Meeting Notes
Federal Transit Administration
Technical Assistance Center Coordination Meeting
June 18, 2020 from 9 am – Noon EST

Purpose: In light of COVID-19, to continue to prioritize a coordinated communication strategy across FTA and its five national technical assistance (TA) centers that will effectively share information with state transportation agencies and rural and tribal transit providers on coordination opportunities and leading coordination practices in an accessible and informative way.

Objectives: To continue to resolve the outstanding GAO recommendation via Public Transportation: Enhanced Federal Information Sharing on Coordination Could Improve Rural Transit Services, and to update and discuss among all of the TA Centers about COVID-19-related circumstances and adjustments, by:

1. Sharing updates lessons learned related to COVID-19;
2. Continuing work to generate a centralized, searchable library database cataloging all available transportation resources, cross linked on FTA-funded TA centers and FTA program webpages. (Under development by NRTAP);
3. Continue planning 2020 quarterly convenings (September and December) to share upcoming events and resources for cross promotion, and encourage ongoing coordination across the TA centers and FTA; and
4. Recommending future activities for coordination.

FTA Update (Marianne Stock, FTA)
- CARES Act Update - As of this morning, FTA has awarded 416 grants totaling $17.4 billion out of $25 billion. This is on top of other funding FTA awarded in the same period. This amounts to 70% of the CARES Act funds. Funds were bucketed into 5311 program, tribal funding, and 5307 urban funding. 66% of rural, 30% of tribal, 70% of urban funds have been awarded. FTA is proud to get this much money out the door to help our grantees and the riding public. It will be great if TA centers can highlight what's going on around coordination related to CARES Act funding. Please note that Section 5310 was not included in CARES Act funding.
- Working on updating the Charter Rule Appendix A
- Tribal self-governance program being expanded for USDOT funding to Tribes; will require Tribal eligibility and a compact between a Tribe and USDOT (effective Oct. 1, 2020). The FAST Act mandated the establishment of a USDOT Tribal Self-Governance program, which exists in similar form at HHS and BIA. Participating Tribes will have greater control over their funds – they can receive funding directly from the Office of Secretary rather than through multiple USDOT modes/grants. FTA will host meetings this summer to explain the new rule.

Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility (CCAM) Update (Danielle Nelson, FTA)
- CCAM Report to Congress will be submitted by Sept. 30, 2020
- CCAM Cost Sharing Policy is currently in FTA concurrence and will be posted to the CCAM website later this summer
- CCAM Federal Fund Braiding Guide was publicly posted on June 1, 2020

Technical Assistance (TA) Center Updates

National Rural Transit Assistance Program (NRTAP) Update (Robin Phillips, NRTAP):
- Working on a state procurement portal.
- Collaborated with NCMM on Cost Allocation
- Looking for ways to collaborate with other TA Centers on their efforts.
- RFI is out for compliance trainers to provide virtual training.
- National rural transit day is July 16th – there will be a Twitter chat that day.

National Center for Mobility Management (NCMM):
- Gearing up for virtual peer exchanges and regional mobility forums. Will be virtual and focus on MaaS and open/safe streets
- Building partnerships
    Work with Administration for Children and Families and other organizations, getting different departments to talk to each other for first time
    Grants were a flagship project: 3 successful planning grants moving forward. Applications open for new planning grants; pilot grants coming out in August.
- On website: New knowledge center that collects resources around specific themes. Currently One-Call/One-Click and Typology of Technology. Have also added a performance metric page to show NCMM's performance
- Finishing up report on mobility and social isolation.

National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC):
- Working on coordination
- Boot camp for transit managers, next up is Human Service Agency managers
- Launching a photo gallery that provides photos that anyone can use in collateral – just need to cite original photographer Includes Alt Text.
- Developing coordination page to highlight coordination resource
- Researching case studies, including updates to TCRP report 101
- New intern looking for best practices to highlight in coordination
- Working on coordination through tech lens
- Have developed page to collect resources on COVID

Administration for Community Living (ACL) Update:
NADTC is a partnership between FTA and ACL. ACL is included in decision about the NADTC and invited to attend meetings where NADTC is discussed.

- ACL Strategic Framework: Lori Gerhard has requested comments from TA centers and their audiences. The comment deadline is Aug. 31, 2020.
- ACL would like to work with national organizations and states to strengthen and create partnerships. A specific goal is to coordinate HHS-transportation-related work with transportation planning.

Shared Use Mobility Center (SUMC):
- Moved annual summit to virtual. Worked well and brought in more people who otherwise wouldn't have been able to travel for it.
- Continue building learning center, including a COVID section with case studies.
- Held human services transportation webinar.
- Working on IMI grants – coordinating work groups, meetings, workshops so they can launch projects.

National Center for Applied Transit Technology (N-CATT):
- Website has gone live
- Building resources – have conducted three webinars, working on white papers, fact sheets, monthly newsletter
- Promoting programs and work from other TA centers
- Beginning work on podcasts and video case studies
- Big TA efforts: State Summits and Strike Teams all being held in next two months

Topics for further exploration or coordination among TA centers:
1. TA center surveys
2. Alignment of TA center survey questions
3. Collaborating to identify research proposals - TCRP deadline is June 30, 2020
4. Coordination and joint TA center work - joint webinars, publications, resources for sharing lessons learned
5. Expansion of the conception of modes we cover and the dividing lines among modes and transportation purposes - open streets, using transit and shared-use vehicles for delivery of goods
6. Federal fund braiding - promoting and using the CCAM Federal Fund Braiding Guide
7. Increased broadband access in rural areas
8. SDOH and transportation - in particular, alleviating social isolation
9. Accessibility for zoom and other virtual event platforms - closed captioning, visual access to materials shown