



Intercity Bus Industry and State Updates

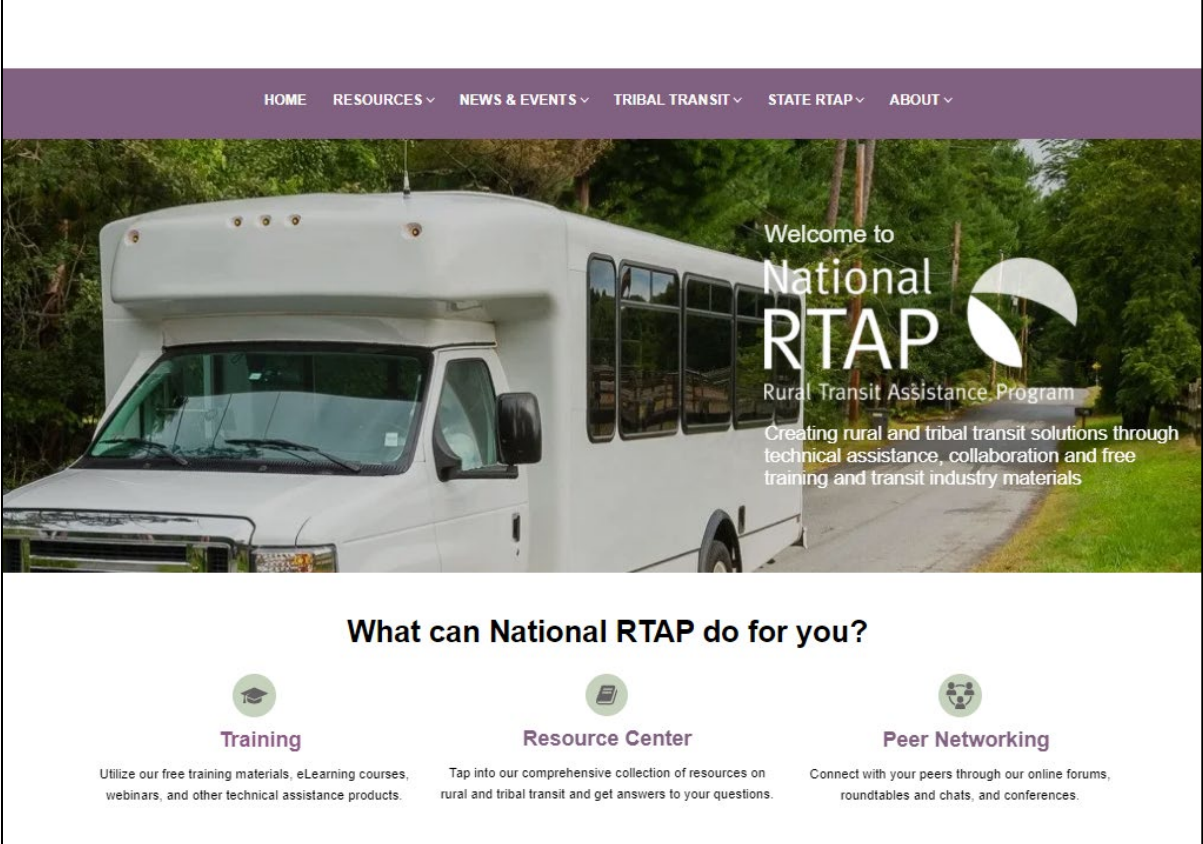
June 26, 2026, 2:00-3:30 PM ET



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

National Rural Transit Assistance Program

- Technical assistance center funded by FTA through the Section 5311 Program
- Provides free training materials and technical assistance to rural and tribal transit providers and State RTAPs
- Review Board – 14 State DOT and rural and tribal transit agency staff from across the country
- Learn more at nationalrtap.org



HOME RESOURCES NEWS & EVENTS TRIBAL TRANSIT STATE RTAP ABOUT

Welcome to
National RTAP
Rural Transit Assistance Program

Creating rural and tribal transit solutions through technical assistance, collaboration and free training and transit industry materials

What can National RTAP do for you?

- Training**
Utilize our free training materials, eLearning courses, webinars, and other technical assistance products.
- Resource Center**
Tap into our comprehensive collection of resources on rural and tribal transit and get answers to your questions.
- Peer Networking**
Connect with your peers through our online forums, roundtables and chats, and conferences.

National RTAP Resources and Services

Training

manuals, videos, slides,
and eLearning for front-
line staff and
management

Information

and best practices via
tech briefs, toolkits,
topic guides, articles,
and news

Technology Tools

for procurement, cost
allocation, website
building, and GTFS

Peer Networking

and training via webinars,
conferences, roundtables,
and online forums

Assistance

through reference services
and tech support – bring us
your questions!

What is TACL?



<http://transportation-tacl.org>

Note: NADTC, N-CATT, and NCMM are not currently operating. Many of their resources are still in TACL and can be found on the CCAM-TAC website.

The Transportation Technical Assistance Coordination Library (TACL) provides a sustainable methodology and platform for access and findability of rural and tribal transit coordination resources across a diverse range of transportation technical assistance centers and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

The FTA-funded technical assistance centers participating in this ongoing work are:

- Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility Technical Assistance Center (CCAM TAC)
- National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC)
- National Center for Applied Transit Technology (N-CATT)
- National Center for Mobility Management (NCMM)
- National Rural Transit Assistance Program (National RTAP)
- Shared-Use Mobility Center (SUMC)
- Transit Workforce Center (TWC)

Presenters



Kai Monast
Associate
Director
North Carolina
State University



Fred Fravel
Principal
KFH Group



Carrie Kissel
Associate
Director
NADO



Lisa Ballard
Chair
TRB Transit
Facilities and
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Committee



Kari Banta
RTAP
Manager
Texas DOT



Robin Phillips
Executive
Director
National RTAP

Challenges and Opportunities

Kai Monast

Associate Director

North Carolina State University



- Common industry challenges
- Structural oddities
- Collective action

Common Industry Challenges

- Fuel costs
- Vehicle costs
- Operator shortages
- Safe, secure, and convenient transfer facilities



<https://mynews13.com/fl/orlando/news/2026/03/31/diesel-price-surge-hits-independent-truckers-hard--raising-concerns-for-consumer-costs>

Structural Oddities

- States are required to spend 15% of 5311 on intercity bus or certify all needs are met
- Supports vehicles, terminals, and / or operations
- In-kind match
- Most states are not directly involved in service planning and operations except for intercity bus 5311(f)
- Public/Private & Public/Public partnerships are essential
- Private providers are hesitant to share confidential business data
- Longer wait times for connections (more like an airport or train station)

Collective Action

- Administered by states, but the national network's health is essential
- Multi-state planning and coordination
- State/Local coordination, especially for terminals
- Interlined ticketing systems
- Reauthorization (BUILD America 250 Act)



<https://www.governing.com/transportation/cities-seek-solutions-as-bus-terminals-close-pushing-riders-to-the-curb>

Intercity Bus Industry and State Updates

Fred Fravel, KFH Group, Inc.
National RTAP Webinar
June 26, 2026



TCRP Project B-52: Intercity Bus – the State Role Updated

- **Final Report by November 15, 2026**
- **Interim Report completed:**
 - **Background on Industry**
 - **Survey of the States**
 - **Survey of Carriers**
- **Current Efforts:**
 - **Planning Guidelines**
 - **Program Examples**

TCRP Project B-52: Intercity Bus –the State Role Updated



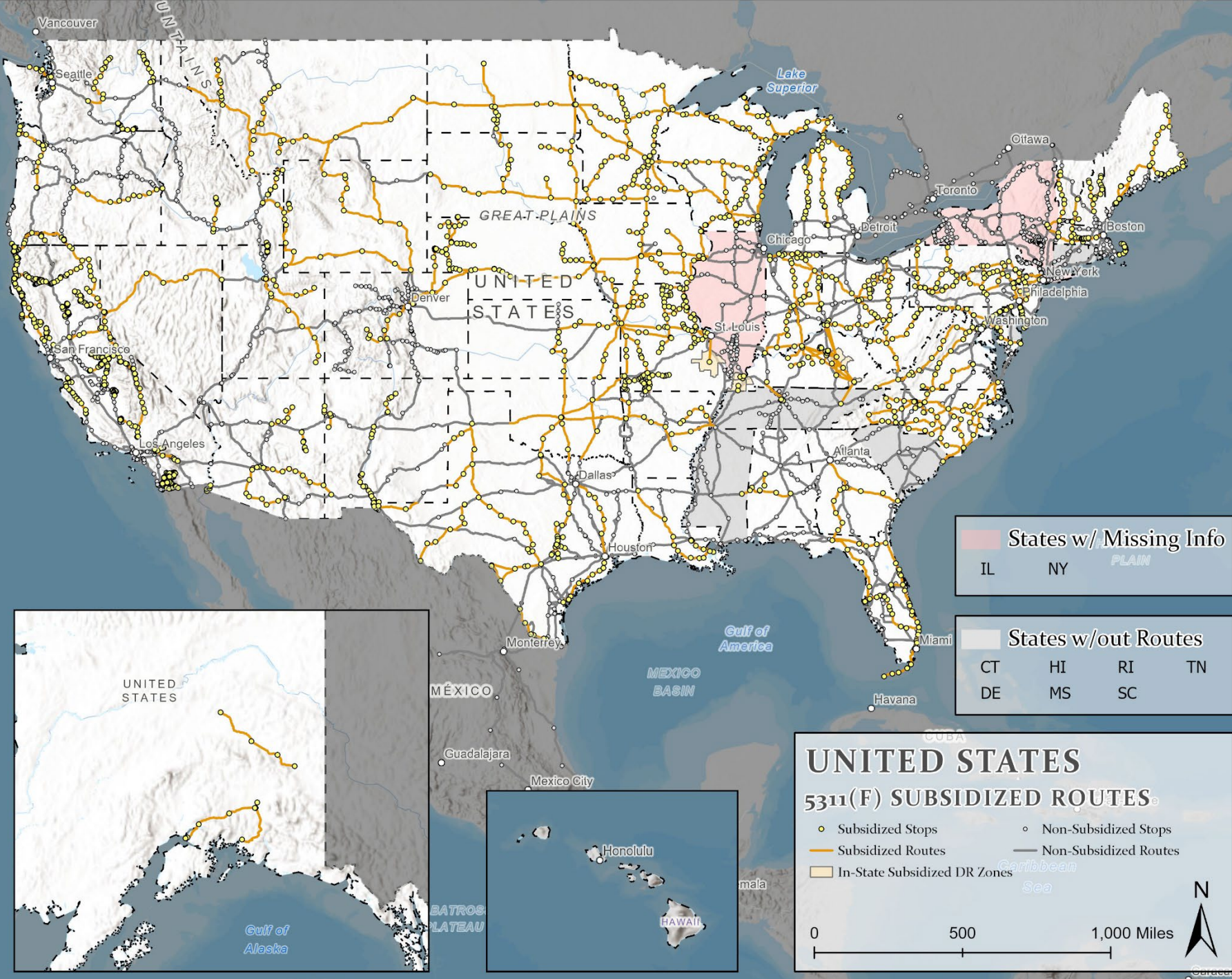
Planning Guidelines:

- Federal Program Requirements
- Discovery—Conducting an Inventory of Intercity Bus Services
- Program Development
- Consultation
- Identifying Unmet Need
- Developing Alternatives
- Service Implementation
- Evaluating Existing Services
- Branding
- Terminals
- Rural Connections



Program Examples:

- Oregon
- Washington
- Colorado
- Michigan
- Pennsylvania
- North Carolina
- Virginia
- New Hampshire



Section 5311(f) Coverage

NCHRP 08-191: Safe Connections for Tribal and Rural Communities to the Intercity Bus Network



Literature Review Complete



Case Study Protocol Developed



Case Study Sites Selected

**Scheduling of visits/virtual meetings
underway**

Intercity Bus Atlas--USDOT Bureau of Transportation Statistics

- **Current efforts to update the map, incorporate work from NCHRP 08-133 project:**
 - Review/update operator list—refine to focus on intercity providers
- **Update Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)**
 - New language in MOU to incorporate “providers” rather than “operators”
 - New MOU with language for State participation
- **GTFS Data from States:**
 - Need to get data from States on their 5311(f) funded services—some are public, part of National Transit Database (NTD) feed, some are not.
 - Need to develop mechanism to address state provided data that is also in carrier feeds

Other Developments

- **Terminals continue to be a concern, but there is progress:**
 - **City operated terminal opens in Philadelphia**
 - **City of Chicago purchases Greyhound station**



Intercity Bus Newsletter: contact chaddick@depaul.edu

Other Developments (continued)

Many states are conducting studies:

- **North Dakota**
- **Arizona**
- **Illinois**
- **Missouri**
- **South Carolina**
- **Pennsylvania**
- **Virginia**
- **Tennessee—are there others?**

More states adding state funding to the program, expanding service:

- **Washington**
- **Virginia**
- **Ohio—are there others?**

States beginning to focus on interline ticketing as a requirement:

- **Effort to ensure connectivity of funded services**
- **How to define requirement going forward?**



Regional Planning and Intercity Bus Issues

Carrie Kissel, Associate Director
June 26, 2026 | National RTAP Webinar



About the National Association of Development Organizations

- National association for over 500 regional development organizations, including the network of Regional, Rural Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs/RPOs), and their state & local partners
- Promote public policies that strengthen local governments, communities and economies through the regional strategies, coordination efforts and program expertise of the nation's regional development organizations
- Through the NADO Research Foundation, develop training and resources



Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs)

- A few rural programs were formed soon after the earliest Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)
- Most formed in 1990s-2000s in response to new requirements for states to involve the public and consult with local officials
- Basic RTPO structure and functions codified in federal statute in 2012



RTPO Structures and Functions

- Often found within an existing organization
 - Fiscal agent, administrative support
 - Professional planning support
- Policy board makeup
 - Majority local governments
 - Transportation mode operators, owners, or key stakeholders
 - Major stakeholder reps: health, business, other
 - State DOT (voting or non-voting)



Potential RTPO Roles in Transit

- Multimodal regional planning & prioritization
- Administer and/or operate rural, regional public transit
- Organize regional stakeholders in mobility councils, other special interest groups
- Administer commute options/transportation demand management or mobility management programs
- Work transportation connection into economic development planning
- Support grant applications and local government plans



Where is Intercity Bus in Regional Planning?

- RTPPO staff and members often have basic awareness of intercity options in their region
- Public input reflects a range of mobility needs, which may include intercity travel
- Intercity bus may appear in plan inventory of services or facilities
- Regional plan strategies and project priorities tend to reflect planning requirements and available funding for local agencies



Opportunities to Increase Intercity Visibility in Rural Planning

- Include RTPOs in state planning for intercity bus network
- Utilize RTPO networks of local stakeholders and experience convening partners
- Discuss intercity facility needs and service planning with RTPOs, including potential for alignment with regional economic development planning work occurring in the same or similar agencies
- Research and share noteworthy practices for intercity bus planning, regional planning practices to work effectively with intercity operators, and noteworthy cases of operations and facility development





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Transportation Research Board's Mission

- Part of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
- “TRB mobilizes expertise, experience, and knowledge to anticipate and solve complex transportation-related challenges”
- TRB uses Standing Committees to help achieve its mission
- Committee members are all volunteers

Source: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/units/TRB-Transporta-23-P-586>

Cooperative Research Programs

- National Cooperative Highway Research Program
- Transit Cooperative Research Program
- Airport CRP
- Behavioral Traffic Safety CRP
- Draft research problem statements (TRB Standing Committees & Others)
- Submit problem statements or synthesis topics
 - NCHRP: State DOT staff
 - TCRP: anyone
- Select projects
 - NCHRP: AASHTO
 - TCRP: APTA TOPS Committee
- Panel nominations (anyone)
- Select researchers (panel members)
- Conduct research (universities and consultants)

TRB Functions and 2025 Restructuring

Research

- **500+** research projects currently managed
- **~800** peer-reviewed papers published in *Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board* (TRR) annually
- **100+** reports, syntheses, manuals, and guidebooks released annually

Convene

- **~100** standing technical committees (170+ before restructure)
- **11,000+** attendees at the 2026 TRB Annual Meeting (20,000+ before restructure)
- Committee and panel members
- Annual Meeting sessions and workshops
- Webinars
- TRB meetings and conferences

Advise

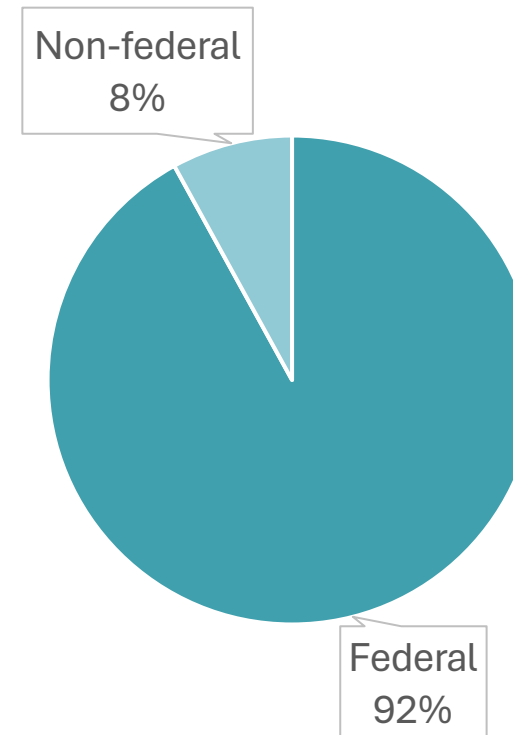
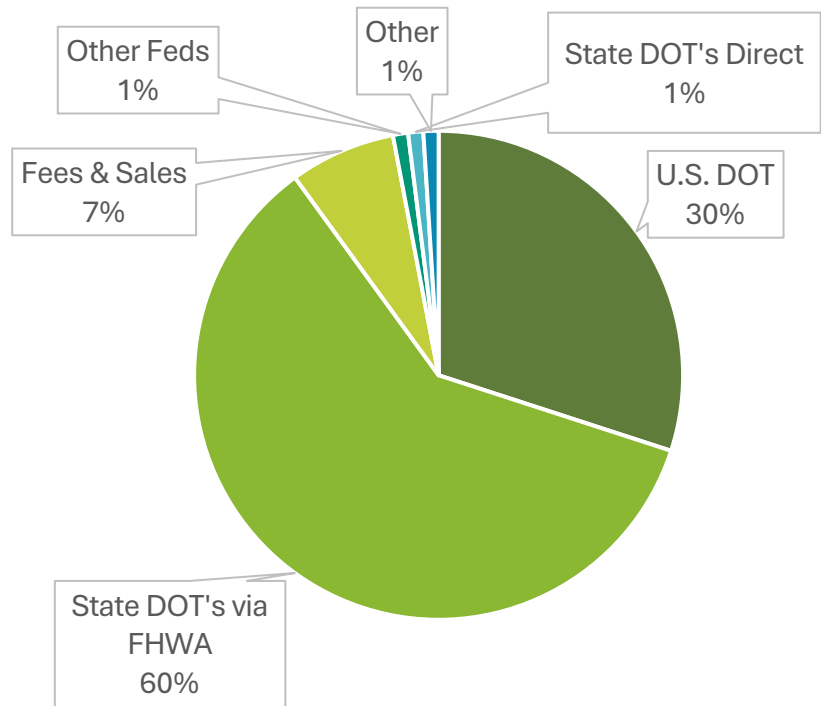
- **100+** national consensus studies conducted
- **40+ consensus studies** that have contributed to changes in legislation

Sources: TRB Chairs Meetings 2025,
<https://www.nationalacademies.org/trb/about>

2025 Restructuring - Two Driving Forces

- Ongoing issues with too many activities for number of staff
- New and evolving requirements from funders (USDOT) added urgency

TRB Funding (2024 data)



New Transit Standing Committees

AP011	Transit Management	Finance, funding, procurement, performance, governance, administration, asset management, and workforce management and development, etc.
AP012	Transit System Planning	Travel demand and ridership forecasting, network modeling, alternatives analysis, service planning, project and corridor planning, and coordination of transit and land-use planning, etc.
AP013	Transit Facilities and Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transit facilities: access to and within stations and passenger facilities, ADA-related facility accessibility, multimodal connectivity and integration, etc.• Infrastructure: dedicated bus lanes, rail lines, fleet maintenance facilities, etc.
AP014	Transit Operations	Operational planning, scheduling, dispatching, operational control, disruption management, service restoration, and security practices, etc.
AP016	Transit User Experience	Trip planning, marketing, market research, customer information, communications, engagement, fare policy and payment, and integration or coordination with other modes (e.g., ride hailing, ride sharing, micromobility options).
AP017	Transit Data and Emerging Technologies	Data collection and processing, data management and governance, data integration and fusion, and the development and deployment of emerging technologies, etc.

Committee Responsibilities

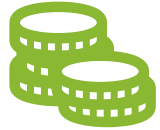
Develop technical content - Annual Meeting, conferences, and webinars

Reviewing papers - Annual Meeting and Transportation Research Record

Developing Research Needs Statements

Hold meetings to discuss priorities and keep abreast of research and implementation activities

Future Research Needs – Initial Ideas



Passenger Facilities/Terminals

Requirements

Governance

Funding

Cost Allocation



Estimating Demand- Updated Tools, New Techniques



Network Development and Interline Ticketing



Synthesis of State Intercity Studies

Identify needs between states

Connect state-level studies

More ideas?

Searching Research

- TRB / National Academies
 - TRB [Research Needs Statements](#) (RNS)
 - [Transportation Research International Documentation Database](#) (TRID)
 - [TRB Publications](#): NCHRP and TCRP Reports
 - [Research in Progress](#)
- [Transport Research and Innovation Portal](#) (TRIP) European completed research, research in progress
- [USDOT Research Hub](#) searches USDOT research in progress (and completed).
- [National Transportation Library](#) (NTL)

TRB Involvement

- Create an account at myTRB.org
- Friend a committee
 - Interested in intercity bus? AP013 Transit Facilities and Infrastructure
- Participate in quarterly meetings
- Attend Annual Meeting (\$)
- Volunteer for working groups or to review papers
- Active friends often are nominated as committee members

Q&A



Upcoming National RTAP Events

National RTAP Rural & Tribal Transit Mini-Conference

Window Rock, AZ, June 29 - July 1

Rural Transit Day Prequel

July 16, 2026, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

Rural Transit Day Zoom Chat

July 16, 2026, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

State RTAP Manager Peer Roundtable

July 21, 2026, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

GTFS Lunch and Learn on Shapes

August 4, 2:00-2:45 PM ET

Books in Transit Discussion Group Meeting - The Bus People

August 6, 2026, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

Learn About TACL - The Transportation Technical Assistance Coordination Library

August 12, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

**Our next Technical Assistance Conference will
take place in the Fall of 2027.**

To register or to access recordings, slides, or summaries, go to:

nationalrtap.org/Training/Peer-Roundtables-and-Chats and nationalrtap.org/Webinars.

Thank You

National Rural Transit Assistance Program

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Webinar Survey



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration