Technology and COVID-19:
Technology for Public Transportation

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  - Sept. 3

- **Long Term Response to COVID-19**
  - Sept. 24
Guest Speakers

Brian Alberts
Director of Safety
American Public Transportation Association

Michelle Couto
Health and Safety Consultant
AECOM
Discussion

Technology and COVID-19: Public Transportation
What has been the transportation industry’s response to COVID-19? And what has been your organization’s response?
Public Transportation and COVID-19

- Public transportation agencies continue to play a critical role during the COVID-19 pandemic response, as we navigate the road to recovery throughout the U.S.

- Tireless efforts to provide rail and bus service so that frontline employees can get to work, underscoring how essential it is to keep public transit running.
COVID-19 Initiatives - Advocacy

• **CARES Act** –
  Led effort for $25 billion for public transit agencies; $1 billion for Amtrak; employer tax relief initiatives; and $350 billion in business loan programs

• **Economic Recovery Package** –
  Advocating for a $178 billion multi-year reauthorization in the next COVID-19 aid package.

• **“The Economic Impact of Public Transportation”** –
  Showcasing a new APTA report that shows a 5 : 1 economic ROI from investing in transit.

• **FY 2021 Funding** –
  Pushing APTA’s priorities for the FY 2021 transportation appropriations bill.
COVID-19 Initiatives – Other Efforts

REGULATORY RELIEF
- Deadline Extensions –
  APTA successfully requested temporary relief from existing regulations by FTA, FRA & TSA.

OTHER RESOURCES
- Road To Recovery Guide – Strategies and tactical guidance to keep transit agencies safe developed by WSP USA, Inc. and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (April 2020; Updated August 2020)
- Whitepaper on Developing a Pandemic Virus Service Restoration Checklist (May 2020)
- Whitepaper on Cleaning and Disinfecting Best Practices (mid June 2020)
Technology and COVID-19: Public Transportation
How are you protecting users from COVID-19? How has or how could technology help?
Transit and COVID-19 Protections

“This is going to be a marathon, not a sprint”

• Separate critical staff
• Frequent Communication to Staff, Operators and Customers
• Follow proper guidance from CDC and other national preeminent public health experts
• Promote Physical Distancing/Mitigate Crowding
• Information sharing with industry peers (APTA)
Technology and COVID-19: Public Transportation
What best practices are you seeing from across the country?
# Innovations & Technology Abound

## Antioch to SFO (Millbrae)

Passenger Load for Week of Monday, August 3 to Friday, August 7, 2020

| BAY PT | N CAN | CONCD | PHILL | W CRK | LA FAY | ORNDA | ROCKR | MACAR | 19ST | 12ST | W OAK | EMBAR | MONTG | POWER | CIVIC | 16ST | 23ST | GLNPK | BALPK | DALY | COLMA | S SAN | SBRN | SFO |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|------|------|------|
| 5:01   | 5:00  | 5:01  | 5:00  | 5:01  | 5:00   | 5:01  | 5:00  | 5:01  | 5:02 | 5:03 | 5:04  | 5:05  | 5:06  | 5:07  | 5:08  | 5:09 | 5:10 | 5:11  | 5:12  | 5:13 | 5:14  | 5:15  | 5:16 | 5:17  |
| 7:01   | 7:00  | 7:01  | 7:00  | 7:01  | 7:00   | 7:01  | 7:00  | 7:01  | 7:02 | 7:03 | 7:04  | 7:05  | 7:06  | 7:07  | 7:08  | 7:09 | 7:10 | 7:11  | 7:12  | 7:13 | 7:14  | 7:15  | 7:16 | 7:17  |
| 7:46   | 7:45  | 7:46  | 7:45  | 7:46  | 7:45   | 7:46  | 7:45  | 7:46  | 7:47 | 7:48 | 7:49  | 7:50  | 7:51  | 7:52  | 7:53  | 7:54 | 7:55 | 7:56  | 7:57  | 7:58 | 7:59  | 7:59  | 7:59 | 7:59  |
| 8:46   | 8:45  | 8:46  | 8:45  | 8:46  | 8:45   | 8:46  | 8:45  | 8:46  | 8:47 | 8:48 | 8:49  | 8:50  | 8:51  | 8:52  | 8:53  | 8:54 | 8:55 | 8:56  | 8:57  | 8:58 | 8:59  | 8:59  | 8:59 | 8:59  |

**LEGEND**

- 0 - 24
- 25 - 30
- 31 +
Innovations & Technology Abound

Additional Technologies in Public Transportation, in response to COVID-19, include:

• Contactless Fare Payment Systems
• Use of data to communicate with passengers and information to show how crowded trains/buses are (i.e. BART, MBTA)
• UV Light and HVAC cleaning & filtration (SEPTA)
• Modeling
• Rear boarding on buses and Bus Shields to protect operators
Technology and COVID-19: Public Transportation
How are transportation companies ensuring they are providing a safe and clean environment for riders? (how we do gain the trust back from riders?)
One example: APTA Cleaning and Disinfecting Vehicles and Facilities White Paper

Cleaning and Disinfecting Vehicles/Facilities White Paper:

• Discusses current industry practices for cleaning and disinfecting transit vehicles and facilities in response to a pandemic virus.

• Focuses on the mitigation of contagious virus spread within public transportation systems through various maintenance, cleaning and disinfecting methods and products.

• Technology such as the use of UV Light to clean vehicles (NYC Transit) and UV Light in HVAC filters (SEPTA) is discussed in the White Paper.
Technology and COVID-19: Public Transportation
What are you putting in place to ensure transit workers are safe and protected?
# APTA’s Transit Recovery Commitment/Seal of Approval

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OUR COMMITMENTS TO RIDERS</th>
<th>RIDERS’ COMMITMENTS TO ALL</th>
<th>OUR COMMITMENTS TO RIDERS</th>
<th>RIDERS’ COMMITMENTS TO ALL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>OFFICIAL GUIDANCE</strong></td>
<td><strong>INFORMED CHOICES</strong></td>
<td><strong>OFFICIAL GUIDANCE</strong></td>
<td><strong>INFORMED CHOICES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agencies Follow Official Guidelines</td>
<td>Riders Follow Official Guidelines</td>
<td>Information &amp; Resources</td>
<td>Physical Distancing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our policies and practices follow the latest science-based guidance from public health experts and agencies</td>
<td>Riders of diverse ages, needs and abilities can feel safe and confident by following official guidance from public health experts and agencies.</td>
<td>Timely information about high-density routes and vehicles, and changes in service will be shared with riders on a frequent basis so they can make informed travel choices.</td>
<td>Riders will practice physical distancing to the degree practical. Riders and operators will avoid physical contact.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROTECTING EACH OTHER</strong></td>
<td><strong>HEALTH FIRST</strong></td>
<td><strong>PROTECTING EACH OTHER</strong></td>
<td><strong>HEALTH FIRST</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleaning &amp; Disinfecting</td>
<td>Face Coverings &amp; Clean Hands</td>
<td>Healthy Transit Employees</td>
<td>Healthy Passengers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicles and stations will be cleaned, disinfected, and maintained daily using EPA-approved disinfectants and accepted industry practices.</td>
<td>When entering a public transit station or vehicle, riders will wear face coverings and, where possible, use hand sanitizer / sanitizing wipes.</td>
<td>All public transit personnel will use face coverings and other personal protective equipment, and take leave at the sign of illness or possible exposure to the virus.</td>
<td>Before using public transit, riders will assess their own health, including any risk of illness they may pose to others.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Technology and COVID-19: Public Transportation
What are the barriers to implementing technology solutions?
Potential Barriers to Implementing Technology Solutions

- Funding is always a potential barrier. However, APTA ensured that transit agencies got funding through the CARES act, so that supplied some much-needed money for transit agencies to buy masks, cleaning materials, face shields, and other necessities as well as invest in technologies.

- There is also a barrier in terms of low-income folks who may not have a smart phone and cannot download apps.
Technology and COVID-19: Public Transportation
What does the future of the transportation industry look like under this new threat? Will any of this technology become permanent?
Future of Transit Industry and Permanence of Technology

Future of Transit Industry and Permanence of Technology

• Transit transported essential workers when other modes were virtually shut down. Many folks don’t have cars and need public transit to commute and conduct daily activities.

• Public transportation is ready to deal with COVID-19 and has many protections in place for riders. Also, studies have shown that taking public transit is just as safe or safer than other activities and is not a spreader of the virus.

• We’re still figure out what the future looks like, but we think it will involve more technology and innovative solutions.

• CIOs at transit agencies are using this time to accelerate their visions for their agencies.
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SAFER  Safe Actions For Employee Returns
Thank you!

Please complete our follow-up survey, we want your feedback!

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