NATIONAL CENTER FOR APPLIED TRANSIT TECHNOLOGY

Innovation in Transit: Success Stories

n-catt

National Center
for Applied Transit
Technology

NATIONAL CENTER FOR APPLIED TRANSIT TECHNOLOGY

- Walking small agencies through the technology landscape
  - Lessons learned, trends, strategies
  - Enabling Technology Transfer
- Tech University
  - Guidebooks: Practical, actionable information on addressing tech topics
  - Video profiles: Highlights of innovations in the industry
  - Podcasts: In-depth discussions of advances in the industry
  - Webinars: Introductions and Q&As on important tech topics
- In the Works
  - Creating tools that managers can directly use in their work
  - Cybersecurity Symposium
  - Multimodal Service Evaluation resource

Find us at: n-catt.org

STRATEGIC TECHNOLOGY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAMS (STTATS)

- One-on-one technical assistance with N-CATT staff and consultants
- Support in identifying and making progress on technology goals
  - Assess current processes and tech opportunities for improvement
  - Develop roadmaps for achieving tech goals, alternatives assessments, tech specifications, procurement strategies
  - Provide support for implementation plans and procurements
- These have led to:
  - Bus electrification strategies (feasibility analysis for rural system; transition plan for small-urban system)
  - Tech adoption strategies that help agencies plan their procurement timeline
  - Alternatives analyses and technical specifications for upgrading fare payment systems

- ***APPLICATIONS FOR STTATs ARE OPEN***
  - Email carpenter@ctaa.org for more information

DOT GRANTS NAVIGATOR

- Information on Grants, Applications, TA, BIL Programs

- https://www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator

WHERE WE'RE GOING

- Where things stand
- Some Case Studies
  - Micromobility
  - Microtransit
  - Real-Time Information
- Discussion

GOALS

- Learn from each other, what's already happening in Minnesota and around the US.

  - Your peers are your best resource

- See new opportunities for serving your communities

HOW DO YOU DEFINE INNOVATION?

- What does innovation look like to you?

- Who have you seen that makes you think "wow, they really figured something out"?

- What have you seen that makes you think "I want to try that with my system"?

MICROTRANSIT

- North Arkansas Transportation Services

  - Converted 2 rural fixed routes to low-tech microtransit

    - Passengers request rides; dispatchers communicate to drivers via cell phones

  - Decreased revenue miles, increased ridership

- Wave Transit, Wilmington, NC

  - Ride Micro service replaced underperforming routes, connects to productive routes from low-density areas

  - Ridership increased, improved community perception of service

THERE ARE MANY "FLAVORS"
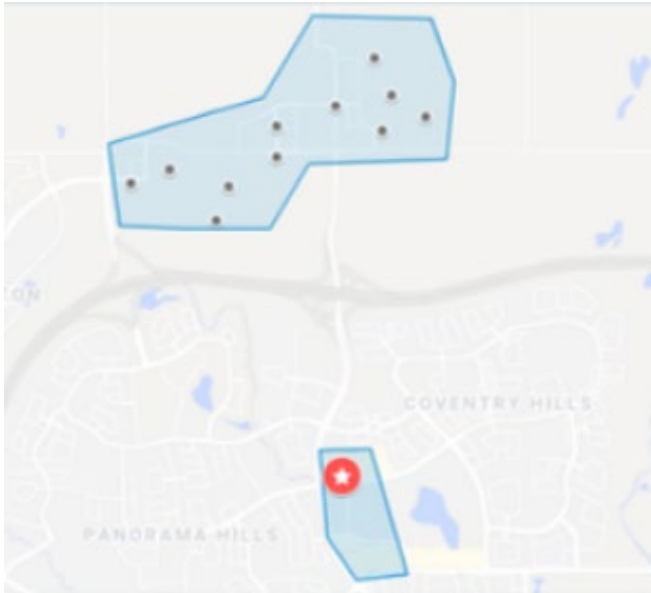
First-Mile/Last-Mile
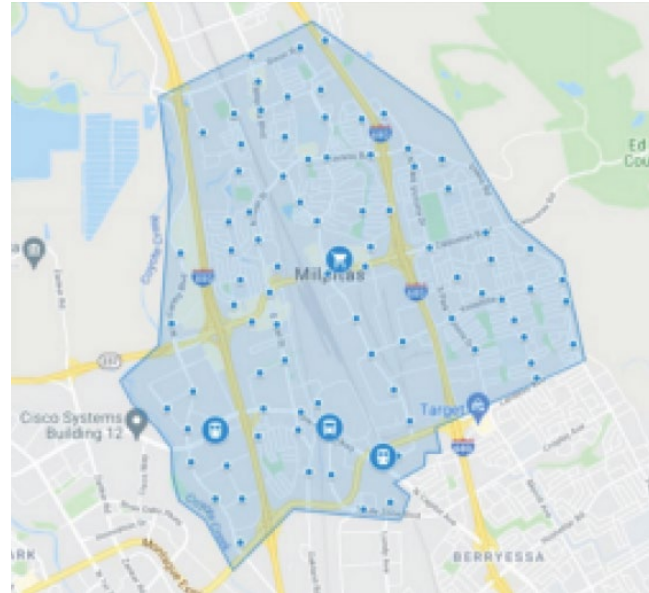
Hub & Spoke

Zone-based point-to-point

MICROMOBILITY

- CATA
  - Bikeshare run by nonprofit arm of local transit system
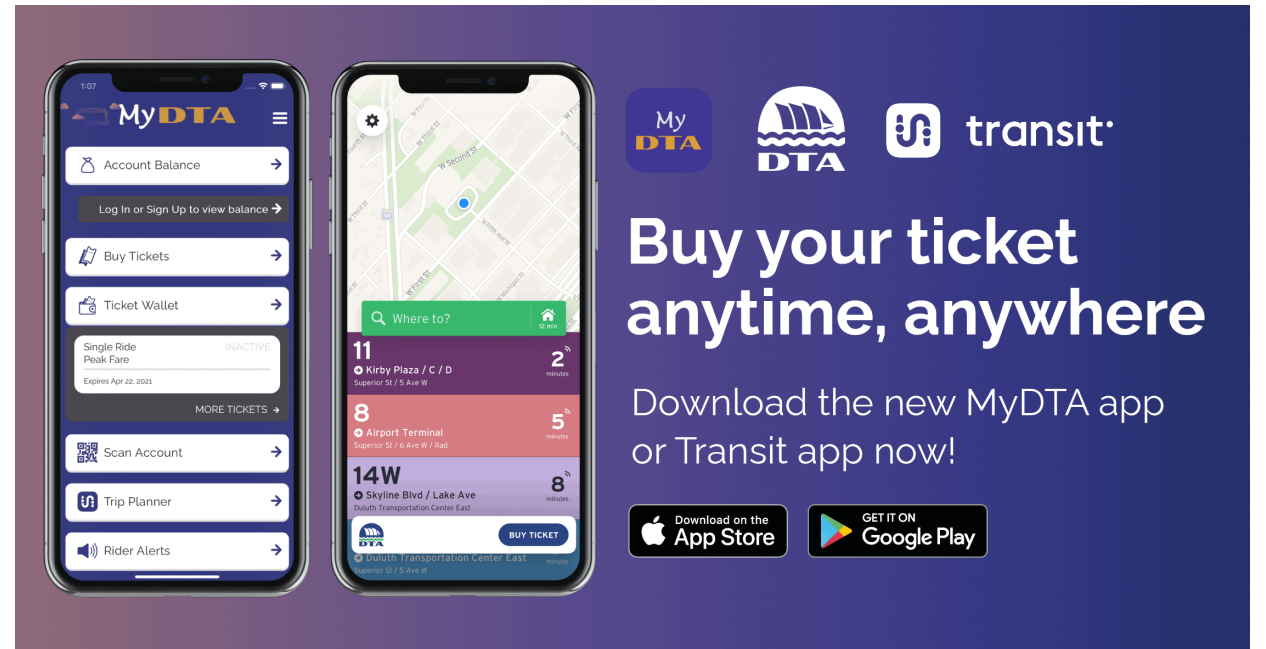 - $2.50/hour 5am to 9pm
- Thrive Allen
  - Rural county, no transit service, added a bike library for tourism
  - Instead, residents started using this for essential trips

ELECTRONIC FARE-PAYMENT

- Duluth Transit Authority's MyDTA
  - Fare purchasing app
  - Makes fare payment/collection easier, and enables new fare policies like fare capping
  - Opens the door to partnering with new entities (e.g. hospitals, schools)

Buy your ticket anytime, anywhere

Download the new MyDTA app or Transit app now!

SOME QUESTIONS

- Are you doing anything to boost ridership or otherwise change how you serve your communities? – maybe for the end?

- What technology challenges are you facing? Or what questions are you trying to sort out?

- Are you searching for new tech for your system?

  - What technology/where in your operations?

- I was wondering what you think what are some of the innovative things happening, what has been helpful - case studies of certain systems that implemented something that turned out to be helpful/successful

IF THERE'S NOTHING ELSE YOU TAKE AWAY FROM THIS

- Think creatively about how you can provide service and about what innovation is to you

- Consider how you might be able to extend your reach without necessarily adding service/staff

- There are a lot of tools out there to experiment with

- These technologies and models aren't just for large urban areas

- "Innovation" is not necessarily a giant, shiny, expensive thing

GO FORTH AND GET TECHNOLOGY

- Learn from each other, what's already happening in Minnesota and around the US.

  - Your peers are your best resource

- Adapt mindset of outcomes-based procurement – don't find a solution looking for a problem

- Figure out how to better choose the right tools for your system

- Think about how you go about choosing your technology

- Lingering questions? Email me: carpenter@ctaa.org