Alaska Tribal Transit Mini Conference Agenda

In Partnership with the 18th Alaska Tribal Transportation Symposium

March 28th and April 1st, 2022
Embassy Suites Anchorage - Imagine Ballroom
600 E Benson Blvd, Anchorage, AK 99503

*All times are Alaska Daylight Time*

**Monday, March 28, 2022**

8:00-9:00 AM - National RTAP Introduction

**Description:** Brief National RTAP updates and introduction to the Mini Conference.

**Presenter:** National RTAP Staff

9:15-10:15 AM - FTA Tribal Transit Technical Assistance Program

**Description:** FTA’s contractor for Tribal Transit Technical Assistance will present an overview of the FTA Tribal Transit Program covering areas that have been of most interest to Tribal Transit and finance managers over the past five years. These topics include: How are TTP formula funds allocated among Tribes? Can I receive regular FTA rural funds directly from FTA? What are the special provisions for TTP funds that differ from other recipients of rural transit funds? What are eligible expenditures? Are there local match requirements? What records should I maintain and for how long? What can I expect from an FTA TTP Technical Assistance Assessment site visit?

**Presenter:** Dana Lucas, The DMP Group

10:30 AM-12:00 PM - Roundtable Discussion

**Description:** In this Roundtable, we will have an open discussion about current issues, technical assistance, and training needs. Let us know what topics are on your mind ahead of time and if you’d like to share them during the roundtable!
Facilitator: Robin Phillips, National RTAP
Robin is the Executive Director of National RTAP, joining the organization in December 2014 with almost 18 years of experience working with FTA programs. Robin went to law school after getting a BA in history from Reed College in Portland, OR, and practiced law for five years. She decided that municipal bonds and energy litigation were not connected enough to community development issues to be truly satisfying, so she went on to work for Oregon DOT, where she was hired to write and implement a multimodal intercity policy. The Oregon Intercity Network was the result. This collaboration between the 5311 program and the rail program shifted the paradigm from community projects to regional connectivity and access to transportation networks.

1:00-2:00 PM - General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS)! Intro to GTFSBuilder

Description: This session will introduce National RTAP’s free General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) Builder, which helps you put your route and schedule information into online trip planners like Google Maps.

Presenter: Marcy Jaffe, Transinnovation Inc.
Marcy Jaffe, MBA, MPA supports and guides rural, tribal, and intercity transit partners with technical assistance related to General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) and National RTAP’s GTFS Builder. She has taught GTFS workshops at national, regional, and state transit conferences, effectively guiding those with no prior GTFS experience to successfully launch their data on Google Maps or other trip planners. Marcy has worked at the Washington State Department of Transportation as well as San Francisco’s regional planning agency, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. In 2016, the balance of Maryland’s statewide digitized transit network was built on GTFS Builder.

2:15-3:45 PM - Tribal Transit Planning - How to Write/Update your Tribal Transit Plan

Description: Tribal Transit Planning is an interactive session that provides an overview of the steps required for a comprehensive transit planning process and translating the Transit Plan or Feasibility Study to proactive implementation of service on the ground. Additionally, the discussion will cover community engagement for program development, transit committee member recruitment and retention, transit service planning, and transit plan updates. Examples will be shared of how tribes have overcome common program challenges (e.g., transit staff recruitment/retention, low-density population, large service areas, long travel distances, and dispersed destination, service coordination and technical capacity, territoriality, and unwillingness to coordinate services, etc.).

Workshop attendees will:
- Review a sample Community Transportation Survey template
- Obtain tips about drafting/updating Transit Plans/FeasibilityStudies and consultant solicitation for the said plan or studydevelopment
- Brainstorm about how to do effective marketing of new tribal transit service and with which agencies they might seek to partner.
- Session attendees will leave with information as to how to obtain support from their State DOT
transit program and tribal liaison(s), and some tribal transit program guidebook and online resources.

**Presenter:** Michia Casebier, M.G. Tech-Writing, LLC

Ms. Michia Casebier is President of M.G. Tech-Writing, LLC, a multimodal transportation planning, grant and technical writing sole proprietorship, which has funded nearly $20 million dollars in grants. Michia has worked with federally recognized tribes across the U.S. since 1991 and with the National Rural Transit Assistance Program a Tribal Transit Program training facilitator since 2019. As an Alaska tribal transportation consultant, Casebier has written six Tribal Safety Plans for Alaska Native Villages, and funded grants for both a road safety assessment in the Native Village of Tanana and an FTA capital grant for the startup of Craig Tribal Association’s Public Transit system.

### 4:00-5:30 PM - Tribal Transit Safety Planning and Safety Program Management

**Description:** The general mission statement that can apply to all local public transit providers is to provide mobility to a community’s citizens that is safe, reliable, cost-effective, and customer focused. This session will focus on how to provide and manage the safety component of that mission statement. All tribal and rural transit systems include the function of safety. However, this effort is often provided without a safety plan and an effective organization wide safety management process. Often the responsibility for assuring safe transit operations is fragmented among different transit personnel, from trainers to supervisors. All transit providers need a designated champion for safety to lead the planning for safety and implementation of safety risk management.

This session will focus on the hazards, operating conditions, and approaches to good safety management for Alaskan Native tribal and rural transit. This focus aligns with FTA intent to improve safety by guiding all levels of transit agencies to manage safety risks more effectively, and proactively in their systems and to predict and reduce the frequency of adverse safety events.

**Presenter:** Walt Diangson, Diangson, Inc. dba WRLDCO

Walt serves as a consultant to various public transit systems as a certified safety officer, transit management operations consultant, and management development instructor. Walt provides training and technical support in safety risk management and transit management and operations. His safety risk management experience includes transit safety and security, property and casualty insurance, loss control, transit management, safety, and leadership training, and FTA’s Transit Safety Management Systems (SMS). Walt’s transit experience includes management and operations of local fixed-route, general-public paratransit, ADA paratransit, and human service transportation. He is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, with a Bachelor of Architecture and of Columbia University with a Master of Business Administration, with a special emphasis in urban planning and economics.

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**Friday, April 1, 2022**

8:00-9:30 AM - FTA Region 10 Presentation on COVID-19 Funding Programs
Description: Presentation on Covid-19 funding programs available to transit providers.
Presenter: Amy Changchien, Director, Office of Planning and Program Development

9:45-11:45 AM - Managing Transit Emergencies

Description: Managing Transit Emergencies will assist in the development of basic emergency protocols. No two incidents are the same but having basic plans that have been discussed and trained on will enable an agency to quickly react to specific situations. A little time and effort before the fact will allow an agency to come through in the clutch for the community.

Presenter: John Filippone, Filippone Consulting
John Filippone is a veteran transit professional who came up through the ranks. He has been involved in rural transit for over forty years as an Operator, Supervisor, Dispatcher, Scheduler, and most recently the Safety & Training Manager at the Roaring Fork Transportation Authority (RFTA) in Aspen, CO. He served on the Colorado RTAP advisory committee for over 15 years as and is a past Chairman of the National RTAP Review Board. John has been a certified NSC DDC and Smith System Instructor as well as a certified PASS Instructor. He has certifications in Safety & Security, Training and Supervision from both TSI and CTAA. John was a Colorado Third Party CDL Skills Tester for 16 years. He has also taught soccer players/coaches/referees, wilderness survival and whitewater rafting.

1:00-2:30 PM - Hiring and Retaining Employees

Presenter: Rob Lynch, Small Urban and Rural Center on Mobility (SURCOM)
Rob is the Training Coordinator for the Small Urban and Rural Center on Mobility in Fargo, North Dakota. Rob conducts transit-related training for regional, state, and national transportation organizations. Before SURCOM, Rob served as the Transportation Manager at North Dakota State University and spent 25 years in the hospitality industry, working in Wisconsin, Florida, Minnesota, and North Dakota. Rob is a former Fargo City Commissioner, serving as the city’s Health Commissioner and Fire Commissioner in addition to numerous transportation boards and committees.

2:45 PM-4:45 PM - Collision Investigation

Description: This Collision Investigation presentation is designed to provide the basic knowledge necessary to perform initial collision/incident investigations. Techniques for on-scene rural operators far from police or supervisors as well as supervisory investigation procedures will be addressed. Topics will include scene photography, measurements and root cause analysis.

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