

Meeting Notes
Federal Transit Administration
Technical Assistance Center Coordination Meeting
Dec. 1, 2020, 9:00 am - Noon EST

Purpose: To prioritize a coordinated communication strategy across Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and its five national technical assistance (TA) centers that will share information effectively with state transportation agencies and rural and tribal transit providers on coordination opportunities and leading coordination practices in an accessible and informative way.

Objectives: To resolve the outstanding GAO recommendation via [Public Transportation: Enhanced Federal Information Sharing on Coordination Could Improve Rural Transit Services](#):

1. Generating a centralized, searchable library database cataloging all available transportation resources, cross linked on FTA-funded TA centers and FTA program webpages. (Under development by NRTAP);
2. Continue planning quarterly meetings to share upcoming events and resources for cross promotion, and encourage ongoing coordination across the TA centers and FTA; and
3. Recommending future activities for coordination.

Federal Updates

Marianne Stock, FTA Program Management (TPM):

[DOT/FTA-HUD/PIH Partnership for COVID-19 Recovery](#) -- FTA's public transportation grantees are encouraged to work with public and tribal housing authorities to create local partnerships to provide critical services for community members, such as transportation to essential services and providing nontraditional services such as meal and grocery delivery and identify opportunities to align public transportation funded assets, e.g., Wi-Fi enabled vehicles, routes, bus stops, etc. with community needs during the public health emergency and beyond. NCMM is assisting by brokering local partnerships where needed as well as tracking those partnerships when they are aware of them.

Competitive grants -- On November 17, FTA announced the awards for the Tribal Transit competitive program. Over \$7 million was awarded this year.

Funding status -- The National Center for Mobility Management (NCMM) and the National Center for Applied Transit Technology (N-CATT) are coming to the end of their current statements of work in March and April. Once FTA has a full year's appropriation it will be able to determine the allocation of Section 5314 funding for 2021.

Robert Sheehan and Michelle Noch, DOT, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), Joint Program Office (JPO)

Mobility on Demand (MOD) Sandbox -- ITS JPO is currently is evaluating sandbox sites. JPO products and activities -- webinars, academic materials, ITS deployment survey, standards analysis, technology transfer, Complete Trip. The intersection between FTA TA Center activities and ITS JPO resources was discussed. Follow-up discussions on specific issues may occur outside this meeting.

Presentation on public transit and health: Wendy Heaps, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

CDC's HI-5 Initiative with the CDC Foundation created three [videos](#) that show the link between public transit and public health. Videos are free and downloadable from <https://www.cdcfoundation.org/programs/HI-5>.

Overview of Department of Housing and Urban Development's EnVision Centers, Jill Yu and Rommel Calderwood:

The EnVision Center initiative was started in 2017 to centralize federal resources in one place. HUD has 89 EnVision Centers across the country. Services offered include: COVID testing, PPE, telehealth, virtual tutoring and more.

General Updates

Update on Technical Assistance Coordination Library (TACL) – Cara Marcus, NRTAP:

To be launched in January 2021 and updated quarterly. Training on the use of TACL is planned for February.

Lessons Learned on Virtual Conferences – Rudy Faust, SUMC:

SUMC conducted the National Shared Mobility Summit virtually in May 2020. Pro: more accessible in price and ability to provide captioning for presentations. Con: lack of informal conversations. The 2021 summit also will be virtual.

Technical Assistance Center Updates

National Rural Transit Assistance Program (NRTAP):

Getting ready to launch Community Rides Grant Program. Conducted a webinar on microtransit in rural areas.

National Center for Applied Transit Technology (N-CATT):

N-CATT marked its first birthday. Developing workshops and guidebooks on data management and system redesign.

Shared Use Mobility Center (SUMC):

Launched the Accelerating Innovative Mobility National Network to provide technical assistance on mobility innovation to transit providers.

National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC):

Developing a survey of older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers about their experiences with transportation. Working on annual trends report.

National Center for Mobility Management (NCMM):

Maintaining two charts, one (<https://nationalcenterformobilitymanagement.org/ccam/>) on incidental use of transit during the COVID pandemic and the second (<https://nationalcenterformobilitymanagement.org/covid-19-resource-center/>) on examples of

transportation's role in COVID vaccination efforts. NCMM regional liaisons are supporting HUD's EnVision Centers and will partner with the HUD centers to conduct webinars.

Next meeting

NADTC will lead the next quarterly coordination meeting which will take place in March 2021.