



Introducing RideSheet

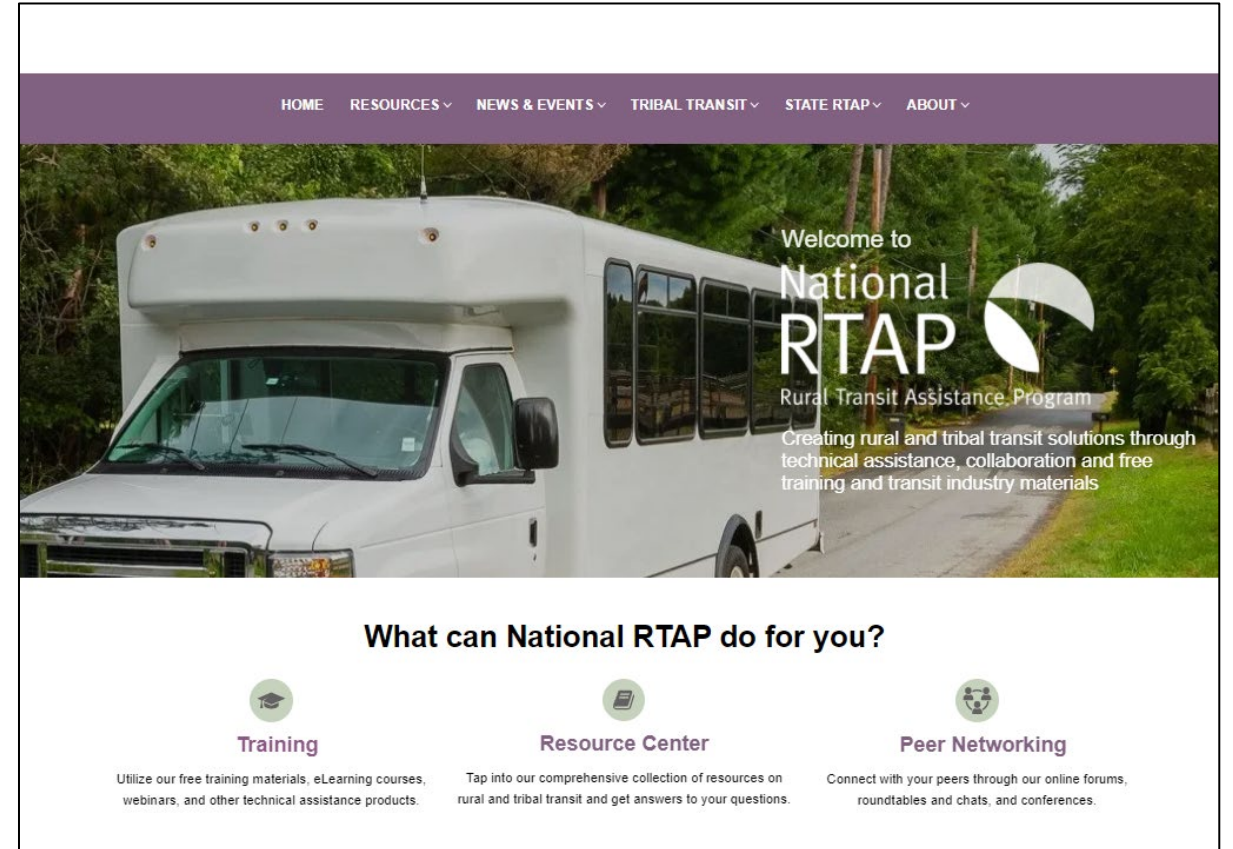
January 21, 2025, 2:00-3:00 PM ET



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



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>

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:

- 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



Kevin Chambers
Principal
Full Path LLC



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Technical Lead
Garnett Consulting



Michael Wilson
Director of Mobility
Management
Flint Hills Coordinated
Transit District (CTD #4)

Today's Agenda

- Introductions
- RideSheet background, key features
- RideSheet demonstration
- Overview of Pilot Implementations in Kansas
- Current Status
- Q & A

Introductions — The RideSheet Team



Full Path Transit Technology

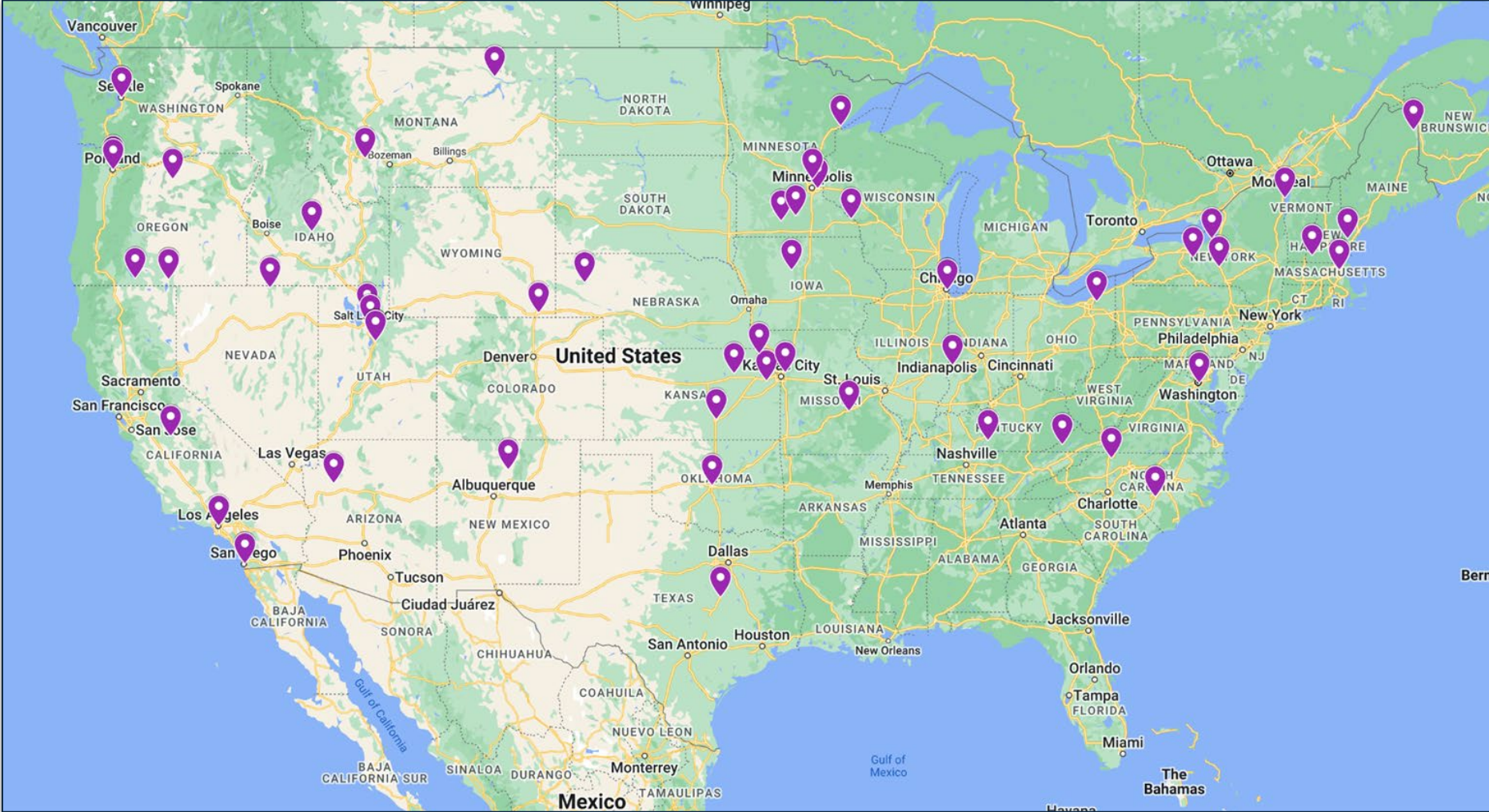
Committed to helping small transit agencies use technology effectively.



Garnet Consulting

Specializes in collaborative and inclusive transit technology, operations, and software consulting for rural, small urban, and intercity agencies and the organizations that serve them.

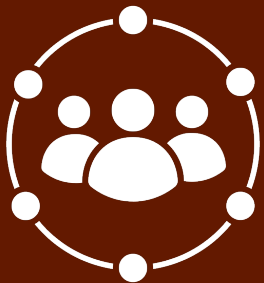
Who's in the Room





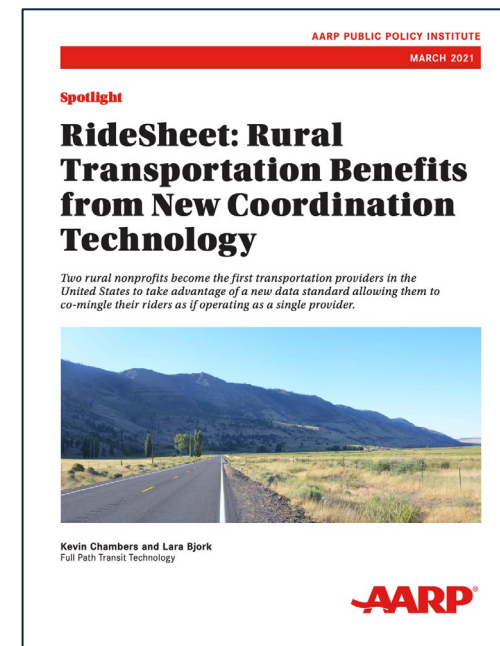
RideSheet: What is it?

- A thoughtfully designed **spreadsheet** in the cloud
- A secure small-scale **database** with version tracking
- A set of **programming scripts and formulas** to move data, integrate, and make tedious tasks easier
- Built entirely on the **Google Workspace** platform



Who Helped Make It Possible?

- Learnings from technology assessments of rural transit agencies in Oregon
- Insights based on visits with rural transportation providers in Arizona
- Seed funding from the AARP Public Policy Institute





What Problems Does RideSheet Target?

- **Poor tracking tools:** Many of the smallest transportation providers (1-10 vehicles) are tracking their services on paper, whiteboards, and ad-hoc spreadsheets
- **Increasing data demands:** Even the smallest of operations are facing new reporting requirements that are difficult to fulfill with paper systems
- **Market gap:** There is a lack of data-tracking tools specifically designed for this size of provider

The lack of tools that fit the needs of small providers results in **inefficiency, low-quality data, and constraints on growth.**



Indirect Targets: Institutional Barriers

- **Lack of data- and technology-related expertise:** There are too few skilled transit technologists positioned to guide and support small transit agencies in managing their overall data and technology footprint, independent of tools.
- **A need for a systematic approach to capacity building:** Recent efforts aside, most agencies and states have no clear pathway to enable small agencies to use data and information technology more effectively.

This leaves many agencies with a difficult choice:

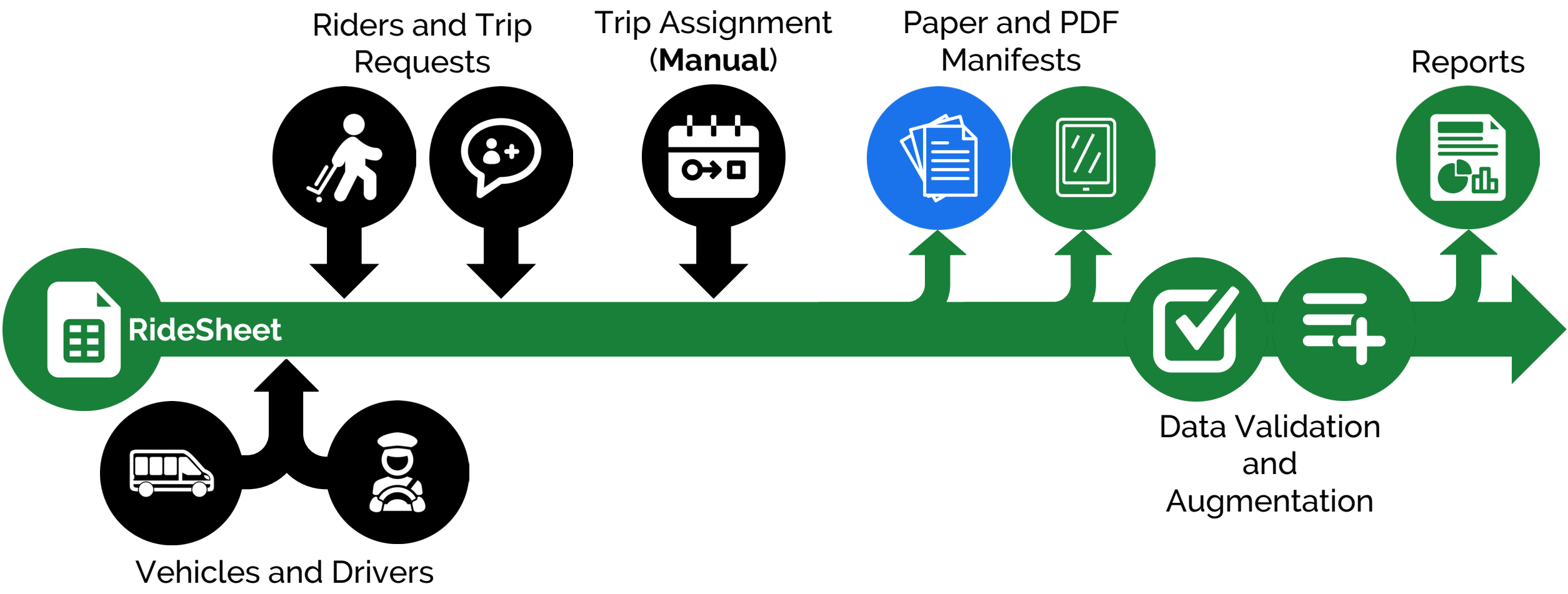
Avoid technology and endure the inefficiencies and constraints on growth

or

Embrace technology without the “safety net” of IT support



A Data Hub for Operations





A Tool for Building Systems & Data Chops



RideSheet aims to be a viable stepping stone — an **agile, lean tool** for small agencies to track their demand-responsive operations accurately, efficiently and reliably.



It gives agencies a pathway to see and address **submerged capacity gaps**, enabling supporting growth.

Two Primary Implementation Scenarios



Stand-alone: Moving single small agencies off of paper, fostering growth.



Coordination: Allowing multiple agencies and systems to exchange information about service supply and demand efficiently. Success in the first could lead to the second.

Also, a lesser **third scenario:** testing out coordination schemes at larger agencies.

The RideSheet Cost Iceberg

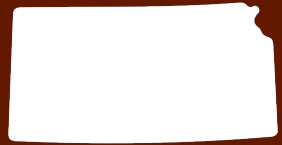


More visible costs (free or low-cost):

- Google Workspace
- National RTAP-supported documentation & community forums
- Optional RideSheet Vendor Support

More submerged costs:

- Excel & data management skills
- Reliable internet connectivity
- Agency-specific documentation
- Cloud and data security training, policies, and procedures
- Effecting organizational change



Kansas: Results in Clay County



Quantitative

Staff Time

State Reporting

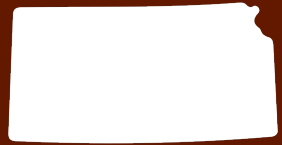


Qualitative

Data Accuracy

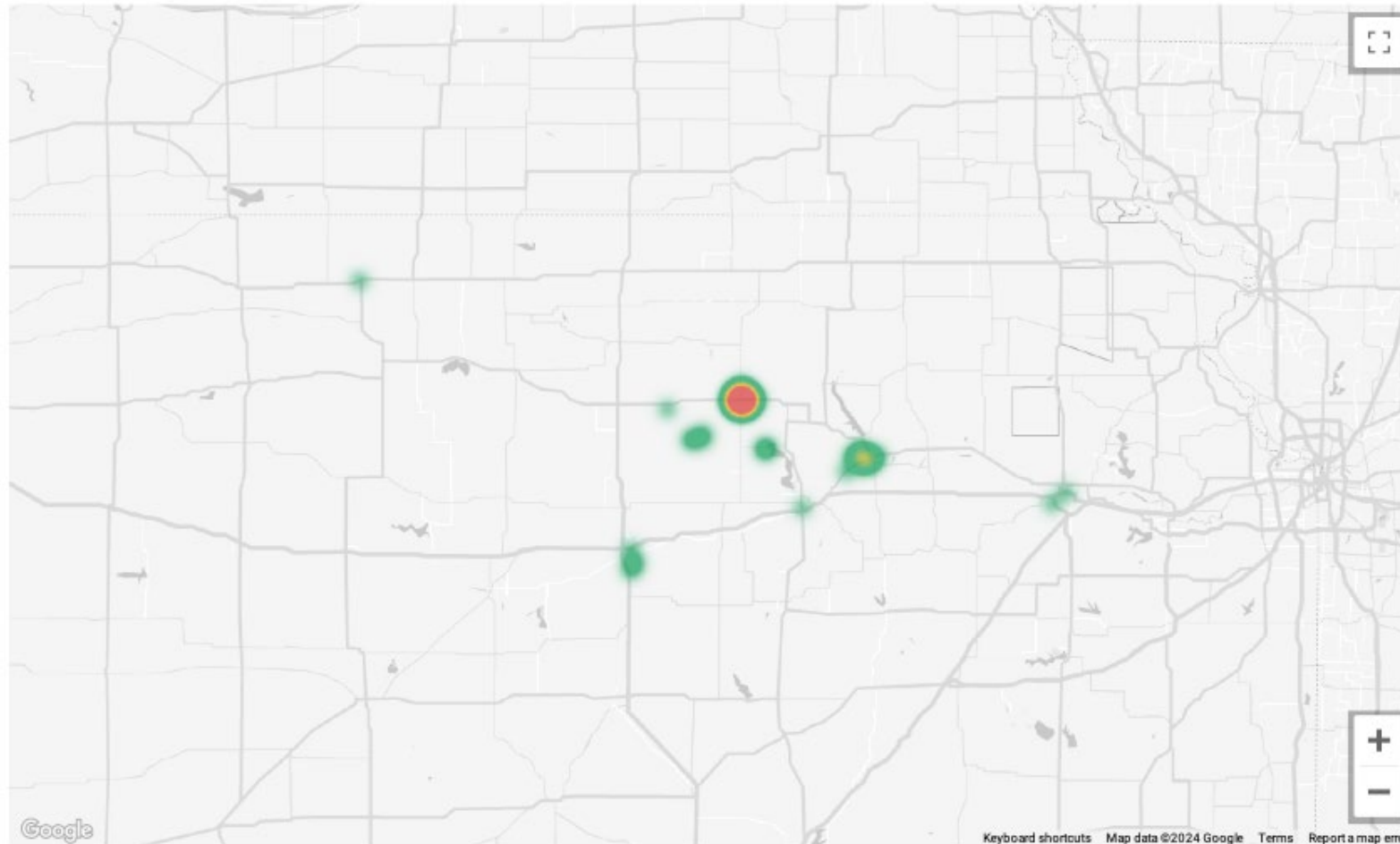
Missed Rides

Reports



Kansas: Clay County Reporting Tools

Drop-off Location Heat Map





The Kansas Vision for Incremental Capacity Building

Phase 1

- Clay County
- Goal: Product Development
- Status: Completed



Phase 2

- Marshall County
- Goal: Efficiencies
- Status: Started Dec 2024



Phase 3

- Location TBD
- Goal: Replicability
- Status: Starting April 2025



National RTAP & RideSheet

Transitioning from piloting implementations to piloting core support

Goals: Maintain momentum and ensure impact

- Core infrastructure & security
- User support & community outreach
- Development & platform enhancements

Long Term Goal: Make RideSheet as “Self-Serve” as Possible



**Tools to
Self-Assess
Readiness &
Risk**



**Streamlined
Onboarding
Processes**



**Support
Organizational
Change**



**Encourage
Peer
Support**



Resources

- **Documentation:** docs.ridesheet.org
- **Code:** github.com/full-path/ridesheet
- **User and Intro Groups:** ridesheet-support@fullpath.io

Q&A



Upcoming National RTAP Events

Risky Business III – Insurance for NEMT

January 23, 2025, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET

Intercity Transportation Update

January 23, 2025, 2:00-3:30 PM ET

A Cost Allocation Tool You Can Use!

January 28, 2025, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

What's New in the ADA Toolkit?

February 6, 2025, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

Books Discussion Group: The Lost Ticket

February 20, 2025, 2:00-3:00 PM ET



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

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

Thank You

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Webinar Survey



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration