. Her experience in transportation started in 2009, and has ranged from dispatching to fleet management. She currently co-chairs a mobility management peer group, NC MOVE. Her roles at WPRTA include travel-training, community relations, outreach activities, and social media coordinator.</p>

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			<p>Amelia also volunteers her time as the webmaster and social media coordinator for two local community organizations: Catawba Housing Visions and the Foothills Veteran Stand Down. When she's not working, she enjoying life in the Smoky Mountains with her two dogs, and husband.</p>
Jonathan	Brooks	Assistant Research Scientist, Texas A&M Transportation Institute	<p>Jonathan Brooks is an Assistant Research Scientist with Texas A&M Transportation Institute's Transit Mobility Program and offices in Houston, Texas. He is an active professional researcher with a diverse background including driving Motorcoach in the private sector. He concentrates his research on policies and issues affecting public transit, regional coordination, and student transportation. Jonathan commutes by transit most days of the week.</p>
Michele	Brooks	Director of Operations, TransAction Associates, Inc.	<p>Michele has worked for more than 20 years in the Transportation Demand Management field including establishing and managing Transportation Management Associations, overseeing research projects, providing training and education programs, organizing large-scale transportation surveys, and implementing on-site commuter programs that encourage employees to consider alternatives to driving alone.</p> <p>Michele has experience forming and managing non-profit TMAs including an in-depth understanding of operating under specific by-laws and working with a Board of Directors. Michele worked with the Town of Acton, MA and four other communities (Boxborough, Littleton, Maynard and Westford, MA) and area businesses to establish CrossTown Connect, a totally unique TMA model that provides a coordinated transportation system where there was a patchwork collection of overlapping services. This goal was achieved in part by providing centralized dispatch operations for the Council on Aging vans and other transportation services for four participating communities in addition to traditional services to the business partners.</p> <p>Michele has also been the Program Manager for the Connecticut Rural Transit Assistance Program for the past four years, coordinating numerous training programs and working closely with representatives from rural transit across the state of Connecticut. Michele is managing a community transportation program for the Town of Bedford, MA, is the Program Manager for the Middlesex 3 TMA, and is currently working on the establishment of a new TMA in Watertown, MA.</p>
Bonnie	Buchanan	Vice President, Jefferson Lines	<p>Bonnie J. Buchanan is Public Affairs and Senior Advisor with Jefferson Lines, an intercity bus company based in Minneapolis, MN. Jefferson provides scheduled route service in thirteen states. Ms. Buchanan has been with Jefferson for 39 years, serving in many different capacities. Her experience includes working directly with passengers, bus schedule development, managing agents, drivers, bus maintenance, marketing, tours and ADA sensitivity training. Bonnie has worked with many rural and small urban transit providers to create the connection of information and services between intercity bus and public transit providers.</p>
Madelyn	Carlson	CEO, People for People and Chair of the NPIP Board of Directors	<p>Madelyn Carlson is CEO for People For People. Celebrating 52 years, People For People is a non-profit serving rural and central Washington state with resources and opportunities to improve lives and strengthen communities. On behalf of People For People, Madelyn serves on local and state boards that promote transportation options with a focus on increasing mobility for rural residents and individuals with special needs. Current board memberships include Community Transportation Association of the Northwest (Past President), Non Profit Insurance Program (Chair), Special Needs Coalition (Member), Greater</p>

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			Columbia Community of Health (Board Member), and Yakima Valley Council of Governments (MPO/RTPO Policy Board Member).
Michia	Casebier	President, MG Tech-Writing, LLC	President of M.G. Tech-Writing, LLC, a multi-modal transportation planning and grant writing firm, Michia Casebier wrote/funded a \$264,495 Tribal Transit Program grant for startup of the Prince of Wales Island Transit System. Casebier also has written Tribal Safety Plans for Alaska Native Villages, and is in the process of completing a plan for a New Mexico pueblo. At the 2015 National Tribal Transportation Conference, Michia facilitated the “Tribal Transit Program Development: With or Without FTA Funding” presentation.
Sylvia	Castillo	Manager of Paratransit Operations, VIA Metropolitan Transit	Sylvia Castillo is the Manager of Paratransit Operations for VIA Metropolitan Transit. For the past four years, Sylvia has improved paratransit service for VIA by increasing on-time performance and improving productivity. She started in the transportation industry almost 17 years ago as the Contracts and Grants Manager with the Corpus Christi RTA. Before “going transit” Sylvia spent nine years working for the City of Corpus Christi in various departments ranging from Vehicle Maintenance to Parks and Recreation. In 2016 Sylvia completed the certification for CTAA’s Community Transit Program. In 2011 Sylvia graduated from APTA’s Leadership APTA program. She has extensive experience in banking and corporate finance as well.
Kristina	Cerise		Kristina Cerise is an award-winning humorist and recovering land use planner. She worked in the public and private planning sectors for more than a decade before her love of syntax trumped her love of setbacks and she left to pursue life as a freelance writer and editor. Her essays have been published in several book anthologies and magazines as well as countless online blogs and publications. When not writing her own words, she loves reading the words of others. She’s partial to the words of scientists and researchers who either have a knack for language or hire excellent editors. Kristina enjoys crafting lectures that cross-pollinate ideas from one field to another. She is known for presenting serious research with a healthy dose of sass and laughter.
Yu-Che	Chen, Ph.D.	Director of Global Digital Governance Lab and Associate Professor of Digital Governance School of Public Administration, College of Public Affairs and Community Service, University of Nebraska at Omaha	Yu-Che Chen, Ph.D. & MPA, is associate professor of digital governance and Director of Global Digital Governance Lab in the School of Public Administration at University of Nebraska at Omaha. Dr. Chen is the co-lead of the technology team supporting Nebraska Transit services via the Advance. His research and teaching interests are in digital governance, transportation, e-government performance, cross-boundary collaboration, smart and connected communities, data analytics and decision-making, and big data.
Frank	Condon	CEO & Founder, DevObal Technologies, Inc.	Frank Condon is the owner and founder of DevObal Technologies Inc. a South Carolina based company. Since 2001 Mr. Condon and his team have been developing custom websites, online communities, desktop and web applications, mobile phone and tablet applications, onsite and webinar training and customer support for Federal, State, various associations and small to medium size businesses.

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			<p>For the past 7 years Frank Condon has been working with National RTAP. During this time, Mr. Condon has overseen the direction and development of all related technology projects for National RTAP. With his vision and understanding of technology and the end user, Mr. Condon has brought the Rural and Tribal Transit providers into the 21st century by creating technology that is easily accessible, easy to use. Mr. Condon and his team provide technical support, consultation and guidance to state agencies, transit association, rural and tribal organization via email, phone calls, live chat, webinars, group training, one on one training and presenting at various transit conference around the United States.</p>
Melissa	Conte	Validation Analyst - National Transit Database	<p>Melissa Conte joined the NTD team after graduating from James Madison University with a B.A. in Political Science. She currently serves as a Validation Analyst for the Urban and Rural reporting modules of the National Transit Database.</p>
Thomas	Craig	General Manager, Trillium Solutions, Inc.	<p>Thomas brings to Trillium 7 years of experience in small business consulting and management, expertise in financial analysis and modeling, and a dedication to the creation of processes that serve our clients efficiently and effectively. He specializes in project management and business process development, leading Trillium's website projects, consulting with agencies on marketing content, and integrating technology systems into agency business processes.</p> <p>Thomas grew up in Portland, Oregon, and has been biking and riding TriMet as his primary forms of transportation since age 16. He is an avid gardener, learning to love shade-tolerant plants since moving into a house surrounded by large trees. Prior to working at Trillium, he researched and designed a portfolio of private equity investments in Ghana, and developed over a hundred financial models for businesses ranging in annual revenues from \$100K to \$100M.</p>
Walt	Diangson	Safety Officer and Lead Trainer, South West Transit Association (SWTA)	<p>Walt Diangson serves as SWTA's Certified Safety Officer, Safety Consultant and Lead Trainer. Walt provides training and technical support in transit management and operations, as well as, in safety risk management. His safety risk management experience includes transit safety and security, insurance, loss control, training, safety leadership and FTA's Transit Safety Management Systems (SMS).</p> <p>Walt is the administrator of SWTA's Safety Certification Training Program, which provides training and certification on principles of safety management systems (SMS), safety risk management, safety culture and safety leadership within the SWTA Region. The SWTA Region consists of eight (8) member states: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. SWTA membership includes tribal, rural small urban and large urban transit systems; state transit associations; state departments of transportation; and business members. Walt is also certified under FTA's certified safety training through the Transportation Safety Institute (TSI) and holds a Transit Safety and Security Program (TSSP) Certificate and World Safety Organization Certification.</p> <p>Mr. Diangson is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, with a Bachelor's Degree in Architecture and of Columbia University, New York, with a Master's in Business Administration (MBA), with a special emphasis in urban planning and economics.</p>
Virginia	Dize	Co-Director, National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC)	<p>Ms. Dize has more than thirty years' experience in Aging programs. She began her career in the Aging Network at Capital Area Agency on Aging in Richmond, Virginia in 1982, served as the Virginia State Long Term Care Ombudsman from 1984 to 1992, and spent fifteen years at the National Association of State Units on Aging. As Associate Director for Home and</p>

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		and Program Director, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)	<p>Community Based Services at NASUA, her work included a focus on the relationship between transportation and independent living for older adults.</p> <p>Ms. Dize joined the staff of n4a in January 2008. Ms. Dize oversees n4a's transportation initiatives which, in addition to NADTC (nadtc.org), includes a partnership with CTAA, Easter Seals and Westat in the Inclusive Coordinated Transportation Partnership project funded by the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL). She previously served as co-director of the National Center on Senior Transportation (NCST) from 2008 to 2015. She has managed several rounds of demonstration grants under the NCST and has done work on older driver safety, pedestrian safety, volunteer driver programs, transportation for elders living on Indian reservations and diversity.</p> <p>Ms. Dize has a Master of Science degree in Gerontology from Virginia Commonwealth University (1982).</p>
Corinne	Donahue	Senior Planner, Olsson Associates	<p>Ms. Donahue, AICP, works as Senior Planner for Olsson Associates in Omaha, NE. She has over 20 years of transportation and transit planning experience in both the private and public sectors. As a senior planner for many comprehensive projects, regional, and local transportation plans, her efforts have involved statewide, regional, and local agency coordination.</p> <p>In addition, Ms. Donahue has extensive experience in transit system analysis; regional mobility plans; compliance with Federal NEPA regulations and processes; long-range and short-range transportation plans; agency performance reviews; and federal grant application assistance.</p> <p>When away from project work, Corinne enjoys traveling, reading, hiking, volunteering, and spending time with her family and friends in Omaha.</p>
Julie	Dupree	Training and Technical Assistance Specialist, Easter Seals Transportation Group	<p>Julie Dupree is a Training and Technical Assistance Specialist for Easter Seals Transportation Group, where she promotes accessible community transportation strategies through a variety of initiatives, including the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC). She facilitates coordination strategies and provides customized training and resources to communities and individuals throughout the United States.</p> <p>Julie also specializes in supporting communities in beginning or enhancing travel instruction programs designed to support the independence of people with disabilities and older adults in utilizing public transportation safely and independently. Julie has 10 years of experience in disability advocacy, with five of those years specializing in transportation accessibility and education.</p> <p>Prior to joining Easter Seals in 2013, Julie was the Travel Training Program Manager for Central Maryland Regional Transit, where she built community partnerships that promoted safe and independent travel, coordination and bus stop accessibility.</p>
John	Edmondson	Associate, RLS & Associates, Inc.	<p>John Edmondson a member of the RLS compliance team conducting compliance oversight reviews in Oregon, Tennessee, and Wisconsin and has conducted data collection and outreach for NCHRP research projects and legislative research for the procurement system redesign of rural and small urban transit providers. Mr. Edmondson served as Service Coordination and Compliance Section Chief for the Illinois Department of Transportation responsible for the compliance oversight of rural and small urban public transit operators; playing a key role in providing local operators administrative guidance and oversight in response to the establishment of newly designated urbanized areas or the expansion of existing urbanized boundaries.</p>
Edward	Fairbanks	Director of Tribal Affairs,	<p>Edward F. Fairbanks is the Tribal Liaison for the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Office of Government Affairs, Tribal Programs. Born and raised on</p>

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		Minnesota Department of Transportation	<p>the Leech Lake Reservation, Mr. Fairbanks is a member of the Bear Clan of the Leech Lake Pillagers Band of the Minnesota Chippewa. Edward's father was on the Leech Lake Tribal Council for 16 years and his mother served on the Local Indian Council for 12 years.</p> <p>Edward has worked for the U.S. Forest Service, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as an Environmental Protection Specialist, was Division Director of the Leech Lake Resource Management Division, served as a Tribal Conservation Office, a BIA Deputy Special Officer and was Natural Resource Specialist with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Most recently, he was with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 as Tribal Liaison for the 12 Tribes in Minnesota for 24 years.</p>
Leslie	Fijalkiewicz	Director, Aging & Disability Resource Center of Barron, Rusk & Washburn Counties	<p>As the director of an ADRC serving three rural counties in northern Wisconsin, I continually face the challenges in providing programs and services, including transportation, with no additional funding. Despite the challenges, we are always looking at possibilities, asking ourselves, "Is this the best way?"</p> <p>Before becoming the Director, I was involved in the day-to-day operations, a.k.a. "the trenches" of our transportation program. Even though the "ride alongs" are no longer my job, talking to people and asking how they are doing is still in my blood. Now my work as a public servant is finding the money to provide the service and that often means advocacy. It also means finding partners and discovering that there are a lot of transportation stakeholders out there to choose from!</p> <p>I graduated in 1988 from the University of Wisconsin-Stout. Live in Chetek, Wisconsin with my husband of 30 years, Tom. We have two grown daughters who have blessed us with two grandchildren. Living in rural Wisconsin also gives us the advantage of seeing the beautiful countryside when we are out on our motorcycle.</p>
John	Filippone	Safety and Training Manager, Roaring Fork Transportation Authority	<p>John Filippone is Safety and Training Manager for the Roaring Fork Transportation Authority in Aspen Colorado. John has been involved in rural and resort transit for 38 years starting as a part-time operator and working thru the ranks as a trainer, Lead Driver, Supervisor, Dispatcher and Training Supervisor. John has served on the Colorado RTAP advisory committee for over 10 years as and is a past Chairman of the National RTAP Review Board. He has certificates in Safety & Security, Training and Supervision from both TSI and CTAA. He has also coached and taught soccer, wilderness ethics/skills and whitewater rafting.</p>
Garth W.	Frable	Planner, City of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin	<p>Garth has been the Planner for the City of Prairie du Chien since 2002. Previously, he worked for the Iowa Recycling Association, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and the East Central Iowa Council of Governments.</p>
Fred	Fravel	Vice President, KFH Group	<p>Fred Fravel is a transportation planner with almost 30 years of experience in transit planning and policy development. His background includes intercity bus planning and research, coordination and consensus building, state-level transit planning and program development, human service transportation coordination, and local public transportation operational and facility planning in both rural and urban areas.</p> <p>In addition to local and statewide public transportation planning projects, Mr. Fravel has led a number of transportation research projects for the Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) and the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment (OTA). He serves on the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Committee on Rural Public and Intercity Bus Transportation, and is a member of the American Planning Association, Transportation Planning Division.</p>

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Richard	Garrity	Senior Associate, RLS & Associates, Inc.	<p>Mr. Garrity began his career with the NCDOT/Public Transportation Division (PTD) in 1978 where he worked on an interagency Task Force to develop the framework for human services coordination that has been a hallmark of North Carolina's community transportation network for almost 40 years. He later served as PTD's first Rural Program manager, responsible for administration of the Section 5311 and Section 5310 programs. While at NCDOT, he served as the agency's representative to the Transportation Accounting Consortium, a six-state initiative to resolve billing and accounting issues confronted by local officials in the coordination of transportation programs.</p> <p>Rich left NCDOT in 1984 to join the private sector and has been a recognized leader on the national scene for several decades. He was the developer and has been the sole instructor for the National RTAP Fundamental Financial Management Course, a highly rated course taught to more than 1,000 rural transit professionals over the last decade. He is a co-author of the TCRP Report No. 144, Sharing the Costs of Human Services Transportation. He currently is, or has provided, compliance assistance services to the States of New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, Ohio, Indiana, Tennessee, Nevada, California, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, and Oregon. He has conducted instructional workshops on the Super Circular for several State DOTs, including Ohio, New Hampshire, Nevada, North Carolina, and West Virginia.</p>
Tim	Geibel	General Manager, Crawford Area Transportation Authority	<p>Tim has been the General Manager at CATA since 2006. As a recipient of the FTA Administrators Award for Outstanding Public Service, CATA provides public transportation services in Crawford and Venango counties in northwest Pennsylvania. During his tenure, CATA has seen exponential growth in operations, facilities and service transforming from a rural transit authority operating in Crawford County with 12 employees, 16 vehicles and providing 240,000 passenger trips to a regional transit authority operating in two counties with 80 employees, 60 vehicles and 400,000 passenger trips. CATA operates out of a LEED Silver Certified Administration facility and is currently engaged in two major construction projects for Operations and Maintenance facilities throughout the region along with a CNG conversation program in Meadville.</p> <p>Tim serves as the Vice Chairman of the PA Public Transportation Association and is a former NRTAP Review Board member. Tim holds a Master of Science degree in Organizational Leadership from Geneva College and lives in Saegertown Pennsylvania with his wife Erin and two young children Ethan and Adalynn.</p>
Angie	Gilliam	Transportation Director, Chickasaw Nation	<p>Angie Gilliam is the Director of the Chickasaw Nation Transportation Services Department. Angie has a bachelor's of science degree in Business Administration from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. She is an enrolled member of the Chickasaw Nation. She began employment with the Chickasaw Nation in 1999 and has worked to better the lives of Native Americans thru the employment and training and transportation professions. She serves as Tribal Liaison for the Oklahoma Transit Association and the Community Transportation Association of America, she is the Transit Sub-committee Chair for Oklahoma Tribal Transportation Council and a member of the Southwest Transit Association executive board. She has also represented the Oklahoma tribes on the Governor's United We Ride Council.</p> <p>She enjoys playing golf and spending time with her family, Karnie, Rance, husband Jeff and especially spending time with her newly born grandson Jett.</p>

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Stephanie	Gonterman	Vice President, Isaacs & Associates, Inc.	<p>Stephanie Gonterman, Vice President of Isaacs & Associates, has over 18 years' experience in the intercity bus industry. Ms. Gonterman worked directly for Greyhound Lines, Inc. for ten years in various capacities, including Business Manager for the Real Estate/Facilities division, and as a Finance and Operations Analyst.</p> <p>She has been with Isaacs & Associates for the past several years, managing various grant programs for Greyhound. Isaacs & Associates provides government affairs representation, strategic and transportation planning, and policy development and implementation for public and private clients. Isaacs & Associates has managed the nationwide State Government Affairs function for Greyhound Lines for many years.</p> <p>Ms. Gonterman lives with her family in Dallas, TX.</p>
Heidi	Guenin	Senior Associate and Interim Chief Operating Officer, GridWorks	<p>Heidi has over 10 years of experience as a policy analyst, project manager, and facilitator specializing in the intersection of transportation, land use, public health, and equity. Heidi is adept at working with community members, government staff and elected decision makers –helping groups work through the discomfort of differing viewpoints to craft sustainable agreements. Her effectiveness at bridging the gap between complex and dry planning topics and urgent community concerns was recognized by colleagues through Oregon APA's 2015 Emerging Planner Award.</p> <p>Heidi's most recently-completed projects include a Transit Development Plan for Twin Falls, ID. Heidi's current projects include a Regional Transit Vision update for the Atlanta metropolitan region and a Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan update for Orange County, NY, and several outreach and alternatives analysis projects for coordinated care organizations in Oregon.</p>
Kristen	Haar	Compliance and Training Officer, Iowa Department of Transportation	<p>Kristin serves as the compliance and training officer, joining the Iowa DOT in February 2010. Her duties include compliance reviews of Iowa's public transit systems, providing identified training needs to transit systems and staff, reviewing passenger transportation plans, and serving as chair of the Iowa Transportation Coordination Council. Prior to joining the Iowa DOT, Kristin was the executive director of the Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency and also worked as a transportation planner at the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.</p> <p>Kristin holds a bachelor's degree in community and regional planning from Iowa State University and a master's degree in public administration from Drake University.</p>
Amy	Hill	Transportation Coordinator, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Transit	<p>Amy (Marshall) Hill is an enrolled member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. She is of Muscogee (Creek), Cherokee, and Yuchi descent. She is an active member of the Duck Creek Ceremonial Ground and is of the Turtle Clan. Ms. Hill holds a degree in Business Management and has been with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Transportation Program since 2014. Since joining the staff of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Transit Authority her primary focus has been on Transit reporting, grant writing, transit safety and compliance, and administration of the Drug and Alcohol Testing Program.</p>
Nancy L.	Hoehn	Transportation Manager, Ark-Tex Council of Governments	<p>Nancy is the Transportation Manager for the Ark-Tex Council of Governments in Texarkana, TX. Her responsibilities include managing the rural transit district covering 9 Counties in northeast Texas, as well as, the small urban district servicing the Texarkana Metro Area. Prior to moving to Texas and joining ATCOG in late 2014, Nancy worked in Economic Development in the Chicago suburbs for 15 years. She holds a degree in Finance from University of Illinois</p>

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			<p>College of Business and certifications from the University of Virginia - Darden School of Business in High Performance Organizational Leadership.</p> <p>During her tenure at ATCOG, Nancy has successfully expanded service throughout the area served with the launch of the Paris Metro fixed-route in July 2016 being the highlight. Effectively creating coalitions and consensus building are among the skills necessary that accomplished this goal.</p>
Marcy	Jaffe	Principal, Transnnovation, Inc.	<p>Marcy supports tribal, intercity, rural transit partners with technical assistance for GTFS Builder, a no-cost, simple toolkit in Excel to generate digitized timetables that also offer online trip planning at Google Transit. GTFS Builder generates your timetable for your website! In 2016, the balance of Maryland's statewide transit network was built on GTFS Builder. For agencies with limited staff time, Marcy offers GTFS software solutions that generate GTFS in a few clicks.</p> <p>Marcy is passionate about offering riders an integrated and digitized national transit network. Marcy has worked at the Washington State Department of Transportation as well as San Francisco regional planning agency, Metropolitan Transportation Commission. Marcy has both a Master of Public Administration as well as Master of Business Administration from the University of California, Irvine.</p>
Jeremy	Johnson-Miller	Statewide Mobility Coordinator, Iowa Department of Transportation	<p>Jeremy joined the Office of Public Transit in January 2014 and serves as the Transit Programs Administrator for 17 of Iowa's 35 public transit agencies. Jeremy also serves as the Statewide Mobility Coordinator, managing a network of urban and rural mobility coordinators throughout the state and serves as a resource where a local coordinator is not present. He began his transportation career at HIRTA Public Transit; first at the local county level, managing the contracted transit service in Warren County, eventually working his way up to become rural central Iowa mobility coordinator, representing HIRTA Public Transit and its seven rural counties.</p> <p>Jeremy had the honor of earning the inaugural Mobility Manager Award for Federal Transit Administration's Region VII, in August 2013. He is a graduate of The University of Iowa, with a bachelor's degree in geography and working towards his MPA from Drake University.</p>
Angie	Jones	Transit Manager, Grant County Transportation District / The People Mover	<p>Angie is the District Manager for Grant County Transportation District based in John Day, Oregon.</p> <p>Community service and volunteerism have played a large role in her life. She has volunteered for many organizations, including the John Day Elks Lodge, where she served as the Exalted Ruler for three consecutive years. Angie organized a free countywide Thanksgiving dinner, now in its eighth year of service. She applies for community service grant grants and helps run many youth programs that are free to the youth participating. She volunteers as a merit badge instructor with the local Boy Scouts troop and volunteers for her local church where she spends time teaching the children and youth about the importance of community service and giving back. Angie serves on the Southeast Area Commission on Transportation and assists in the education of public and private partners about the value of public transit. Prior to accepting her role with GCTD, she worked as a social worker with Children and Families Services.</p> <p>She is the mother of three and has one beautiful granddaughter who is the light of her life.</p>
David	Kack	Director, Small Urban, Rural, and Tribal Center on Mobility, Western	<p>David is Director of the Small Urban, Rural and Tribal Center on Mobility (SURTCOM) at the Western Transportation Institute (WTI), and has seventeen years of experience in public transportation coordination, management, and planning. He has worked on numerous projects to develop and improve rural</p>

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		Transportation Institute	<p>passenger transportation systems, including creating the Montana Coordinated Transportation Handbook© and conducting intercity bus service studies in both Montana and Wyoming.</p> <p>Mr. Kack has helped three communities in Montana start public transportation systems, and has an on-going management role with two of those systems. David has extensive experience working with the public, and cultivating multi-agency institutional relationships to support transportation development.</p>
Jonnie	Kusek	Transit Director, Senior Services, Inc., Transportation Division	<p>Jonnie Kusek is the Executive and Transit Director for Senior Services, Inc. dba as Panhandle Trails Intercity Public Transit, a nonprofit organization based in Alliance, NE. Ms. Kusek's background is in business management, community involvement and includes the opportunity to work with numerous transportation, medical, health/wellness and social service entities.</p> <p>She has volunteered her time for many local, regional and state organizations, including the Nebraska Association of Transportation Providers (NATP) Board of Directors, is the 2014 recipient of the NATP Rookie Manager of the Year Award and the 2016 Rural Mobility Champion Award, established by the Transportation Research Board's Rural Public and Intercity Bus Transportation Committee.</p>
Mark	Lander	Transit Director, Southwest Iowa Transit Agency	<p>Mark Lander is the Transit Director at Southwest Iowa Transit Agency (SWITA), a Public transit provider providing transportation for those living in Fremont, Page, Mills, Montgomery, Pottawattamie, Cass, Harrison and Shelby counties in Southwest Iowa. Under Mark's leadership, SWITA has achieved 60% growth in work transportation since 2014 with additional growth of 25% projected for FY18. Mark has worked very closely with human service organizations in his area to better address the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, specifically providing off-hours transportation to and from work for these individuals.</p> <p>Prior to coming to SWITA Mark spent 13 years in the trucking industry, seven of which were spent at Werner Enterprises where he was the Mountain West/South Customer Service Manager and Project Manager in the Customer and Network Development department. Mark was recognized several times for outstanding performance while at Werner. Mark attended Dana College in Blair, NE where he was a member of the wrestling team and achieved All-American status.</p> <p>Mark currently resides in Avoca, Iowa with his wife Anna and daughter Yana and currently coaches wrestling at Underwood High School in Underwood, IA.</p>
Jooho	Lee, Ph.D.	Associate Director of Global Digital Governance Lab and Associate Professor School of Public Administration, College of Public Affairs and Community Service, University of Nebraska at Omaha	<p>Jooho Lee is an associate professor at School of Public Administration and an associate director of Global Digital Governance Lab at University of Nebraska, Omaha. Dr. Lee is the co-lead of the technology team supporting Nebraska Transit services via the Advance. He has been doing research on the antecedents and consequences of information technology adoption by government and citizens, inter-organizational/interpersonal networks, citizen participation, transparency, and trust in government.</p>

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Dana	Lucas	Managing Partner, The DMP Group, LLC	<p>As Managing Partner of the DMP Group, Ms. Lucas, CPA is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the firm. She serves as Engagement Partner on accounting, audit, and tax related engagements and is responsible for contract management, staffing and ensuring overall service quality. Ms. Lucas also provides technical expertise on contract assignments.</p> <p>Most recently, Ms. Lucas' responsibilities have include the following tasks: --Leads comprehensive oversight reviews of State DOTs and tribes for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and of tribes for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). --Co-developed guidance and other oversight review process documents for the FTA's Tribal Transit Program Technical Assistance Assessments and the FHWA's Tribal Transportation Program Program Reviews. --Conducts financial federal compliance reviews for the U.S. Department of State (USDOS) and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). --Conducts training seminars and provides technical assistance on federal compliance issues.</p> <p>She is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and graduate of Howard University in Washington, D.C.</p>
Rob	Lynch	Training Coordinator, Small Urban and Rural Transit Center	<p>Rob Lynch currently serves as Training Coordinator for the Small Urban and Rural Transit Center, a program of the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, at North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND.</p> <p>Prior to becoming the Training Coordinator for SURTC, Rob served as NDSU Transportation Manager. Under his leadership, the University moved to a system of online parking permit and citation management, constructed over \$5 million in parking lot projects and increased parking revenues by 50%. During Rob's management of campus transit, student ridership eclipsed 1 million annual rides.</p> <p>He holds a Bachelor of University Studies, in Emergency Management and Industrial Engineering, from NDSU.</p>
Maxine	Marshall	Principal, The DMP Group, LLC	<p>Maxine Marshall is responsible for managing and participating in major management consulting and technical assistance projects. Activities include engagement planning, staffing, and project execution. She serves as DMP's Project Manager for numerous FTA Compliance Reviews, including Triennial Reviews, State Management Reviews, Tribal Transit Technical Assistance Assessments, and Civil Rights Reviews.</p> <p>Ms. Marshall participated in the development of guidance for FTA Tribal Transit Technical Assistance Assessments. She is also DMP's Project Manager for FHWA Tribal Transportation Program Reviews. She has conducted numerous training workshops and provides technical assistance to FTA and FHWA grantees for Tribal Transit and Tribal Transportation programs.</p> <p>Ms. Marshall began her career in the public transit industry in 1976 as a Graduate Student Intern and later a Human Resource Specialist for the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority. She has a Master's degree in Public Administration.</p>
Tricia	Martinez	Sr. V.P. Legal Affairs, Greyhound Lines, Inc.	<p>Tricia has been legal counsel for Greyhound for over 11 years. In this role, Tricia manages Greyhound's legal affairs throughout North America, including Mexico and Canada. Prior to coming to Greyhound, Tricia was in private practice in New Orleans, Louisiana for 11 years. Tricia is a graduate of Louisiana State University and offices in Dallas, Texas at the Greyhound corporate office with other members of the Greyhound legal department.</p>
Sarah	McDonnell	Director, Nonprofit	<p>The Non Profit Insurance Program (NPIP) is a property and liability risk pool for nonprofits. Our risk management-centered approach helps mitigate every day risks and reduce claims, with the ultimate goal of a stable, affordable</p>

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		Insurance Program	<p>insurance solution for nonprofits. NPIP was formed in Washington State in 2004 by a small group of nonprofits looking for insurance stability, as the standard market had become volatile. Since then, NPIP has grown into a stable, secure program for over 750 nonprofits with diverse missions; our membership includes those offering affordable housing, food banks, paratransit, multi-service agencies, educational institutions, chambers of commerce, churches, museums, senior services and others. More information about NPIP is available at npip.org.</p> <p>As the Director of NPIP, Sarah works closely with the Board of Directors administration and program operations. Administration of NPIP includes continual development of pool and program structure, growth initiatives/strategy, governance model, state and community presence, partnerships, and compliance. In 2015, she worked to change state legislation for NPIP to operate as it does today.</p> <p>Sarah received her Associate in Accounting from Big Bend Community College and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of New Mexico. Sarah has her Washington State P&C license and is working on obtaining her AINS and Certified Program's Leader Designation. She has been with NPIP since 2009 and has worked in various roles within the program, advancing to Director in 2016.</p>
Robert	Mills	Grant Writer, Yavapai-Apache Nation	<p>Robert Mills has been the Yavapai-Apache Nation's Grant Writer since 2007 focusing on the successful funding of Federal Transit Authority, BIA, IHS, U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ), Administration for Native Americans, National Park Service, National Endowment for the Humanities, First Things First, and State of Arizona grants.</p> <p>After working for over 20 years in the Justice System in Iowa, Oregon, Nevada's Supreme Court, and Maricopa County, Robert began writing USDOJ Drug Court and Domestic Violence grants while working for the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, and has funded over 100 grants to date. For many years, Robert has described his work by saying, "Grant Writing is like baseball. If you get one out of three you are a star."</p>
Billy	Mills		<p>Billy Mills was born and raised on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Although Pine Ridge is very rich in culture and spirit, it is continually recognized economically as one of the poorest communities in America with unemployment reaching 80%. Billy was orphaned by the age of 12 and sent to boarding schools. He graduated from high school at Haskell Indian School.</p> <p>Billy became involved in distance running and earned an athletic scholarship to the University of Kansas. Never winning a major race in track and field or cross country, he continued to show promise by his performances, making All American seven times. Upon graduation from the University of Kansas, Billy was commissioned an officer in the United States Marine Corps., and continued training for the Olympic Team. He made the Olympic team in two events, the marathon and the 10,000 meter run. He had trained his body, mind and soul for "Peak Performance." And the world was about to see the greatest upset in Olympic history unfold.</p> <p>Today Billy is an accomplished businessman, author, and National Spokesperson for Christian Relief Services. As National Spokesperson, he has helped raise over 500 million dollars in cash and in-kind for charities worldwide. He has received five honorary doctorates, and is the recipient of the Distinguished Service Citation, the highest honor that the University of Kansas Alumni Association can bestow upon an individual to acknowledge outstanding achievement for the betterment of mankind. A major motion picture has been</p>

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			<p>made about Billy, titled “Running Brave,” and has been a positive influence on many or our American youth.</p> <p>Billy Mills was recognized on several end-of-the-millennium lists, including being chosen as Sports Illustrated’s Athlete of the Century for the state of South Dakota. In 2013 Billy won the second highest honor that is awarded to a civilian - the Presidential Citizens Medal from President Obama. On January 17, 2014 the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) presented Billy the highest award they give to an individual: The Teddy Roosevelt Award. Also in 2014, Billy was honored with the Anti-Defamation League Award for Acts of Courage at the Concert Against Hate in Washington DC. In 2015, he received the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award by the President’s Council on Physical Fitness, Sports and Nutrition in Washington D.C. Most recently, in 2016, Billy was the recipient of the DreamCatchers Lifetime Achievement Award in Hamilton, Canada.</p>
Pat	O'Donnell	Territory Manager, REI	<p>Pat O'Donnell has 30 years' experience in technological sales, a strong strategic marketing background including profound knowledge of complex technology solutions. He understands the industry and how to help grow your business. He'll challenge you to consider more effective ways to offer/enhance patron services. “I am not an order taker. I will help you evaluate key internal and external marketplace factors to maximize your effectiveness.”</p> <p>Pat believes there is infinite untapped potential in surveillance and ITS technology. “REI’s products and services are at the forefront in this marketplace and I want to be part of this growth.” Pat received his Bachelors in Journalism at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Master’s Degree in International Economics from the University of Nebraska-Omaha and resides in Omaha, Nebraska.</p>
Murat	Omay	Senior Transportation Program Analyst, U.S. DOT Federal Transit Administration	<p>Murat is a Program Manager with the Office of Research, Demonstration, and Innovation of the USDOT Federal Transit Administration (FTA). His current undertakings involve Mobility Services for All Americans (MSAA) Program, Multimodal Payment Integration (MPI) Program, and Accessible Transportation Technologies Research Initiative (ATTRI), along with other mobility innovation programs associated the Mobility on Demand (MOD) portfolio. He is also involved in several IDEA technology innovation projects under the TRB Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP).</p> <p>Prior joining the FTA, Murat served as a Principal Transportation Research Scientists at the Battelle Memorial Institute, where he managed transportation technology, planning, and policy research programs involving transportation system resilience, transit technologies, and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). During his tenure at Battelle, he managed four grant projects under the MSAA Deployment Planning Technical Assistance and Management Program, as well as the MSAA Knowledge and Technology Transfer (KTT) initiative for increasing nationwide awareness of the MSAA initiatives and associated technologies.</p> <p>Murat holds graduate degrees in Sustainable Transportation from University of Washington and Transport Engineering & Planning from Edinburgh Napier University. He is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Maryland under the Transportation Planning and Policy program focusing on regional and National transportation policies.</p>
Bobbi	Petit	Central Nebraska Area Manager, Liberty Mobility Now, Inc.	<p>Bobbi was born and raised in a small Rural Nebraska town bordering the eastern edge of the Sandhills, Merna, NE. She holds a BS in Economics and Political Science from the University of Nebraska-Kearney and a Master of Arts in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Bobbi served in the Army National Guard for 8 years. During that time, she serves as an</p>

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			<p>enlisted soldier in transportation companies and eventually became a Commissioned Officer, trained as a Logistician.</p> <p>In 2009, Bobbi lead a transportation platoon of 50 soldiers to Camp Liberty Iraq, where her unit would provide convoy security for supply and personnel convoys in and around the Baghdad Area. As a soldier and leader in the Army, Bobbi developed a set of skills that will prove invaluable to solving the transportation problems that limit the ability of Rural American residents to thrive. Bobbi also worked in a full-time capacity for the Nebraska Army National Guard as the Deputy Master Planner for the state and served as the liaison between communities with training facilities, the State Military Department, the US Department of Defense, and National Guard Bureau.</p> <p>In addition to her education and military background, Bobbi has 14 years of community and economic development experience around Central Nebraska. She has held positions including 3rd District Representative for Congressman Tom Osborne, Assistant Development Services Director for the City of Kearney, Community Planner for the South Central Economic Development District, and Director of Business Development for the Nebraska Enterprise Fund (NEF). During her tenure as Community Planner, Bobbi authored numerous planning documents for communities in South Central Nebraska; many of those plans documented and addressed the lack of adequate transportation negatively impacting small and medium sized communities in Nebraska.</p> <p>As the Business Development Director for NEF, Bobbi oversaw the lending of over \$1 million to more than 20 small businesses across Greater Nebraska and became familiar with the unique challenges faced by our rural families, communities, and businesses as they work to access and provide basic services such as food, healthcare, and jobs.</p>
Zenotha Tate	Robinson	Administrator, Mississippi Department of Transportation, Office of Intermodal Planning	<p>Zenotha Robinson is the Administrator for the Office of Intermodal Planning at the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT), where she has the primary responsibility of developing training and technical assistance resources for FTA funded sub-recipients and MDOT staff. Her responsibilities include beta-testing and reviewing National RTAP products and informing staff as well as sub-recipients of the most appropriate audiences and use for these products. She also manages RTAP for the State.</p> <p>Before coming to MDOT she worked for Xerox Corporation for nineteen years. Zenotha has a long background in state government and the public transportation field. She has worked in State government since 1995, where she started with the Mississippi Department of Human Services as the Director for the Office of Welfare Reform, Field Operations and Medicaid transportation. She has served as a Member and Chair of the National RTAP Review Board.</p> <p>She holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Jackson State University. Graduate of Greater Leadership Jackson and the Jackson State University's Institute of Government's (IOG) Public Management and Leadership (PML) Certificate Program. Certified to teach Healthy Marriage and Parenting classes.</p>
Kari	Ruse	Transit Manager, Nebraska Department of Transportation	<p>Kari Ruse has been the Transit Manager at the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) since 2013. She initiated a unique partnership between NDOT and the University and currently acts as project manager for the collaboration. She has successfully launched a mobility management project to coordinate and enhance transportation in the state. In addition, her efforts recently led to a statewide contract with Enterprise Rideshare to bring a subsidized commuter vanpool program to Nebraska.</p>

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Robbie	Sarles	President, RLS & Associates, Inc.	<p>Ms. Robbie L. Sarles is President and owner of RLS & Associates, Inc., a consulting firm in Dayton, Ohio that will this year celebrate 30 years of work exclusively in the transit industry, assisting state departments of transportation, local governments, and rural, small urban and human services transportation systems, both across the country and internationally.</p> <p>Ms. Sarles is a nationally-recognized trainer and expert in the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA's) drug and alcohol testing regulations. She is the Principal-in-Charge for statewide drug and alcohol testing regulatory compliance assessments for Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, and West Virginia and has personally conducted more than a thousand drug and alcohol program assessments, policy reviews, and training programs throughout the nation.</p> <p>Ms. Sarles continues to write for the FTA-published Drug and Alcohol Program Quarterly Updates and was a co-author of the Implementation Guidelines for Drug and Alcohol Regulations in Mass Transit and the FTA Drug and Alcohol Best Practices Manual. She was also the primary contributor to FTA's Prescription and Over-the-Counter Medication Tool Kit, developed in 2002 and updated in 2011. Ms. Sarles developed a model Fitness for Duty Policy that addresses prescription and over-the-counter medication use and led a national project to assess not only the impact prescription and over-the-counter medication use has on transit system safety, but to also quantify the number of systems that have implemented Rx/OTC policies and the extent that Rx/OTC medication use was addressed as part of post-accident investigations. Following this study, Ms. Sarles worked with the FTA TRACS Working Group that was tasked with assisting the FTA Drug and Alcohol Program Manager with reviewing the study and providing recommendations for improving the development of non-regulatory employer Rx/OTC policies, employee Rx/OTC notification, training, and employee reported information in accident/incident investigations.</p> <p>In 2011, Ms. Sarles assisted the Indiana department of Transportation (INDOT) with the development and implementation of the Indiana Medical Qualification Program. This program for all Indiana Section 5311 recipients established standards for consistency regarding the medical standards utilized for evaluating safety-sensitive employees required to hold a CDL or PPC License, and who operate rural public transportation vehicles. The Medical Qualifications Program follows the standards set forth in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administrations (FMCSA) regulations 49 CFR Part 391.41, as amended, for all public transportation operators regardless of license type and was one of the first programs in the nation of this type.</p> <p>Ms. Sarles is a member of a national research team for an upcoming TCRP project to identify, and develop resources for, the safety, health, and financial impacts to transit agencies, operators, and the public arising from transit operators' inadequate restroom access.</p> <p>Ms. Sarles completed an M.S., Transportation Engineering, The Ohio State University; M.S., City and Regional Planning, The Ohio State University; and B.S., Geography and Psychology, Western Kentucky University. She is an Instructor for the Transportation Safety Institute and an Adjunct Professor for the Wright State University, Fairborn, Ohio.</p>
Kyle	Schneweis, PE	Director, Department of Transportation	<p>Director Kyle Schneweis was appointed by Governor Pete Ricketts in June of 2015. As Director of the Nebraska Department of Transportation he leads the Agency's 2100 plus employees that are responsible for the planning,</p>

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			<p>development, design, construction, maintenance and administration of the state highway system.</p> <p>Schneweis brings a diverse background of public and private sector experience to the Department. He spent over 15 years in the civil engineering, transportation policy, and private sector consulting fields at local, state and federal levels.</p> <p>After earning a civil engineering degree from the University of North Dakota, Schneweis began his professional career at the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). In his time at KDOT, he led the update of the state's long-range transportation plan and staffed the Governor's Blue Ribbon Transportation Task Force. Schneweis was appointed Chief of Government Affairs where he helped shepherd the legislative passage of an \$8.3 billion transportation program.</p> <p>After a dozen years with KDOT, Schneweis joined High Street Consulting, a public policy firm out of Washington, D.C., where he assisted more than a dozen state DOT clients on a variety of strategic planning and policy initiatives.</p> <p>As Director, Schneweis focuses on identifying innovative ways to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the Department while improving customer service. He puts great emphasis on transparency, keeping customers involved and informed, and seeking out opportunities that will positively impact the economy and our Nebraska communities. Schneweis believes in a team approach and empowering employees to help inform decisions.</p> <p>Schneweis and his wife, Laurel, live in Lincoln and are enjoying the opportunity to raise their toddler boys Mazlo and Karver in Laurel's hometown.</p>
Bettye V.	Scott	Director of Transportation, Lee County Trans	<p>Bettye Viola Scott is a lifelong resident of Lee County, in the rural area of South Carolina. Ms. Scott attended the public schools of Lee County, graduating from Dennis High School ranking five (5) out of 117 graduates. She received an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts and a Bachelor's Degree in Human Resource Management from Saint Leo University in Florida. Bettye was employed at Caresouth Carolina Medical Group as a Public Relations Specialist until I retired prematurely due to health issues. She is very active in the community, Chairing the Lee County Transit Task Force Coalition Board.</p>
Judy L.	Shanley	Assistant Vice President, Education & Youth Transition, Easterseals, Inc and Co-Director, National Center for Mobility Management	<p>Judy Shanley, Ph.D. is the Vice President, Education and Youth Transition at the national office of Easterseals in Chicago, IL. She manages Federal projects, provides technical assistance, conducts research, and develops materials regarding accessible transportation, mobility management, and coordinated transportation. She serves as a project director to several large national centers, funded by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the Administration for Community Living, including the National Center for Mobility Management. Shanley supports FTA in their implementation of diverse healthcare access and mobility initiatives. Prior to Easterseals, she worked at the U.S. Department of Education, where she wrote federal grants and monitored programs and institutions to ensure compliance with Federal regulations and managed a technical assistance workgroup affiliated with United We Ride.</p>
Kelly	Shawn	Senior Associate, RLS & Associates, Inc.	<p>Mr. Kelly Shawn has been a Senior Associate with RLS & Associates for the last four years, specializing in regulatory compliance, safety, fleet and operations management. He brings 30 years of experience in the transportation industry, most recently with the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA), where he provided planning assistance to rural and small urban communities.</p> <p>Prior to 18 years with CTAA, Mr. Shawn worked in management and operations positions with Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and intercity bus companies. Among several planning projects, Mr.</p>

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			Shawn is currently working with five states to develop their Statewide Transit Asset Management Plans.
Beth	Siegfried	Transit Manager, City of McCook Transit	Beth Siegfried is currently the Senior Services Director for the City of McCook, NE. This includes the title of Transit Manager. She is relatively new to the Transit World. Her only transit experience was Foundation Director in charge of marketing and fundraising for a healthcare system for 13 years. She brings the perspective of a new manager, in a very small system, in a rural area while wearing many different hats. Beth also manages the Senior Center and is a SHIIP Volunteer helping people with their Medicare needs and teaches Tai Chi to the elderly, some over 90 years old.
Amber	Simmons	Schuyler County, Mobility Manager The Arc of Schuyler	My experience and degree is in Travel and Tourism with 11 years managerial experience running a travel agency and as owner/operator of a small tour company which packaged or “coordinated” with existing business to make visiting the Finger Lakes easier for tourists. My role has been coordinating our resources, promoting the transit system, travel training, keeping track of various funding opportunities, facilitating the County Coordinated Transportation Committee, working on a regional transportation projects and managing the One-Call Center: The Transportation Link-Line.
Connie J.	Sipe	Executive Director, Center for Community, Inc.	Ms. Sipe is the director of a social services agency which was asked in the early 2000s to accept and manage a public transit start-up grant for the 9000 resident community of Sitka, Alaska. The public transit website is ridesitka.com. Prior to being director at Center for Community, Sipe worked for 20 years for the State of Alaska, as an attorney, consumer protection advocate, deputy commissioner of health and social services, and director of the state division of aging services. She has been the director at Center for Community in Sitka since 2002. Sipe has served on the Board of the Alaska Mobility Coalition, and is an advocate for community transportation, as well as social services.
Charla	Sloan	Transit Director, KI BOIS Area Transit System	Charla has been in public transportation for almost 30 years. In 1996, KI BOIS Area Transit System (KATS) was in 4 counties with 36 vehicles. KATS is now in 12 counties with 225 vehicles. Charla has served as President of the South West Transit Association, Oklahoma Transit Association, United We Ride and the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) Delegate for Oklahoma. I am also a Certified Community Transit Manager (CCTM).
Mike	Spadafore	Public Transportation Manager, Kansas Department of Transportation	Mike is an expatriated liberal Yankee from Chicago who moved to Kansas 6 years ago. After working with various agencies in regional planning and community engagement, he joined KDOT in 2014 and took over public transit office operations soon thereafter. Mike holds bachelors degrees in Art History and Architecture, and earned his masters in Urban Planning and Policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago.
Rob	Tassinari	Senior Technical Director, National Rural Transit Assistance Program	At National RTAP, Rob is involved with data collection and analysis, performance measurements, and assistance with product development and management. He is the Project Manager for the ProcurementPRO and GTFS applications, conducts surveys to determine customer satisfaction with National RTAP products and services, compiles and reports on the annual Rural National Transit Database statistics for National RTAP. Previously, Rob has worked as the Program Manager of the Massachusetts Statewide Access to Jobs Initiative and was the Director of the Logan Airport Transportation Management Association. He also has many years of experience in management of private shuttle bus services and implementation of transportation demand management programs. Rob holds an Associates Degree

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			in Civil Engineering, a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Design, and a Masters Degree in Community Planning.
Frank	Thomas	Regional Transit, Coordinator Oregon Department of Transportation, Rail and Public Transit Division	Frank Thomas is a Certified Community Transit Manager and a graduate of the Paratransit/Transit Management Program of the Graziadio School of Business Management at Pepperdine University. He is the Regional Coordinator for Oregon Department of Transportation's fifth region – the eight rural counties comprising the eastern third of the state. He serves on the National Rural Transportation Assistance Program Review Board. Frank is in his 22nd year in the rural public transit industry.
William	Troe	Principal, SRF Consulting Group	Bill has more than 30 years of regional, subarea, and corridor level multimodal transportation planning experience. Through his work from project conceptualization through implementation, he helps stakeholders understand how the local tools and transportation and land use conditions can work in concert to develop feasible solutions. Bill's areas of practice include transit planning, performance-based alternatives screening, project funding and financing, project implementation, and stakeholder engagement.
Michael	Walk	Associate Research Scientist, Texas A&M Transportation Institute	<p>Michael is an associate research scientist for the Transit Mobility Program at the Texas A&M Transportation Institute's (TTI) Austin office. Michael has 9 years of management and executive experience in public transit and over 12 years of experience conducting research, leading projects, and training. He specializes in transit performance management and measurement; collaborative problem solving; process improvement; data collection and analysis; transit planning, operations, and scheduling; customer and community outreach; and applying innovation and technology to transportation challenges.</p> <p>In 2014, his work earned him recognition as one of Mass Transit Magazine's Top 40 Under 40.</p>
Jeff	Waxman	Project Manager, Illinois Department of Transportation	<p>Jeff Waxman has been in the public transportation industry for 34 years. He started his transit career as an intern for the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), and also held internships with the Urban Mass Transit Administration (UMTA) now called the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA). Jeff also worked his way through college as a fixed route and paratransit bus operator. After graduating from college, Jeff worked 11 1/2 years for Pace Suburban Bus Service starting out as a Dispatcher/Road Supervisor working his way up to Safety and Training Manager before rejoining IDOT in 2000 as a Project Manager.</p> <p>His responsibilities include assisting the Section 5311 Rural Transit Grantees in complying with the FMCSA's and FTA's Drug and Alcohol testing implementation program along with the other program requirements. He also helps out in the Section 5310, State of Illinois Consolidated Vehicle Procurement Program (CVP), and in the Transit Capital Section.</p> <p>Jeff graduated in 1988 from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Administration. Jeff is also certified in Bus Accident Investigation from the National Transit Institute (NTI), and has also completed the Substance Abuse Professional (SAP) qualification training class in October of 2011.</p>
K. Jane	Williams	Acting Administrator, Federal Transit Administration, US DOT	<p>K. Jane Williams was sworn in as Deputy Administrator of FTA on August 21, 2017. As the second-highest ranking official within the agency, she helps lead an organization with over 500 employees that provides more than \$12 billion annually to support and expand public transit in the U.S.</p> <p>Prior to joining the FTA, Williams was the Director of the Washington Area Transit Office in the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT). In that</p>

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			<p>role, she managed the State of Maryland's significant investment in the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and worked with leadership to provide a safe, reliable, and fiscally responsible Metro system. In addition, Williams worked with locally operated transit services to coordinate grant agreements and state aid in two of Maryland's most populous counties. With her experience at MDOT and WMATA, Williams brings to FTA hands-on experience with two of FTA's largest grantees that together serve over a million passengers each day.</p> <p>Williams previously served in the Executive Branch at the Department of Energy and Department of Labor under President Reagan and the Department of the Interior under President George H.W. Bush. She also served as a Senior Legislative Advisor in the office of U.S. House member Andy Harris.</p> <p>Williams holds a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism from the University of Maryland, College Park. She currently resides in Annapolis, Maryland with her two daughters.</p>
Larry	Wright, Jr.	Chairman, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska	<p>Chairman Wright has served on Tribal Council and Boards for the Ponca Tribe for 14 years. Chairman Wright serves on the National Congress of American Indians Board of Directors as the Great Plains Area Vice President and as a Commissioner for the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs.</p>
Carol	Wright Kenderdine	Co-Director, National Aging & Disability Transportation Center	<p>Carol Wright Kenderdine is the Co-Director of the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center, a FTA-funded technical assistance center located in Washington, DC. She is employed by Easterseals as the Assistant Vice President of Transportation and Mobility, and in that capacity, she serves as the director of Easterseals Transportation Group. She also is a nationally recognized trainer with Easterseals Project Action Consulting. Previously at Easterseals, she served as National Director of Easterseals Project ACTION and co-director of the National Center on Senior Transportation, and led the Veterans Transportation Assistance Programs.</p> <p>Carol's earlier work experience included serving as Associate Director for the Small Urban & Rural Transit Center, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute at North Dakota State University, where her primary responsibilities were the development and delivery of national training programs and outreach efforts.</p> <p>She also has more than 12 years of experience as Executive Director of senior services and public transportation for a multi-county agency in central ND, served as director of a residential facility for individuals with traumatic brain injuries, held management positions in long-term care, and was an independent consultant in marketing and development.</p>