# AASHTO & ACT Joint Webinar: Transportation Demand Management & Rural Transit State DOT Perspectives

September 26, 3:00 pm ET











# Welcome

Jean Ruestman, Administrator, Office of Public Transportation, Michigan DOT; Vice Chair, AASHTO Council on Public Transportation

**David Straus,** *Executive Director, Association for Commuter Transportation* 



# State DOT TDM & Rural Transit Programs

AASHTO & ACT Joint Webinar September 26, 2023

David Straus Executive Director Association for Commuter Transportation



# The TDM Association









#### Community

1,450+ TDM professionals USA, Canada, & Globally

#### **Professional Development**

Virtual & in-person learning, networking

#### **Career Growth**

Certification, mentoring, leadership training

#### **Industry Advancement**

Advocacy, public policy, government affairs



# ACT Decarbonization Call to Action

- Empower and dedicate staff to lead, implement, and coordinate employer, institutional, and local land-use TDM programs.
- Integrate TDM staff into agency operations and culture as part of coordinated efforts to achieve decarbonization and related climate goals.
- Collaborate to **establish clear metrics for decarbonization**, congestion management, and system efficiency in evaluating TDM programs.
- **Prioritize the use of federal funding programs** to develop and support the implementation of TDM strategies.
- Develop dedicated long-term funding sources to support TDM programs.
- Ensure **NGOs already implementing TDM strategies**, including transportation management associations and commuter service agencies, receive the funding and support they need to accomplish their goals and mission.



STATES

# **Transportation Demand Management**



The use of strategies to inform and encourage travelers to maximize the efficiency of our transportation systems leading to improved mobility, reduced congestion, and lower vehicle emissions.



www.actweb.org

# **TDM at all Levels**

Transportation Authorization DOT/EPA/Other Agency Programs Commuter Benefits Climate/Air Quality

THISTOPPIN

Federal

IN NORTH AMERICA 2003

**FREE** MallRide

TDM Plan Implementation Aggregated Commuter Services Marketing & Promotion Behavior Change Employer Recognition Public/Private Bridge

> Transportation Benefits Access to Shared Mobility Services (carpool/shuttles/etc) Telework/Alternative Work Schedules Parking

Employee Recognition

Long Range Transportation Plans TDM Plans Commute Trip Reduction Ord Transit Benefit Ordinances Parking Management Zoning & Land Use Curb Management Mobility as a Service Prioritize Funding Carbon Reduction Strategies\*



# A Solution for All Communities

	Rural	Suburban	Urban
Commuter Benefits	X	X	X
Ridesharing	X	X	X
Vanpooling	X	X	X
Bike/Ped Programs & Infrastructure	X	X	X
Commuter Shuttles	X	X	X
Behavior Change/Marketing Strategies	X	X	X
Mobility on Demand	X	X	X
Parking Management		X	X
Curbside Management		X	X
HOV/HOT Lanes		X	X
Transportation Management Association/Organization		X	X
Congestion/Roadway Pricing			X





# Thank you!

David Straus Executive Director Association for Commuter Transportation dstraus@actweb.org







# **Featured Speakers**

**Ricardo Gotla,** *TDM Program Supervisor, Public Transportation Division, Washington State DOT* 

**Ross MacDonald,** *Public Transportation Manager, Vermont Agency of Transportation* 



## **Transportation Demand Management in Rural Washington**

Ricardo Gotla, Transportation Demand Management Program Supervisor, Public Transportation Division

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# Several programs support rural TDM in Washington



- Data
- Research studies
- > Intercity bus
- Grants
- Transportation demand management board and committee



## **Transportation demand management**

Transportation demand management (TDM) uses transportation options, motivation, and infrastructure to enhance access to and use of transportation network capacity.

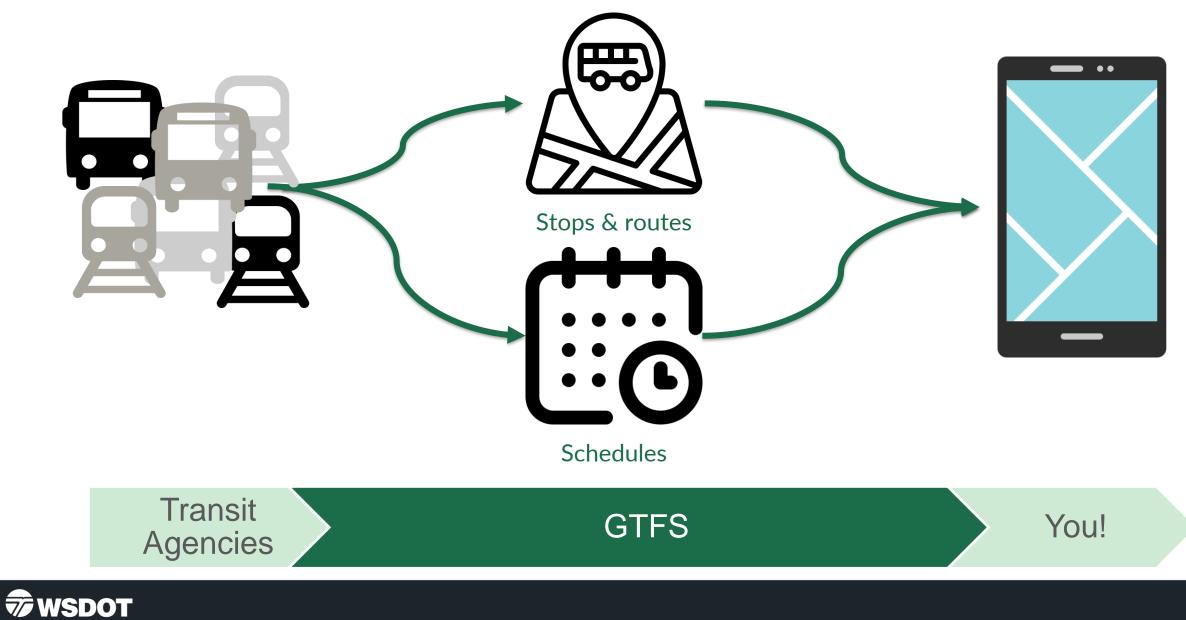
TDM outcomes include increased equity and access to opportunity, more efficient use of existing transportation infrastructure and services, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and reduced need for large mobility projects.



With HopeSource Dial A Ride, Kaylee can get door-to-door transportation for medical appointments, social gatherings, and grocery shopping.



## **Putting transit service on maps**

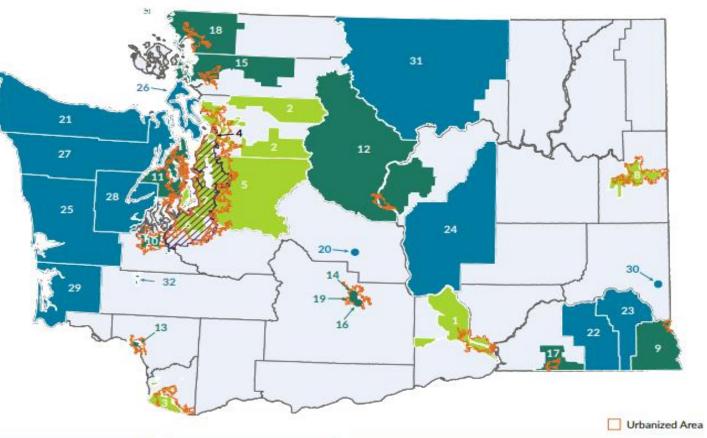


# Flexible transit service in WA

32 transit agencies:

8 urban 11 small urban 13 rural

31 have flexible service



Urban	Small Urban	Rural		
1. Ben Franklin Transit	9. Asotin County Transit	20. Central Transit	26. Island Transit	
2. Community Transit	10. Intercity Transit	22. Columbia County Transportation Authority Authority   23. Garfield County Transportation Authority 28. Maso Trans   24. Grant Transit Authority 29. Pacifi   25. Grays Harbor 31. Trans	27. Jefferson Transit	
3. C-Tran	11. Kitsap Transit		Authority	
4. Everett Transit	12. Link Transit		28. Mason County	
5. King County Metro	13. RiverCities Transit		Transportation Authority	
6. Pierce Transit	14. Selah Transit		alah Transit	29. Pacific Transit System 30. Pullman Transit
7. Sound Transit	15. Skagit Transit			
8. Spokane Transit Authority	16. Union Gap Transit		31. Transo 32. Twin Transit	
	17. Valley Transit		32. IWIN Iransit	
	18. Whatcom Transportation Authority			
	19. Yakima Transit			

## Static GTFS was just the beginning

**GTFS** Flex

Data that describes:

- Demand response service areas and boundaries
- Service qualifications
- Service hours, etc.

WSDOT is working to:

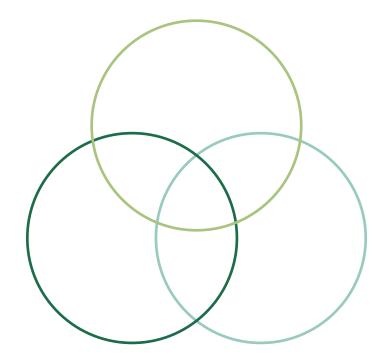
- Describe GTFS-flex for small urban, rural, and tribes
- Identify funding and develop standards for technology that enables travelers can utilize GTFS-flex across WA



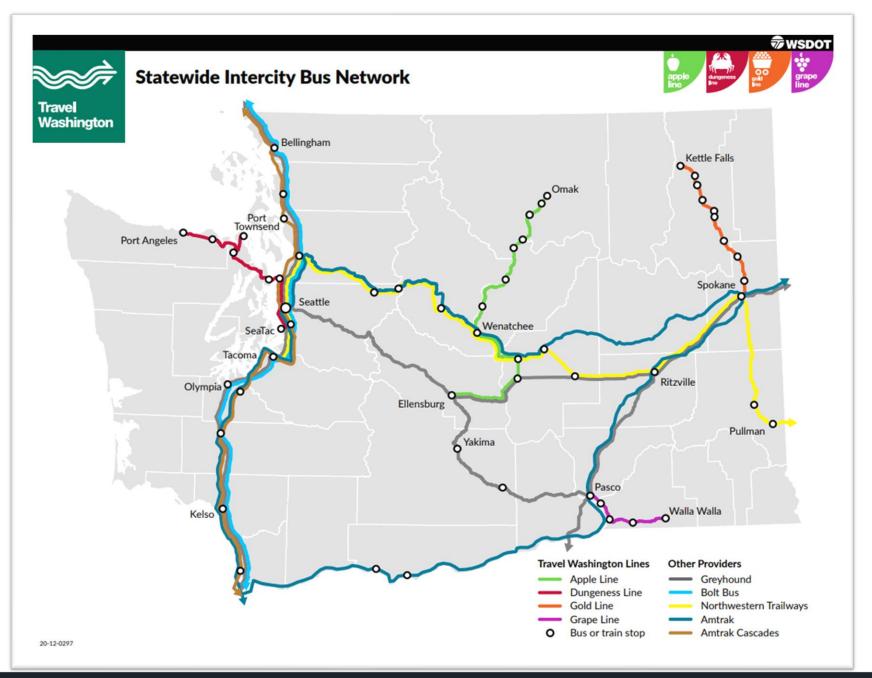
## **Three new studies in 2023**

- Non-driver study
- Frequent transit service study
- Unmet needs study

All three conclude that public transportation builds strong communities and provides access to jobs, healthcare and community.







#### Intercity Bus Network Coverage

About 77% of Washington residents live within 10 miles of an intercity bus stop or station

95% live within 25 miles of intercity bus stops/stations

Rural transportation supports access to jobs, healthcare, and other services.

## **WSDOT grants support rural TDM**

Regional Mobility Grant – state funding

Consolidated Grants – state and federal funding

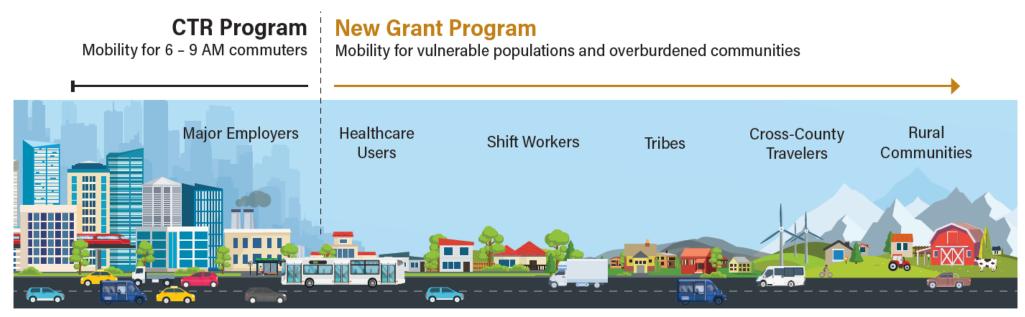
Funded project types

- Demand response
- Recreational access
- Mobility management
- Rural vanpools





### **\$25M Mobility Partnerships: State Grant Proposal**



#### WHAT COULD A NEW MOBILITY PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM ACHIEVE?



More mobility for more people



Resources for under-served communities



Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions



Improved health, safety, and resiliency



Enhanced accessibility where it's needed most



### What makes this grant different from existing state & federal grants?

- > Fills existing federal and state funding gaps
- Provides state funding for administration, technical assistance, planning and program development
- Emphasizes equity and under-represented communities
- Combines TDM and human services programming
- Provides ongoing formula funding and competitive funding to start up and pilot projects







Ricardo.gotla@wsdot.wa.gov



# TDM in Vermont



## AASHTO & ACT JOINT WEBINAR SEPTEMBER 26, 2023



#### **AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION**



### Public Transit in VT



# Approximately \$44 million annual budget - Over 65% from state funds or FHWA "Flex" funds

- FTA Formula Funds
- FHWA "Flex" funds
- State Funds
- Local Funds

### Services include:

- Fixed Routes w/ ADA Paratransit service
- Deviated Fixed Routes
- > Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities Demand Response
- NEMT (Medicaid) Demand Response
- Intercity
- Go Vermont TDM Program
- Mobility and Transportation Innovation Grant Program





#### Helpful Travel Apps



#### Plan Your Trip

Find rides for your daily commute, to the doctor's, or even your favorite ski resort. Our trip planner will show you carpools, transit, biking, and walking directions. <u>Visit Trip Planner \*</u>



#### **Track Your Bus**

Tracking your bus is easy and free. Transit is a real-time bus locator and trip planning tool. <u>Find Out More »</u>





#### Statewide one-click/one-call TDM resource

### Services and Features

- Local and Intercity Bus, Amtrak, and Ferry schedules/contact info.
- > Automated Carpool Matching
- Vanpool Program
- Multi-modal Trip Planner
- "Commute Audits" and Business Outreach
- Transit App
- Senior Meals
- EV Info and links
- Community Driver Info
- Promotional materials and advocacy



## Mobility and Transportation Innovation Focus



Support innovative strategies and projects that improve both mobility and access to services for: > Transit-dependent Vermonters,

Reduce the use of single occupancy vehicles, and

> Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Established in 2021 through statute



Project Types	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Microtransit Pilots	2	1	6
Bike Share/E Bike Programs	4	1	2
Walking Programs	0	0	1
Public Transit Rider Support	3	2	2
Telework Resources	1	0	0
Carshare/Mobility Support	3	1	2
Transportation Demand Activity	5	-	£
Support	0	2	1

### Budgets, Issues and Plans



### Annual Budgets

- Go Vermont \$375k
- ≻ MTI \$500k

### **>**Issues

- TDM activities aren't appreciably reducing VMT or GHG
- Lack of awareness and usage
- Significant administrative investment to establish, oversee, and report these TDM activities

### **Plans**

- Maintain efforts and look for best ROI and approaches
- > Develop program and grant management to maximize impacts, awareness and usage
- Targeted Outreach to Rural Regions with select TDM model
- Learn from other states and regions



# THANK YOU

PUBLIC TRANSIT PROGRAM – ROSS MACDONALD, ROSS.MACDONALD@VERMONT.GOV

802-522-7120







# **Q&A and Open Discussion**

Jean Ruestman, Michigan DOT; Vice Chair, AASHTO Council on Public Transportation

David Straus, Executive Director, ACT

**Ricardo Gotla**, Washington State DOT, <u>GotlaR@wsdot.wa.gov</u>

**Ross MacDonald**, Vermont Agency of Transportation, <u>ross.macdonald@vermont.gov</u>

# **Thank You for Joining!**

### AASHTO <u>ranger@aashto.org</u> sgill@aashto.org

ACT dstraus@actweb.org





