Technology and COVID-19: Technology for Public Transportation
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Sept. 24

SAFER Safe Actions For Employee Returns
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
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)
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?

Technology and COVID-19: Public Transportation
## Innovations & Technology Abound

### Antioch to SFO (Millbrae)

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

| BAY PT | N CNCP | CONCDO | PHILL | W CRK | LAFAY | ORMDA | ROCKR | MACAR | 15ST | 12ST | W OAK | EMAR | BONING | POWER | CIVIC | 16ST | 24ST | GLNPK | RALPK | BIAL | DALY | DILMA | S SAN | SBRN | SFO |
|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|

### 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
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How are transportation companies ensuring they are providing a safe and clean environment for riders? (how we do gain the trust back from riders?)
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.
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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></td>
<td><strong>INFORMED CHOICES</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<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></td>
<td><strong>HEALTH FIRST</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<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>
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What are the barriers to implementing technology solutions?
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.
What does the future of the transportation industry look like under this new threat? Will any of this technology become permanent?
• 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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Thank you!

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

nsc.org/SAFER

nsc.org/WorkToZero