

# Maryland Transit Update

Spring 2019



## Congratulations to TAM's 2019 Roadeo Champions

By John Duklewski, TAM Executive Director

TAM's 2019 Roadeo was held on April 13, 2019 at the Dorsey MARC Station in Elkridge, MD and at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Linthicum. Twenty-eight drivers from agencies across Maryland, assisted by over 60 volunteer judges, competed in a combination of driver skills and knowledge challenges. Following the competition, TAM hosted Passenger Assistance training at the Embassy Suites hotel for volunteers and drivers. An evening banquet was held at the Embassy Suites at which the top three finishers were announced. Matt Paugh (2017 Roadeo Champion and 2017 TAM Driver of the Year) of Garrett Transit was awarded the top honor, winning a full scholarship to attend the CTA National Roadeo in Palm Springs, CA on May 18-19. Gary Watson of Baltimore CountyRide and David Hall of Harford Transit LINK took second and third place respectively and will also have the opportunity to compete at the National Roadeo.

The Roadeo was made possible by our sponsors American Bus, KFH Group, Q'Straint, AngelTrax, Rohrer Bus, and Sierra Pacific/Keller Williams. Additional equipment support was provided by MDOT MTA, Prince George's County DPW&T, Harford Transit LINK, St. Mary's Transit, and Delmarva Community Services.



From top: Matt Paugh, Garrett Transit; Gary Watson, Baltimore CountyRide; David Hall, Harford Transit LINK. Roadeo champions are pictured with TAM President Gary Blazinsky, left, and MDOT MTA Office of Local Transit Support Director Travis Johnston, right.

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# Letter from the President

May 2019



I am grateful to continue my role as President of the Transportation Association of Maryland (TAM). Our organizational commitment to extending members' voices within these complex and challenging times in the public transportation environment is reaping benefits for all. Our efforts towards improving mobility and economic opportunity for all Maryland citizens endures. Our membership includes public, private and nonprofit organizations. Transportation services provided by TAM members sustains independent and productive living, access to community resources, promotes business, tourism and economic development across the State of Maryland. TAM is committed to working together with our members, collaborating with all our partners towards improving services to the clientele we serve and assisting towards transit operation advancements.

As the TAM organization rolls through this fiscal year, once again, our momentous efforts would not be possible without the steadfast efforts of our Board of Directors and Executive Team. Their robust approach of collaboration and expertise in implementing have enabled us to meet the needs of our members. 2019 again is an exceptional year driven by the evolution of our organization.

Our 2019 legislative agenda continues with three priorities: protecting transit operators by increasing legal penalties for assault, dealing with the ever-increasing burden of providing non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT), and adjusting formula funding in Maryland to overcome over 10 years of flat funding. TAM is currently engaged in establishing a study group to recommend legislative relief for the burden that non-emergency medical transportation (especially dialysis) imposes on our members. We are also participating in a statewide legislative task group focusing on providing recommendations to improve mobility and access to jobs. TAM will continue efforts towards making progress with TAM's legislative agenda. When updates occur or milestones are reached, please check the TAM website, [www.taminc.org](http://www.taminc.org), for additional information.

Earlier this year we held Advanced Mobility Device Securement training (train-the-trainer) as part of TAM's commitment for operational improvements. Thirty attendees participated in the two-day training sessions presented by NTI.

Our 2019 Annual Statewide TAM Roadeo was held on April 13, 2019 at the Dorsey MARC Station in Elkridge, MD. Twenty-eight drivers from 10 different TAM member organizations competed in a driving and operator skill challenge. Following the event, a passenger assistance workshop was presented for transit drivers by Q'Straint. The top three Roadeo finishers were announced at the evening Roadeo Banquet, held at the Embassy Suites hotel and attended by over 80 drivers and volunteers. Congratulations to the winners. . .

1st - **Matt Paugh**, Garrett Transit - 2nd - **Gary Watson**, Baltimore CountyRide - 3rd - **Dave Hall**, Harford Transit LINK

Each of the three finalists will receive a scholarship and have the ability to compete at the CTAA National Roadeo in California on May 18-19.

Our TAM General Meeting was held at the Turf Valley Resort on May 7th. Our Annual Meeting included a public Board Meeting, elections to the TAM Board of Directors and a session for Customer Service training presented by Lynn Berger of Strategic Evolution.

Registration for the 31st TAM Conference is **NOW** open to the public. The conference will be held on September 17-19 at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club in Stevensville, MD. We have exciting new training opportunities planned this year as well as plenty of opportunities for networking . . . please check out the full schedule on TAMinc.org! When you do, please take the time to review and create a nomination for one of the "TAM Excellence Awards." Your contribution in this area is used to recognize outstanding members of our organization . . . who work diligently to make people's lives better!

I want to congratulate and welcome our new and returning Board members. Additionally, we extend our gratitude towards all TAM members and business partners. With everyone's sustained involvement, vision and ideas we continue to keep our organization focused towards never-ending improvement. Our mission endures on. . . "To strengthen community transportation in Maryland through advocacy and professional development."

Please take the time to enjoy the upcoming summer season. It's important to balance your commitment to your profession and community with spending precious time with your family and loved ones. . .

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary R. Blazinsky". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gary R. Blazinsky  
TAM Board President



## Office of Local Transit Support Updates

### Human Services (5310) Awards to Be Announced Soon - FY 2020-FY2021

Maryland's Section 5310 program provides Federal funding on a two-year grant cycle for human service agencies that provide enhanced mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities. This year there were 42 Section 5310 grant applications submitted to MTA for review, and MTA is happy to report they were able to fund 36 of those who applied for funding. A total of \$7,024,251 was awarded for a two-year grant cycle. This grant program is a 25% local funding match program.

New this year, MTA has procured a contract for minivans and 46 vans were awarded along with 38 small buses. The remaining awards were for operating expenses, mobility management, preventative maintenance, and other miscellaneous items. These grants will begin July 1, 2019 and run to June 30, 2021.

### Senior Rides Program - FY 2020 Grant Funding

The Senior Rides Program (SRP) is a State-funded program that helps provide organizations the necessary funding to allow seniors to age in place through volunteer transit programs. State SRP funding has been flat for many years, but MTA was able to award 8 of the 10 applications received, totaling the amount of \$187,091 this year.

### New MD-JARC Program

The Maryland Jobs Access Reverse Commute (MD-JARC) Program is a new State-funded grant program designed to connect targeted populations with employment areas that have experienced significant growth. MD-JARC is made up of a total of \$2 million in funding over five years; \$400,000 will be awarded each year with \$280,000 for urban areas and \$120,000 for rural areas. The first grant cycle is for a three-year period (FY20-FY22) and will be followed by a second grant cycle of two years (FY23-FY24). All grants must be endorsed by their Regional Coordinating Bodies before submission. Applications were due May 10, 2019.

# TAM and Maryland RTAP Host Advanced Mobility Devices Securement Training



TAM recognizes each March as Wheelchair Safety and Securement Awareness Month. On March 5 and 6 of this year, TAM and Maryland RTAP hosted Advanced Mobility Devices Securement Training in Linthicum Heights, conducted by National Transit Institute trainers Peter Albrecht and Russ Parish. This year, 30 attendees representing a total of 25 organizations participated, enhancing the safety of passengers and professional drivers throughout Maryland.



Among the many important concepts, requirements, and techniques covered in the training, two points came up that transportation providers may want to highlight when training drivers and dispatchers and when scheduling rides.

1. Vehicle operators are susceptible to securement-related injuries. The training noted that 16% of respondents in a survey of transit operators reported driver injuries sustained as a result of securing mobility devices. These injuries were most often characterized as back strains, arm and shoulder injuries, carpal tunnel syndrome, and cuts, scrapes, or bruises. These can be mitigated by ensuring proper posture, technique, and stretching exercises.
2. Agencies need to make sure time is allotted for adequate securement of passengers. More than half of the training attendees reported that it takes three to five minutes to secure a passenger, sometimes more. More time is typically needed to secure passengers who use scooters and other less common mobility devices.

As part of TAM's Wheelchair Safety and Securement Awareness Month activities, templates for securement posters, flyers, magnets, and wallet cards are provided through the TAM website at <http://taminc.org/wheelchair>. Transportation providers are encouraged to download, print, display them in offices or vehicles, and provide wallet cards to all drivers.



Related training resources available through the National RTAP include:

- Transporting Non-Ambulatory Passengers 2 the Point Training Card - <http://www.nationalrtap.org/Resource-Center/Advanced-Search/fid/506>
- Oversized Wheeled Mobility Devices Technical Brief - <http://nationalrtap.org/Resource-Center/Advanced-Search/fid/759>
- Wheelchair Securement and Lifts eLearning Training Videos from BraunAbility and Q'Straint/Sure-Lok - <http://www.nationalrtap.org/Resource-Center/Advanced-Search/fid/836>

# Federal Updates

## Applications for FTA's Integrated Mobility Innovation program due Aug. 6

On May 9, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced the availability of funding under the Integrated Mobility Innovation (IMI) Demonstration Program. The IMI program funds research in the three areas: Mobility on Demand (MOD) demonstration projects, Transit Automation (to explore the use of vehicle automation technologies in bus transit operations), and Mobility Payment Integration (MPI) research. Eligible applicants for IMI projects are providers of public transportation, including public transportation agencies, state/local government departments of transportation (DOTs), and federally recognized Indian tribes. Applicants must identify one or more strategic project partner(s) in the project. Applications are due August 6, 2019. <https://www.transit.dot.gov/imi>

## U.S. DOT publishes Drug Testing Rule, new MIS form

On April 23, 2019, the U.S. DOT published a final rule that makes minor technical corrections to the FTA regulations (and those of other DOT branches) governing drug testing for safety-sensitive employees, as well as to ensure consistency with the recent amendments made to the DOT's regulation, "Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs," 49 CFR Part 40, which added requirements to test for oxycodone, oxymorphone, hydrocodone, and hydromorphone to DOT-regulated drug testing programs. The changes to the DOT's regulation make it necessary to refer to these substances, as well as the previously covered drugs morphine, 6-acetylmorphine, and codeine, by the more inclusive term "opioids," rather than "opiates." <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-04-23/pdf/2019-06986.pdf>. The DOT MIS form has been updated with "opioids" instead of "opiates." <https://www.transportation.gov/odapc/Part40/Appendix-H>

## FTA publishes updated Implementation Guidelines for Drug & Alcohol Regulations in Public Transportation

FTA has published updated guidelines to provide transit employers with the knowledge and resources needed to develop, implement, and manage a drug and alcohol testing program to comply with FTA and U.S. DOT regulations. FTA Report No. 0127, *Implementation Guidelines for Drug and Alcohol Regulations in Public Transportation*, provides employers with updated guidance to assess compliance, validate policies and procedures, and identify areas that require modification. This guidance was last revised in 2009. <https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/research-innovation/130966/implementation-guidelines-drug-and-alcohol-regulations-public-transportation-fta-report-no0127.pdf>

# General Meeting Convenes Transportation Leaders from across Maryland

By John Duklewski, TAM Executive Director

The TAM General Meeting was held on May 7, 2019 at the Turf Valley Resort conference center in Ellicott City, MD. The meeting included a Board of Director's meeting before the general membership at which the FY 2020 TAM budget was approved and elections were held to the TAM Board of Directors. Re-elected to the Board were Vice President Kevin Cerrone of Washington County Transit, Treasurer Rob Hart of Worcester County Commission on Aging, and Mary Ann Blankenship of St. Mary's Transit System. Laura Bristow of Action in Maturity was elected as the new TAM Community Agency Representative. Following the Board meeting, Customer Service training was presented by Lynn Berger of Strategic Evolution. After the TAM meeting concluded, MDOT MTA conducted a Safety Plan workshop as well as Certified Community Transit Supervisor training on May 8 and 9.

# Federal Updates

## FTA invites comments on proposed changes to Joint Development Guidance

FTA seeks public comment on proposed changes to its joint development process and Joint Development Guidance (Circular (7050.1A)). The changes would increase flexibility for transit agencies to pursue joint development projects, resulting in more value capture opportunities that help create value for both transit systems and surrounding communities. The guidance also would streamline FTA's regulations and approval process. Submit comments by June 3, 2019. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/04/18/2019-07812/joint-development-proposed-updated-circular>

## FTA seeks comments on proposed changes to NTD Reporting

FTA's National Transit Database (NTD) was established by Congress to be the nation's primary source for information and statistics on U.S. transit systems. Recipients and beneficiaries of FTA grants under the Urbanized Area Formula Program (49 U.S.C. 5307) or Rural Area Formula Program (49 U.S.C. 5311) are required by law to report to the NTD. Based on feedback from NTD stakeholders and the transit industry, on April 9, FTA proposed to make reporting changes and clarifications to NTD reporting requirements. The proposed changes are open for public comment through June 10, 2019. Once finalized, changes will be made effective in September 2019. [https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=FTA\\_FRDOC\\_0001-0840](https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=FTA_FRDOC_0001-0840)

# Getting Ready for a

# Compliance Review!



Is your organization scheduled to have a compliance review (such as Triennial Review) with respect to an FTA and/or MDOT MTA grant? If so, here are some tips for how to make the review process go as smoothly as possible.

- The goal of the compliance review is not to penalize grantees for compliance issues, but to help each MDOT MTA grantee attain and stay in compliance, and show that they can document this. Think of the compliance review as an opportunity to identify technical assistance needs your organization may have. For example, if you have been struggling to understand elements of the procurement requirements, it's okay to ask the reviewer how something should be done to come into compliance.
- While the compliance review is a tool to help your organization, it is also an important requirement that comes with accepting a grant from MDOT MTA. MTA's continued FTA grant eligibility depends upon demonstrated oversight of compliance of subrecipients—and this funding could be jeopardized if subrecipients do not follow the FTA rules.
- Make sure all required documentation is current and organized, so you can easily find any requested document in the organization's files. If you are new to Maryland transit or human service transportation management, and are not sure what you are required to keep on file, consult the appropriate MDOT MTA manual. In both the LOTS Manual and 5310 Manual you will find a checklist at the end of each section which lists the required documentation for the topics covered in that section. The current manuals can be downloaded from the TAM website through this page: <http://taminc.org/Office-of-Local-Transit-Support>
- Review your organization's last review and make sure that any prior findings have been addressed thoroughly.
- The compliance review process includes an on-site review and a "desk review" of key documents, such as written policies and plans. The letter informing you of the scheduled review will have a list of requested documents to submit in advance of the on-site review. If you submit all requested documents by the requested date, this will allow the reviewer to review them in advance—and this means less of the reviewer's time



on-site at your organization, and less of your time involved in the site review.

- The reviewer will also send a list of questions that will be covered while on site. Take time to review these questions in advance, with other members of your organization if needed, so that you will know how to answer them completely. Round up any supporting documentation you may need, or at least know where to find it in the organization's files. Current and well-organized files will help minimize the time needed to find documents requested by the reviewer while she or he is on site.
- Make sure the appropriate members of your team will be available to answer questions on the site review day—and anticipate that the site review will involve your participation during most of the day. MDOT MTA and the reviewers realize it can be challenging, especially for a smaller organization, to carve out this time, but the review process is an essential part of administering the grant, and should be a priority.
- At the end of the on-site review day, the reviewer will provide you with a list of items identified as compliance findings. If there are findings in the review, realize these are opportunities to improve your organization. Following the review, you will be advised of corrective actions needed and the time window in which the problem needs to be corrected. It's not uncommon for an organization to have multiple findings, but that doesn't mean it's not a very well-run, mostly compliant grantee! The federal regulations are complex, frequently updated, and sometimes challenging to meet. The compliance review findings will help you reach the goal of full compliance.



Even if a compliance review isn't on the horizon for your organization, it's a recommended practice to be proactive in doing what is required in the grant agreement on an everyday basis. This includes:

- following your organization's policies as written, and
- keeping current on the required documentation on an ongoing basis.

**Help!**

Always remember, you may contact your Regional Planner anytime you have questions.

# Transit Providers Can Help Put the Brakes on Human Trafficking

Transit agencies in every community can be part of the solution for stopping human trafficking in the U.S. In March, the U.S. Department of Transportation's (U.S. DOT) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) launched a new Human Trafficking Awareness and Public Safety Initiative, described on this web page: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-guidance/safety/human-trafficking-awareness-and-public-safety-initiative>

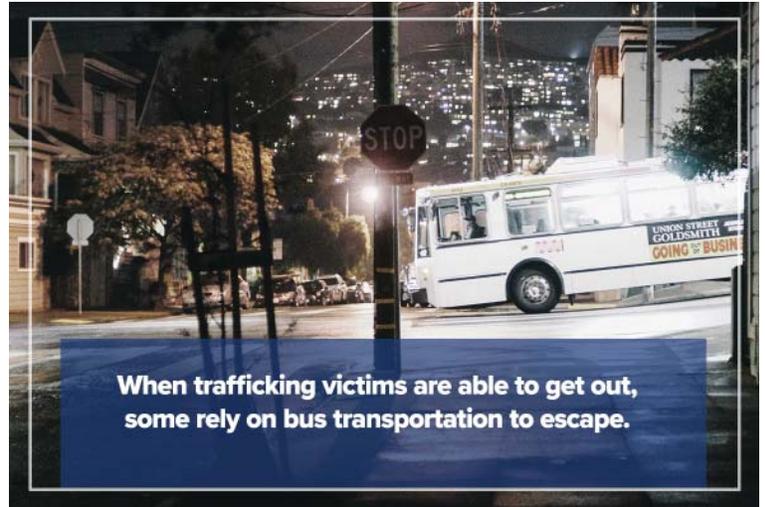
On May 14, 2019, National RTAP hosted a webinar titled, "On-Ramps, Intersections, and Exit Routes: A Roadmap for Transit Agencies to Prevent and Disrupt Human Trafficking." The panelists for this very informative webinar were Kristen Joyner, Chair, Human Trafficking Awareness Protocols and Policies Sub Committee for the Secretary of Transportation and Executive Director of the South West Transit Association (SWTA), and Annie Sovcik, Program Director, Busing on the Lookout (BOTL). The archived webinar and slides can be accessed through the National RTAP Webinar web page (<https://www.nationalrtap.org/Webinar#RecentWebinars>).

The Busing on the Lookout (BOTL) program (<http://busingonthelookout.org>) builds on the successful Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) program which provides training to transportation professionals to assist law enforcement in the recognition and reporting of human trafficking, in order to aid in the recovery of victims and the arrest of their perpetrators. BOTL provides wallet cards for bus drivers, available free of charge, and eye-catching awareness-raising posters (which can be printed and placed in transit facilities and inside of buses) aimed at victims and the general public. BOTL developed a 30-minute video for training bus drivers, available as DVD and online at <https://vimeo.com/249430212>, and can assist transit agencies in tailoring training to meet their driver safety training time frames and setting up their own BOTL approaches.

Transit drivers, customer service personnel, bus ticket vendors, security staff at transit centers, maintenance teams, and other transit staff who notice red flags that something is not right can help save a victim, by reporting what they observed (to the National Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888, local law enforcement, or dispatch) and documenting what they observed.

**Examples of red flags** of a potential victim of trafficking, excerpted from the BOTL wallet card which can be downloaded from <http://busingonthelookout.org>, include:

-  Restricted or controlled communication—the person is not allowed to speak for him- or herself
-  Disheveled appearance, unkempt, alone, scared/crying
-  Does not know the person who is picking them up
-  Signs of branding or tattooing (often of trafficker's name)
-  Is not in possession of own ticket or identification



Source: Busing on the Lookout website, reprinted with permission of Truckers Against Trafficking

The panelists emphasized that transit managers also need to be trained and internal reporting and documentation protocols need to be established before front line personnel are introduced to the training program. The panelists also emphasized that transit personnel should not attempt to intervene or confront a potential trafficker.

Public transportation professionals can be important not only in identifying and reporting potential human trafficking situations, but also in providing a way for a trafficking victim to get to a safe place. During the webinar, Ms. Joyner relayed the story of a girl who had been trafficked from age six to 20, forced to travel to and from trafficking assignments using buses along the Eastern Seaboard. She escaped from her situation when a bus driver found her sleeping in a bus shelter, asked her if she needed help, and provided a ride to a place of safety.

National RTAP has added a Transit and Human Trafficking course to their eLearning system (<https://elearning.nationalrtap.org/>), featuring the BOTL Documentary and Red Flags videos, resources for school bus and public transit drivers, a final assessment, and a certificate of completion. This training, like all other National RTAP resources, is free of charge.

For more information about the BOTL program and training materials, visit <http://busingonthelookout.org>.

## **Save the Date: Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition Build, August 1, 2019 in Baltimore, MD**

Truckers Against Trafficking/Busing on the Lookout will be hosting a Coalition Build in partnership with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and the Maryland Attorney General's Office. This invite-only event aims to build localized networks to close loopholes to traffickers – and to help leaders in the trucking and bus industries know how they can engage in the fight to end trafficking in their communities. Please contact [tat.truckers@gmail.com](mailto:tat.truckers@gmail.com) if you are interested in participating. For more on the TAT Coalition Builds visit: <https://truckersagainsttrafficking.org/coalition-builds/>

# Wanted: Your Nominations for the TAM Excellence Awards



Do you know an employee whose contributions go above and beyond the call of duty? A driver whose professionalism and service are an example to all? A leader who has transformed their organization? Is your organization going above and beyond to help your passengers and serve your community? Submit a nomination for a TAM Excellence Award!

Nomination instructions and forms are available online at [taminc.org/awards/2019](http://taminc.org/awards/2019). Nominations are being accepted in the following categories:

- Outstanding Transit System Achievement
- Outstanding Community Agency
- Driver of the Year
- Outstanding Leadership
- Unsung Transit Employee

Submit your nominations by August 2!

## Scenes from the 2019 TAM Roadeo



REGISTRATION  
is Open!

September **17-19**  
TUES. THUR.

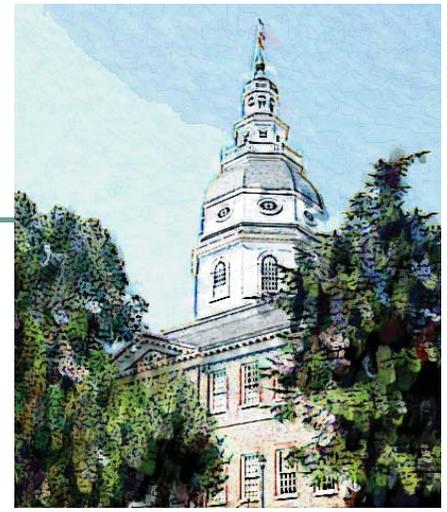
TAM  
ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE



Chesapeake Bay Beach Club & Inn

# 2019 TAM Legislative Report: A Year to Remember!

By Christopher Costello,  
PSCG Senior Partner



2019 was the first Session of the Maryland General Assembly following the 2018 Maryland General Election where we saw a remarkable contest between an incumbent Republican Governor and a Democratic challenger who raised progressive themes during the campaign. All 188 members of the General Assembly were up for re-election, as well as several county executive races. Where the Governor's race readily was won by the Republican, the GOP lost seats in the General Assembly and several county executive races with incumbent Republicans were unexpectedly lost to Democrats.

As the Maryland General Assembly opened, we were shocked to hear that the Senate President Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, Jr. was being treated for cancer. This followed years of concern over the health of House Speaker Michael E. Busch, who had received a liver transplant and open-heart surgery in previous years. Before the end of Session (adjourned sine die), the Speaker had contracted pneumonia and died. At this writing we have a new Speaker, Adrienne A. Jones, who was chosen following what can best be described as an atypical Democratic caucus on May 1st.

During the 2019 Session of the Maryland General Assembly TAM requested sponsors for two legislative initiatives, they were:

- HB 366 and SB 982 *Commission to Study Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Funding*; and
- HB 1150 *Criminal Law - Assault on Public Transportation Operator - Penalties and Reporting*.

HB 366/SB 982 would create a commission to study the possibility of increasing the funding for non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) via reimbursements from certain medical providers who utilize those services.

SB 982 was sponsored by Senator Arthur Ellis (D - Charles County) and assigned to the Senate Finance Committee.

HB 366 was sponsored by Delegate Carol Krimm (D - Frederick County) and heard by the House Committee on Health & Government Operations (HGO) and referred to the Government Operations Subcommittee for a further consideration. The bill received a unanimous approval from the Subcommittee and was referred to the full Committee for final Committee approval; however, the Chair of the HGO, in consultation with the Chair of the Finance Committee, referred the matter to the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) for study and recommendation in lieu of a commission.

TAM's position is that, with the support of the two Committee Chairs, a TAM-led study in lieu of a commission will hopefully simplify and expedite the process of determining the methodology and feasibility of having health care providers, particularly dialysis centers, will be able to reimburse the government for NEMT. TAM's view was that MDH was not

the right department to which the task should be assigned. TAM quickly requested a meeting with the Chairs of the respective Committees and received permission to substitute the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) for MDH and then contacted the principals of both departments for agreement.

Now TAM must put together a group of stakeholders to study the matter, prepare a report and, if possible, make recommendations for legislative relief.

HB 1150, sponsored by Delegate Ric Metzgar (R - Baltimore County) was heard in the House Judiciary Committee but received no vote. The intent of the bill would be to increase the maximum penalty for a physical assault on a public transportation operator from a misdemeanor to a "felony 2nd degree assault." The penalty for this offence would be a maximum fine not to exceed \$5,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed ten years. In addition, this bill included a requirement that public transportation providers annually report all assaults to the Attorney General, including:

- number of assaults;
- nature and extent of any injuries;
- whether the perpetrator was apprehended; and
- status of any prosecution taken against the perpetrator.

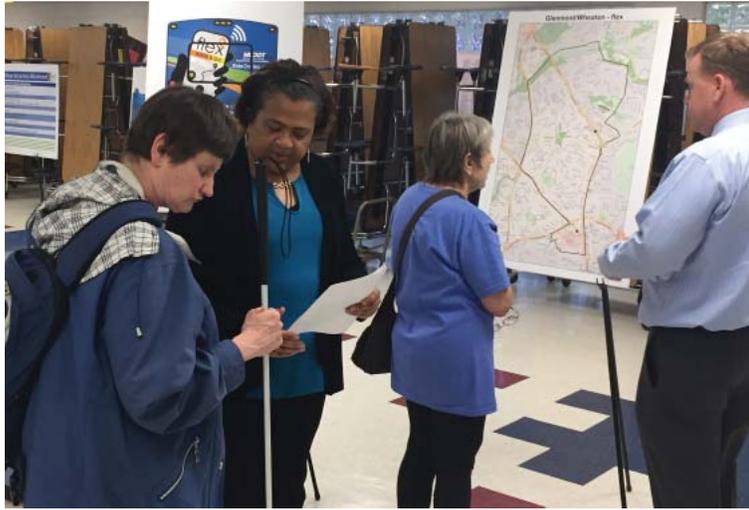
On or before December 31, 2020, and every year thereafter, the Attorney General would report to the Governor and residing officers of the Maryland General Assembly on the incidence of assault in the state against public transportation operators.

Increasing the penalty for an assault from a misdemeanor to a felony may seem like a big step for the trial attorneys who opposed the bill; however, these same penalties that originally applied to assaults against police were subsequently extended to first responders and parole officers. When TAM pointed this fact out at the hearing, one member of the Judiciary Committee indicated that the groups that had been added to the statute deserved the protection more than bus drivers.

TAM will continue to pursue this matter in the hope of finding a way to address the concerns surrounding assaults involving transit operating personnel. We believe that it is possible to convince legislators that bus drivers should be given the same consideration that is currently afforded firemen, ambulance drivers and emergency medical technicians as it pertains to the judicial disposition of those who would assault them in the performance of their duties.

# Local Public & Specialized Transportation News

## Montgomery County Prepares to Pilot Ride On Flex



At a public forum in April 2019, Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) unveiled plans for Ride On Flex, an on-demand transit pilot program to operate in the Rockville, Glenmont, and Wheaton service areas. Area residents turned out to study maps of the service zones, see renderings of the bus design, watch a demo of the Via mobile phone app that will power the Flex service, and ask questions about how the service will operate. The service, which will offer a no-fixed-route, no-fixed-schedule service, will be the first of its kind in the county. The pilot transportation service is designed to improve access and provide more connections to the existing transit network. Ride On Flex will provide on-demand first- and last-mile connections, by new buses, owned and operated by MCDOT, with wheelchair accessibility and free WiFi access.



The pilot program, which is expected to launch in late June, will allow riders to request trips from a designated pick up and drop off location using an app on their mobile phones. An 11-passenger bus will provide service within pre-defined geographical zones at specific times of the day. Riders will be given an estimated time for pick up and drop off, and directed to a nearby virtual bus stop. Flex is expected to operate in the Rockville zone from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and in the Wheaton/

Glenmont zone during the a.m. and p.m. peak periods. The zones offer connections between households, transit hubs, commercial centers and public services. Current Ride On fares will apply to this service. While users will book a ride using the app, they will pay the fare as they board the bus just as with any Ride On service. Learn more at [www.rideonflex.com](http://www.rideonflex.com).

## Scenes from TAM's January 22, 2019 Legislative Reception in Annapolis



# Local Public & Specialized Transportation News

## Howard County and RTA of Central Maryland Launch Enhanced Services

On May 6, Howard County Executive Calvin Ball announced significant enhancements to the Regional Transportation Agency of Central Maryland (RTA) bus service in Howard County as part of his vision for improved transportation.

“Decreasing traffic congestion, improving transportation infrastructure, and expanding public transit are crucial to improving the quality of life for all our residents,” said Ball. “Howard County is uniquely situated to advance key projects and expand transit opportunity throughout our entire region. The future of transportation in our county will be more dynamic, accessible, and forward-thinking. I am confident that Bruce Gartner will help us reach this future with his capable leadership.”

### New Administrator

Bruce Gartner is now leading the Howard County Office of Transportation, overseeing transportation priorities, including coordination with the RTA, associated funding for transit improvements, and bicycling and pedestrian initiatives. Most recently working with the firm Jacobs Engineering Group, Gartner is also a 20-year veteran of MDOT. Before joining Jacobs, Gartner served as Executive Director of the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA), as well as serving in several positions at MDOT, including Director of Policy and Government Affairs and Assistant Secretary for Policy at MDOT between 2008 and 2013. In those leadership roles, he worked closely with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority and MTA to implement Maryland’s transit priorities and worked closely with the Maryland General Assembly on transportation funding initiatives.



From left: Bruce Gartner, Administrator, Howard County Office of Transportation; Cristin Tolen, General Manager, RTA; Andrew Johnson, Assistant General Manager, RTA; Calvin Ball, Howard County Executive; Astamay Curtis, Chairperson, RTA Riders’ Advisory Council; Susan Poole, Director of Communications, RTA; Stephanie Dittman, Office Manager, RTA; Jason Quan, Transit Planning Manager, Howard County.



### RTA Enhancements

The RTA enhancements, which took effect on May 5th, added 5,600 new service hours to Howard County routes. The county adjusted schedules to shorten wait times between buses and eliminated two-hour frequencies. All buses now operate on 30-minute or one-hour intervals, and the county added new or expanded service on Sunday routes. Three new routes were added within the current service area to allow for more efficient rides with shorter travel times. Residents over 60 years old and those with disabilities will still be able to ride fixed-route buses for free, system wide. In addition, the transit app RouteShout 2.0 allows users to see personalized bus arrival and departure times by route, address, or location. Visit [www.transitrt.com/NewRoutes](http://www.transitrt.com/NewRoutes) to learn more.

In preparation for the service change, the RTA in partnership with Howard County launched an aggressive marketing campaign in early April and throughout the month of May to notify customers of route realignments affecting 11 of RTA’s 15 service routes. Campaign initiatives included:

- Advertising for five weeks in seven local newspapers covering the entire RTA service area. A Rider Pocket Guide featuring RTA service routes with key bus stop locations was adhered to the front page of all newspapers.
- Distributing a 55-page rider brochure detailing the changes.
- Promoting the RouteShout 2.0 mobile app through a digital e-blast campaign and outfitting all RTA operators and employees with a safety yellow RouteShout 2.0 shirt.
- Collaborating on a YouTube video series to communicate changes (view sample at <https://youtu.be/ZS-uwjVBV-Q>).
- Conducting a five-week outreach effort covering RTA service hubs, senior centers, and libraries throughout the service area.
- Advertising at the mall and on the exterior of buses.

In addition to the RouteShout 2.0 app and website, customers now can access RTA schedules on Google Maps, Apple Maps, Bing Maps, Transit App, Moovit, and City Mapper.

## Great Ideas in Action

### Lower Shore Enterprises Drivers Exchange Buses to Even Out Usage, Maximize Warranty

Many transportation providers assign vehicles to specific drivers. While this practice has some benefits, it also can result in putting very low mileage on some vehicles and very high mileage on others—and quickly using up the warranty of the high-mileage vehicles. One of Maryland’s transportation providers found a way to even out mileage while still giving drivers the benefit of having a vehicle they can call their own (for a month at a time).

Lower Shore Enterprises Inc. received four new buses last year. Director of Transportation Jimmy Reid soon noticed that one of the drivers put over 1,000 miles a week his bus, while the other drivers averaged between 250 to 300 miles a week. To even things out, he started the practice of reassigning buses on a monthly basis: at the beginning of every month, the drivers exchange buses. By rotating exchanges through all four drivers and vehicles, at the end of the year, the mileage on each bus will be close, and Lower Shore Enterprises stays in their warranty period much longer. Reid reports that this practice has also resulted in a fuel cost savings. Although initially this practice was an adjustment for Lower Shore Enterprises drivers, they understand the reason behind it and continue to take pride in their assigned vehicles throughout the month.



*From left: Lower Shore Enterprises Director of Transportation Jimmy Reid, in orange vest, with Lower Shore Enterprises drivers who exchange vehicles Phil Nibbles, Mac Roberts, George Biven, and Less McCullar (not pictured: Anthony Dashiell)*

## Morgan State University Researches Sustainable Concrete Bus Pad Design

The Urban Mobility and Equity Center at Morgan State University recently



completed a research project titled, “Sustainable Design of Concrete Bus Pads to Improve Mobility in Baltimore City.” Bus pads are highly durable areas of the roadway surface at bus stops, usually made of concrete, constructed to accommodate the weight of a bus and address the common issue of asphalt distortion at bus stops. However, if the concrete pads aren’t properly designed and constructed, they will crack, requiring expensive, inconvenient repairs. Researchers carried out a field study in Baltimore that included extracting two concrete strips from a bus pad and testing them in the Structures Laboratory of Morgan State University. They developed a numerical model, studied soil-structure interaction, and examined the load-bearing capacity of the current bus pad design. They determined that both the design and construction of bus pads in Baltimore need to be modified. In their report, the researchers offered design and construction recommendations to lengthen the lifespan of the bus pads and reduce maintenance costs. The full report is available at [https://www.morgan.edu/school\\_of\\_engineering/research\\_centers/urban\\_mobility\\_and\\_equity\\_center/research/completed\\_research/concrete\\_bus\\_pads.htm](https://www.morgan.edu/school_of_engineering/research_centers/urban_mobility_and_equity_center/research/completed_research/concrete_bus_pads.htm)

## Associate Member News

### InterMotive Offers Key In/Out Idle Reduction Solution

TAM Associate Member InterMotive offers EcoStar III™, a versatile auto stop/start idle reduction system that works with the key in or out of the ignition. Utilizing the free mobile app, users can easily customize module settings, capture real-time diagnostics data and enable manual stop/start of the engine remotely. With key-in operation, EcoStar III is fully automatic with a lower battery draw, which maximizes engine shut off time. With key-out operation, the added theft deterrent feature locks the shifter in Park, allowing the driver to exit the vehicle with the key and lock the doors while EcoStar III operates. Along with monitoring battery voltage, EcoStar III includes high idle for quicker battery charge and better AC performance. A thermostat regulation option is also available to keep interior temperature comfortable for passengers or temperature-sensitive equipment. For more information, visit [www.InterMotive.net](http://www.InterMotive.net).



**Does your organization have news related to community transportation in Maryland?** Submissions are always welcome for the *Maryland Transit Update*, particularly from MTA grantees and TAM members. Submissions for the Fall issue are requested by **September 30, 2019**, and can be sent to [bhamby@kfhgroup.com](mailto:bhamby@kfhgroup.com).

# Local Public & Specialized Transportation News

## TransIT Services of Frederick County Updates Fare Payment Options, Celebrates Special Days

### Taxi Access Program Payment Options

Beginning on January 1, 2019, customers of the Taxi Access Program (TAP, supplemental service to Transit-plus, Frederick County's countywide paratransit service) were given more flexible monthly payment options. Monthly TAP payments are based on two zones within Frederick County, determined by zip code. Previously, Zone A customers were required to pay \$10 to receive \$60 per month in cab fare, and Zone B customers were required to pay \$20 to receive \$120 per month in cab fare. With the payment update, customers now have the option to split their monthly payments into two installments. TransIT hopes the flexible payment option reduces the financial barrier so those who need the service have access to it.

### Transit Driver Appreciation Day

Thousands of passengers joined TransIT Services of Frederick County in thanking TransIT's drivers for their service on March 18, 2019 for Transit Driver Appreciation Day, a national day of recognition celebrated annually. TransIT staff and passengers thanked all of their drivers for their hard work and the service they provide to Frederick County residents daily.

### New Summer Passes for Youths, College Students



In October 2018, TransIT launched a new mobile ticketing app, Token Transit, allowing customers to purchase tickets directly on their phone. On May 1, 2019, TransIT made available for purchase on the app a summer pass for youths and college students. The Summer Freedom Pass costs \$15 and covers bus and shuttle

fare from June 1 to August 31 for youths and college students ages 13 to 22. Additionally, a Summer Kid Pass is available for children ages 4 to 12 to ride all summer for free when accompanied by an adult.

### Free Rides on Earth Day and Dump the Pump Day

On April 22, 2019, TransIT observed the 49th anniversary of Earth Day by providing free rides on Connector and Shuttle routes. TransIT riders received Earth Day-themed thank-you giveaways for choosing alternative transportation, saving fuel and reducing CO2 emissions.

On June 20, TransIT will celebrate the 14th annual National Dump the Pump Day by providing free rides on all Connector and shuttle routes. Passengers who take part in Dump the Pump Day will receive a TransIT-branded giveaway when boarding as a thank-you for riding. Dump the Pump Day is observed by many jurisdictions and public transit systems across the U.S.

to encourage people to ride public transit (instead of driving) to save money as well as to raise awareness that public transportation helps improve the environment and conserves fuel. In Frederick County, public transit bus stops are within one-quarter mile of 85 percent of all Frederick businesses, including employment, medical, education, and shopping. In FY 2018, TransIT provided more than 608,000 trips locally.



### Bike to Work Day Celebrated May 17

On May 17, 2019, the Metropolitan Washington region celebrated Bike to Work Day, a regional event coordinated by Commuter Connections and the Washington Area Bicycle Association to provide awareness for bicycle commuting and increase cycling as a means of transportation. The region hosted over 115 pit stops including Frederick, hosted by TransIT Services of Frederick County and the City of Frederick, at the Frederick Transit Center from 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. Frederick's event included a ceremonial ride through downtown Frederick followed by free refreshments from Krispy Kreme, The Common Market, and Dublin Roasters, music from KEY103, remarks from local dignitaries, and prizes from The Bicycle Escape, Anytime Fitness, and more. In honor of Bike to Work Day, all bike riders received free rides on TransIT Connectors and shuttle routes. All TransIT buses are equipped with bike racks for multi-modal transportation.

### MDOT MTA's Holly Arnold Recognized Among *Mass Transit's* "Top 40 under 40"

TAM congratulates Holly Arnold, Deputy Administrator & Chief Planning, Programming & Engineering Officer of MDOT MTA, for being recognized in *Mass Transit* magazine's 2018 "Top 40 under 40" transit professionals. Read the article featuring Holly Arnold here: <https://www.masstransitmag.com/40-under-40/article/12424998/2018-top-40-under-40-holly-arnold> and find the full list of 40 here: <https://www.masstransitmag.com/40-under-40>.

## Harford County's Public Bus System: Customers First

### New Routes & Schedules

In January 2019, Harford County's public bus system upgraded services with new, easier to navigate routes and schedules. In response to customer requests, Harford Transit LINK rolled out the improvements including extended weekday hours, additional bus stops, and more frequent buses on fixed routes. All existing bus stops remained, while the need for transfers were reduced as the LINK's eight routes were consolidated into six. The changes followed an analysis of all routes to improve on-time performance.

### Customer response has been overwhelmingly supportive

*"With the new service I am now able to get to and from work and still get my twins to where they need to be, something I couldn't manage before. I cannot say enough about how amazing the Harford Transit LINK dispatch team and drivers are. This new service is truly life changing for me." - current Harford Transit LINK rider*

*"I just want to say how much I appreciate the humanness of the assistance. This is a world so caught up in regulations and rules that very few people will put themselves out and give assistance that may be in-convenient. The transit dispatch operator called me back and went out of her way to help me and I am so grateful! What excellent customer service and kindness! - spouse of new demand response rider*

*"Customer service was great! Even when I called with multiple questions I reached a pleasant, friendly voice who was very helpful and wasn't anxious to get me off the phone! Thank you to everyone at Harford Transit!" - current demand response rider*

### Enhanced Visibility, Safety and Security

New and improved bus stop signs have been installed throughout the LINK's service area. The updated bus stop signs clearly mark the LINK's numerous bus stops - more than 250 around Harford County and into Cecil County. The signage makes it easier for riders to see where they catch the bus and show all connections to other LINK buses, allowing riders to use Harford Transit with increased ease. The new signs are larger and identify not only the routes and destinations but also provide QR and numeric codes where riders can link to real time schedule and bus location information.

The Harford Transit team installed new in-vehicle video surveillance equipment in the entire fleet. Harford Transit management continues to work toward procuring and installing bus shelters around the county. The first bus shelter opened at the Aberdeen MARC Train Station in October 2017 and the most recent bus shelter opened near the Mary E. Risteau State Office Building in Bel Air in May 2019.



From left: Alan Doran, Rideshare Coordinator, Harford Commute Smart; Jesse Bane, Administrator, Town of Bel Air; Deana Houser, Transit Coordinator Assistant, Harford Transit LINK; Jodi Glock, Administrative Supervisor, Harford Transit LINK; Gary R. Blazinsky, Administrator, Harford Transit LINK; Susan Burdette, Mayor, Town of Bel Air; Len Parrish, Director, Office of Community and Economic Development; Steven Overbay, Deputy Director, Office of Community and Economic Development; Delegate Susan McComas, District 34 B; Todd Lang, Director of Transportation Planning, Baltimore Metropolitan Council

### Free Apps Make it Easy to Take the Bus

Token Transit allows users to buy and display bus passes on their smartphones, eliminating the need to carry exact fare or bus passes. RouteShout 2.0 displays Harford LINK's routes and stops, and tracks buses in real time.

"Harford County's award-winning bus service keeps moving forward for our citizens," County Executive Barry Glassman said. "We continue to improve efficiencies, while these new upgrades and our free apps make it more convenient than ever before to let Harford Transit LINK take you where you want to go." Harford County Transit LINK was named the 2017 Outstanding Transit System of the Year by the Transportation Association of Maryland for its campaign to become a leader in modernization and customer service.

"We will continue to innovate, continue to improve. We have a dedicated transit team who work tirelessly to make riding public transit easily accessible to everyone," stated Gary Blazinsky, Harford Transit LINK Administrator.

The system operates 36 vehicles Monday through Friday with six routes countywide and into Cecil County. The LINK also connects with MARC and Amtrak trains, MTA commuter buses, and regional Greyhound, which then connect with main terminals in Baltimore and interstate travel. Key service areas include Harford Community College, the Mary E. Risteau State Office Building, University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health and Harford Memorial hospitals, the Perryman Peninsula and Riverside business communities, Aberdeen Train Station, Harford Mall, the Constant Friendship shopping area, Edgewater Village Shopping Center, and Beard's Hill Shopping Plaza. For more information about Harford Transit LINK, visit [www.harfordtransitlink.org](http://www.harfordtransitlink.org).

# Transit Bookshelf & Toolbox

## New & Interesting Free Resources



## National RTAP

New and recently updated resources offered by the National Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) ([www.nationalrtap.org](http://www.nationalrtap.org)) include:

- Transit Manager's Toolkit (<http://www.nationalrtap.org/Toolkits/Transit-Managers-Toolkit>)
- ProcurementPRO 2.0 (<http://www.nationalrtap.org/Web-Apps/ProcurementPRO-20>)
- Performance Evaluation for Rural Transit Systems Technical Brief (<http://nationalrtap.org/Resource-Library/Advanced-Search/fid=82>)
- Guidance for Rural and Tribal Transit Agencies During a Government Shutdown Technical Brief (<http://nationalrtap.org/Resource-Library/Advanced-Search/fid=969>)
- Applying Good Business Practices: Hiring, Training and Evaluating Employees Technical Brief (<http://nationalrtap.org/Resource-Library/Advanced-Search/fid=15>)

Archived recordings of recent webinars can be streamed through <http://nationalrtap.org/Webinars>, including:

- *On-Ramps, Intersections, and Exit Routes: A Roadmap for Transit Agencies to Prevent and Disrupt Human Trafficking*, presented 5/15/19
- *National RTAP Two-Variable Cost Allocation Webinar*, presented 5/14/19 (Excel version) & 5/15/19 (Access version)
- *An Inside Look at the National RTAP Resource Library*, presented 4/17/19

Transcripts of recent peer discussions can be downloaded from <http://www.nationalrtap.org/Technical-Assistance/Peer-Roundtables-and-Chats>, including:

- *Zero-Emission Transition Twitter Chat*, held 4/10/19
- *Transit Marketing Matters Twitter Chat*, held 4/10/19

Archived webinars and peer discussions can also be streamed on National RTAP's YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc4brioxdz-zWOcgNOuOKXw>

## National Center for Mobility Management (NCMM)

Recent releases on the NCMM website (<http://nationalcenterformobilitymanagement.org/>) include:

- *Opportunities to Improve Community Mobility through Community Health Needs Assessments*
- *Considerations for TNC Partnerships: Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities*

## National Transit Institute (NTI)

Recorded NTI webinars available through NTI's YouTube site (<http://www.youtube.com/user/RutgersNTI/videos>) include:

- *NTD Reporting for Reduced Reporters, Report Year 2018* (1/15/19)

## National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC)

Resources recently posted to the NADTC website at <http://www.nadtc.org/resources-publications/> include:

- Volunteer Transportation Program: Keys to a Successful Program Toolkit
- Volunteer Transportation Program Risk, Liability, and Insurance Webinar
- Volunteer Transportation Programs Topic Spotlight
- Best Practices Series on Volunteer Transportation Programs
- *The 2018 Transportation Trends Report* provides access to information about local communities' efforts to develop, fund, and operate accessible transportation. Each brief within the report includes case studies on how changes in transportation are being implemented in states and communities in the U.S. Each month, NADTC will feature the report sections as "Topic Spotlights." 2018 topics include:
  - Cancer Care and Dialysis Transportation
  - Innovative Approaches to Section 5310 Match
  - Non-Emergency Medical Brokerages and Coordination
  - Opioid Use and Transportation
  - Volunteer Transportation Programs

## Transportation Research Board (TRB)

Recent releases from the Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP), downloadable through <http://www.trb.org/Publications/PubsTCRPPublications.aspx>

- *TCRP Synthesis 138: Public Transit Rider Origin-Destination Survey Methods and Technologies*
- *TCRP Synthesis 139: Transit Evaluation Standards*
- *TCRP Synthesis 141: Microtransit or General Public Demand Response Transit Services: State of the Practice*
- *TCRP Synthesis 142: Implementing the U.S. DOT Reasonable Modification Rule*
- *TCRP Legal Research Digest 54: Impacts of the Americans with Disabilities Act on Transit Agency Liability*

Helpful unpublished research reports:

- *TCRP Report 203: Dialysis Transportation: Intersection of Transportation and Healthcare*, pre-publication draft: <http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/178786.aspx>
- *TCRP Report 204: Partnerships Between Transit Agencies and Transportation Network Companies*, pre-publication draft: <http://www.trb.org/main/blurbs/179005.aspx>
- *NCHRP 20-65/Task 73: Best Practices and Marketing to Increase Rural Transit Ridership and Investment*, contractor's final report: [http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/docs/NCHRP20-65\(73\)\\_FR.pdf](http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/docs/NCHRP20-65(73)_FR.pdf)

Archived recent relevant TRB webinars include:

- *Dialysis Transportation: The Intersection of Transportation and Healthcare*, 5/13/19 - <https://vimeo.com/336111611>

# Calendar of Transit Learning Opportunities & Events

May 29: National RTAP Transit Manager Peer Roundtable, online meeting/call 2-3 pm EDT - <https://www.nationalrtap.org/Technical-Assistance/Peer-Roundtables-and-Chats>

May 30: FTA Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan Final Rule Webinar - Safety Management Policy and Safety Promotion, webinar 2 pm EDT - <http://www.transit.dot.gov/about/events/webinar-safety-management-policy-and-safety-promotion-ptasp>

June 5: TCRP Synthesis 131: College Student Transit Pass Programs, webinar - <http://www.ntionline.com/webinars/>

June 10-14: TSI Transit Supervisor Certification, Gaithersburg, MD - <https://tsi-dot.csod.com>

June 12-14: TSI Safety Management Systems (SMS) Principles for Transit, Pittsburgh, PA - <https://tsi-dot.csod.com>

June 19: TCRP Research Report 199: Transit Technical Training, Volume 1: Guide to Applying Best Practices and Sharing Resource, webinar - <http://www.ntionline.com/webinars/>

June 24-28: TSI Fundamentals of Bus Collision Investigation, Charlottesville, VA - <https://tsi-dot.csod.com>

July 15: CTAA PASS Driver Certification Training, Charlottesville, VA - <https://ctav.site-ym.com/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1232274>

July 19: CTAA PASS Driver Certification Training, Roanoke, VA - <https://ctav.site-ym.com/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1232294>

July 23-25: West Virginia Public Transit Association Conference, Roanoke, WV - <http://wvtransit.com/july-23-25-2019-conference/>

Aug. 5-7: Community Transportation Association of Virginia Conference & EXPO, Roanoke, VA - [http://ctav.site-ym.com/page/2019\\_EXPO](http://ctav.site-ym.com/page/2019_EXPO)

Aug. 7-9: CTAA Annual Small Urban Network (SUN) Conference, Athens, GA - <http://ctaa.org/sun-2019/>

Aug. 26-28: TSI Safety Management Systems (SMS) Principles for Transit, Landover, MD - <https://tsi-dot.csod.com>

Sep. 9-13: TSI Transit Supervisor Certification, Dover, DE - <https://tsi-dot.csod.com>

Sep. 10-11: PennTRAIN Positive Safety Culture and Safety Management Workshop, to be determined, PA - <http://www.penntrain.net/pages/calendar.html>

Sep. 15-18: National RTAP Conference, Portland, OR - <http://www.nationalrtap.org>

Sep. 17-19: TAM Annual Conference with RTAP training, Stevensville, MD - <http://taminc.org/conference2019>



Sep. 16-20: TSI Transit System Security, Landover, MD - <https://tsi-dot.csod.com>

Oct. 13-16: APTA TRANSform Conference, New York, NY - <http://www.apta.com/conferences-events/transform/>

Jan. 20, 2020: TAM Legislative Reception, Annapolis, MD - Save the date and watch <http://taminc.org/>



## June is National Safety Month!

The National Safety Council offers safety infographics that are free to download and display, including:

- *Dangers of Drowsy Driving*
- *Hands-free Is Not Risk-free*
- *The Great Multitasking Lie*
- *Driving Down Distraction*
- *Avoid the Dash to the Dashboard*

For helpful safety reminders for your employees, visit <http://www.nsc.org/road-safety/tools-resources/infographics/>.

## TCRP Seeks Your Research Ideas!

The Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) invites problem statements for FY 2020 research funding. For instructions, visit <http://www.trb.org/TCRP/TCRP.aspx> and download [http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/tcrp/docs/FY%202020\\_Solicitation.docx](http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/tcrp/docs/FY%202020_Solicitation.docx). The submission deadline has been extended to June 28, 2019.

## About Maryland RTAP and TAM



The Maryland Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) is a program of MDOT MTA Office of Local Transit Support. Maryland RTAP provides the following types of assistance targeted at Maryland rural and small urban public transit providers: training classes and materials, scholarships to assist with costs of attending training away from home, a lending library of training and resource materials, and dissemination of information on training opportunities and other issues of interest to community transit providers in Maryland. For more information about Maryland RTAP, contact Jeannie Fazio at [jfazio1@mta.maryland.gov](mailto:jfazio1@mta.maryland.gov) or 410-767-3781.



The Transportation Association of Maryland, Inc. (TAM) is a statewide professional organization committed to improving mobility and economic opportunity for all of Maryland's citizens. TAM's mission is to strengthen community transportation in Maryland through advocacy and professional development. Transportation services provided by TAM members link people to community resources and promote business, tourism, and economic development. For more information about TAM's member services and RTAP library, visit the website at [www.taminc.org](http://www.taminc.org), or call 410-553-4245. TAM is located at 939 Elkridge Landing Road, Suite 195, Linthicum, MD 21090.