

NATIONAL CENTER FOR APPLIED TRANSIT TECHNOLOGY

Innovation in Transit: Success Stories



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>



The screenshot displays the DOT Grants Navigator website. The header features the U.S. Department of Transportation logo and navigation links: ABOUT DOT, PRIORITIES, and CONNECT. A search bar and social media icons are also present. The main content area is titled 'Applying for USDOT Grants' and includes a section for 'Grant Application Resources'. A sidebar on the left lists various resources, with 'Overview of DOT Funding and Financing' highlighted. The main text provides an overview of DOT funding and financing, linking to the 'Overview of DOT Funding and Financing' page. Below this, there are sections for 'USDOT Discretionary Grant Process' and 'Understanding Non-Federal Match Requirements', each with a brief description and a link to a detailed page. An image of three people in a meeting is shown on the right side of the page.

transportation.gov/grants/dot-navigator/applying-usdot-grants

U.S. Department of Transportation

ABOUT DOT ▾ PRIORITIES ▾ CONNECT ▾

DOT Navigator Home

Grant Application Resources ▸

- Overview
- Overview of DOT Funding and Financing
- USDOT Discretionary Grant Process
- Understanding Federal Match Requirements
- How to Navigate Grants.gov to Submit Applications
- Tools to Determine Disadvantaged Community Status
- Maximizing Award Success: Navigating Grant Program Applications

Applying for USDOT Grants

Grant Application Resources

The following resources provide general information on applying for federal grants and understanding some of the key requirements.

Overview of DOT Funding and Financing

What money is available? Learn about potential options in the [Overview of DOT Funding and Financing](#).

USDOT Discretionary Grant Process

What's the process to apply for federal grants? Find out in this overview of the [USDOT Discretionary Grant Process](#).

Understanding Non-Federal Match Requirements

Are local funds required for projects that receive DOT funding? Find out in [Understanding Non-Federal Match Requirements](#).

How to Navigate Grants.gov to Submit Applications

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?

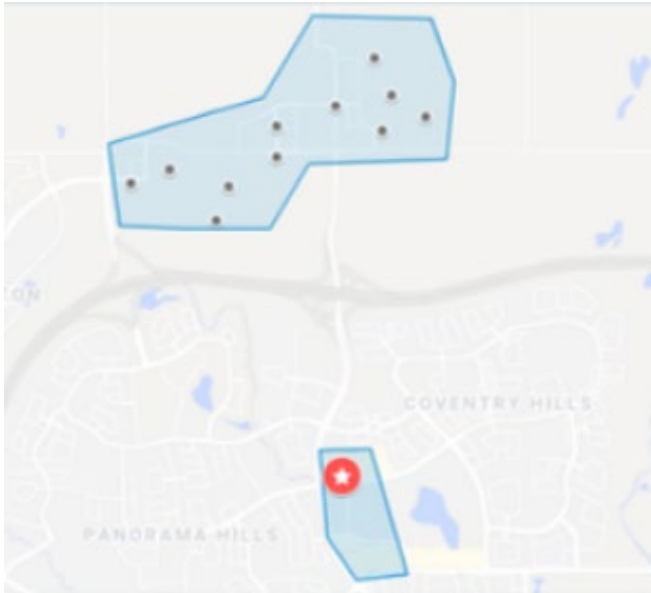
- What does innovation look like to you?
- Who have you seen that makes you think “wow, they really figured something out”?
- What have you seen that makes you think “I want to try that with my system”?

MICROTRANSIT

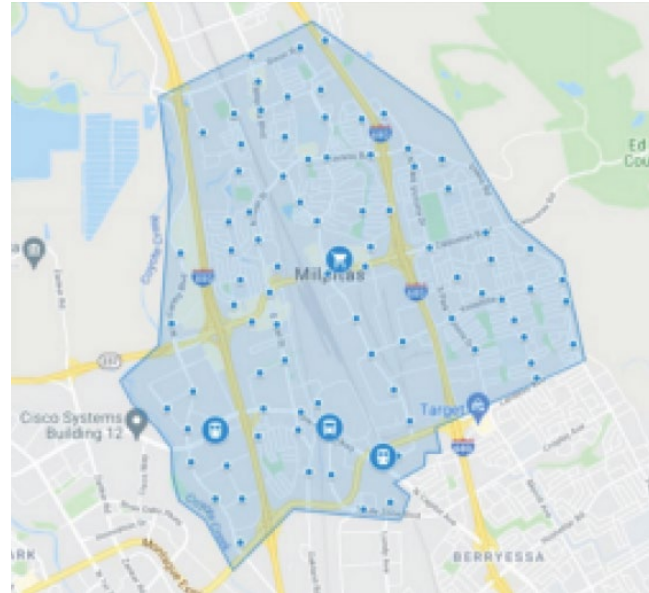
- North Arkansas Transportation Services
 - Converted 2 rural fixed routes to low-tech microtransit
 - Passengers request rides; dispatchers communicate to drivers via cell phones
 - Decreased revenue miles, increased ridership
- Wave Transit, Wilmington, NC
 - Ride Micro service replaced underperforming 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

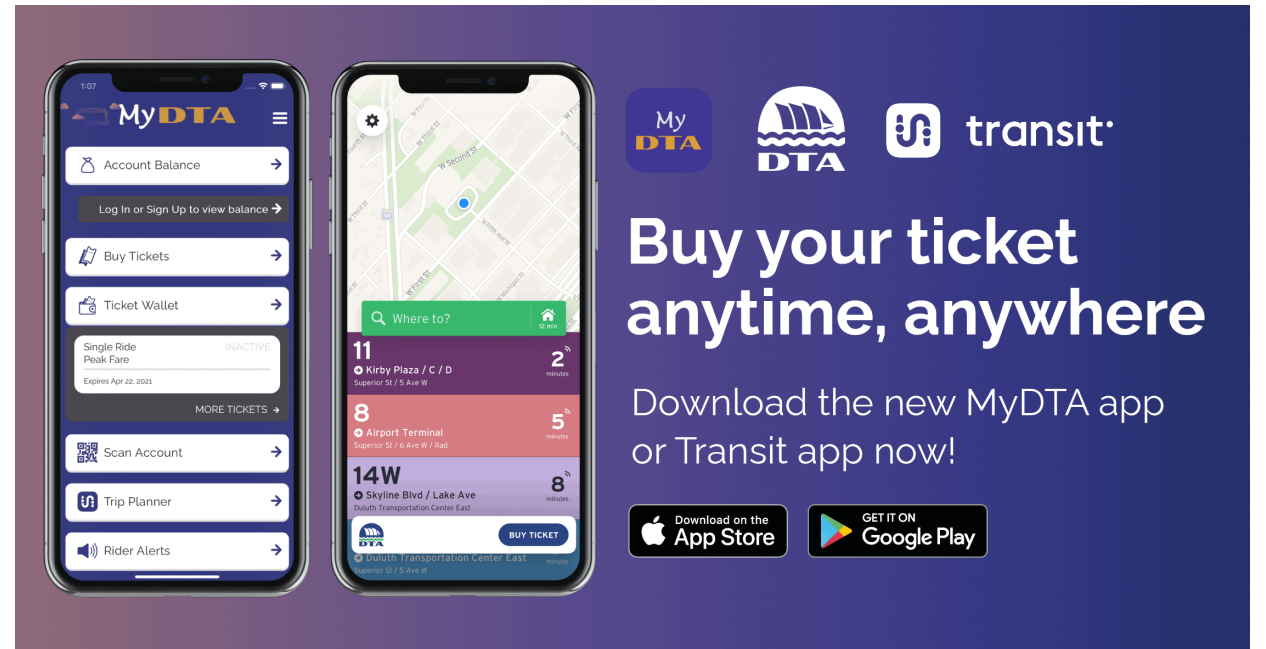
MICROMOBILITY

- 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)



MyDTA DTA transit

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anytime, anywhere**

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or Transit app now!

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App Store

GET IT ON
Google Play

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