

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SAVES TOTAL OF \$20.8 BILLION NATIONALLY IN 2011, ACCORDING TO TTI REPORT



Benefits of Public Transportation in Terms of Congestion

For its annual Urban Mobility Report for 2012, the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) analyzed congestion and mobility issues for the 498 urbanized areas in the United States using 2011 data. Findings from this study indicate that in 2011 public transportation saved travelers in U.S. urban areas a total of 865 million hours of delay and 450 million gallons of fuel. This translates into savings of \$20.8 billion for the year (p. 18).

The report also provided public transportation savings information for 101 individual urban areas showing that Baton Rouge's public transportation system

saved its travelers 165,000 hours of delay and \$4.1 million in congestion costs (p. 52); and New Orleans' travelers were saved 1.75 million hours of delay and \$40.3 million in congestion costs as a result of public transportation (p. 51).

National Congestion Measurements

The full report (available at <http://mobility.tamu.edu/>) goes into great detail presenting data about the congestion issues facing commuters in the United States. According to the report, the total cost of congestion reached \$121 billion in 2011, up from \$94 billion in 2000 and \$24 billion in 1982 (p. 5). Of that total cost, truck congestion

cost totaled \$27 billion in 2011, while total travel delay was calculated at 5.5 billion hours and total excess fuel consumed reached 2.9 billion gallons in the same year (p. 31). These national total numbers translate to an average yearly delay of 38 hours per auto commuter, an average excess fuel consumption of 19 gallons per auto commuter, and an average congestion cost of \$818 per auto commuter (p.27). Though 2011 congestion was lower than the peak congestion experienced in 2005, this is likely due to the slowed economy and will probably shift as the economy recovers (p. 1).

TTI's Recommendations for Congestion Relief Strategies

In 2011 there were approximately 56 billion passenger-miles traveled on public transportation systems in the 498 urban areas. Though the benefits of public transportation vary from place to place according to road congestion levels and the amount of travel, it is widely applied as a congestion management solution making travel more efficient and reliable (p.18).

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NOTES FROM THE TOP

BY DONNA LAVIGNE



It seems as though the summer flew by – we had several workshops and are planning several more, we've had some staff changes and more are on the way, and it's looking like the 4th quarter of 2013 is going to be just as busy, if not more so. The conference is coming and if you've looked at the agenda on our website, it promises to be an exciting learning and networking opportunity. Our 2013 Public Transportation Conference will be held on November 20-22 in New Orleans at the Hyatt Regency. You can find more information in the Spot Light article later in this newsletter or on our website at <http://www.dotd.la.gov/intermodal/transit/>.

In late July, we hosted a Coordination Workshop for all of our Section 5310 providers. The workshop was held in Shreveport and was well attended with over 100 participating. There were several great ideas that came out of that meeting that we are investigating. One

of the gems from the workshop was to create a chat room for the various topics so that providers from across the state can discuss ongoing issues and help each other with ideas and solutions. We hope to unveil something at the conference. We also provided another opportunity to receive PASS training on October 2-4 in Alexandria at the Parc England Hotel. The training session was well attended.

As I mentioned, there have been some staff changes and more on the way. Krystal Kauffman left us and moved to a position at the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals – we will miss her and wish her luck in her new position. However, Kay Ryall took over Krystal's position as Training Program Manager – most of you know her from her position as the JARC/New Freedom Program Manager. We have advertised Kay's old position and hope to have the new person on board in time to introduce them at the conference.

Thanks for your continued support of the public transportation mission in Louisiana. If there is any specific training that you need or want DOTD to sponsor, please contact me or Kay Ryall. We look forward to seeing all of you at the 2013 Conference in New Orleans.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

From all of us here at the DOTD Public Transportation Section, we hope you have a wonderful and productive Fall and we look forward to seeing you at the annual Public Transportation Conference in New Orleans, November 20 - 22, 2013.



NTI COURSES

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: www.ntionline.com

NOV 5 - 7	Management of Construction Projects	Portland, OR
NOV 12 - 13	National Transit Database (Urban Reporting)	Raleigh, NC
NOV 13 - 14	Quality Assurance and Quality Control in Transit ...	Boston, MA
NOV 14 - 15	Risk Assessment for Transit Capital Projects	Atlanta, GA
DEC 3 - 4	Project Management for Transit Professionals	San Francisco, CA
DEC 10 - 11	Comprehensive ADA Paratransit Eligibility	North Little Rock, AR

APTA COURSES

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: www.apta.com

JAN 22 - 24	Business Members' Board of Governors Annual Business Meeting	San Diego, CA
MAR 9 - 11	Legislative Conference	Washington, DC

TSI COURSES

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: www.tsi.dot.gov

ONGOING	Courses are offered around the country on various topics throughout the year.	
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LADOTD EVENTS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: www.dotd.la.gov/intermodal/transit

OCT 2 - 4	PASS Training Parc England Hotel	Alexandria, LA
NOV 20 - 22	LADOTD Annual Public Transportation Conference Hyatt Regency New Orleans	New Orleans, LA

SPOTLIGHT ON...

LADOTD ANNUAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE



LOUISIANA TRANSIT: WE GO THE DISTANCE!

This year's Public Transportation Conference is coming up November 20-22 and you won't want to miss it; these two and a half days will be packed with fun events and informative sessions covering a wide variety of transit topics. Charles R. Carr, Director of Intermodal Planning at MDOT will be our luncheon speaker on November 20, 2013.

General Sessions

Attendees will also have the opportunity to hear from transit officials about what's happening in transit at the state level and how it will affect Louisiana; and will also get information about this year's RTAP trainings and other required safety regulations. Other general session topics include "Follow Me I'm Right Behind You! – How to Lead and Influence Others," presented by Jody Urquhart, author of *All Work & No SAY*; this session will offer an alternative to authoritative leadership urging leaders to influence and engage others.

Concurrent Sessions

In addition to general sessions, conference-goers will have the opportunity to choose from a variety of concurrent sessions according to their interests. Some examples of session topics to expect are: a discussion of FTA Title IV updates, Rural Transit and Elderly & Disabled application reviews, updated information about New Freedom and Job Access/Reverse Commute programs, urban transit round tables, and a STARS information session, among others.

Additionally, Jeremy Mattson of the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute will present on using alternative fuels and hybrid vehicles; and Kristin Joyner, Executive Director of the South West Transit Association, will host a session providing public speaking tips to help transit professionals feel empowered to speak with confidence and skill. This well-rounded variety of topics will make session attendance choices challenging for conference attendees.

Vendors

Throughout the conference vendors will be on hand to showcase this year's exclusive products and equipment. A vendor panel will also be offered as a concurrent session, providing attendees the opportunity to ask vehicle manufacturers and state representatives about vehicles received through the LADOTD contract and to say what's on your mind. Don't miss your opportunity to participate!

Events

In addition to informative sessions and vendor demonstrations, multiple events will be offered to encourage networking and reconnecting with acquaintances, one of which is a big reception on the first night of the conference featuring the eclectic sounds of the MoJEAUX Band. Furthermore, Veolia Transportation will provide transportation services for conference attendees from the Hyatt throughout downtown New Orleans and the French Quarter on the second night of the conference to enable attendees to go out to dinner with friends on their own. There will also be a continental breakfast and refreshment breaks sponsored by different organizations, as well as door prizes.

Find the full agenda and registration information at the following on DOTD's public transportation website: <http://www.dotd.la.gov/intermodal/transit/announcements.aspx>

DOTD ON THE GO...



One of the DOTD PT Section's mandates is to provide information and technical assistance to transit providers in Louisiana in order to assist them in meeting their requirements for FTA funding. These activities come in many different formats and venues. DOTD PT provides numerous training courses, workshops, and training materials, as well as a website and an annual conference. To keep all of our constituents up to date on DOTD PT's activities, DOTD On The Go features just a few selected items each quarter.

SITE VISITS

Part of the outreach and assistance that DOTD provides to the Rural Public Transportation (Section 5311) and Elderly and Disabled (Section 5310) providers, are site visits from the program managers. Since the last newsletter, three site visits to rural providers have been conducted. These visits included East Feliciana COA, Livingston COA, and Iberville Parish Sheriffs.

OUTREACH

To further one of DOTD's primary goals to provide some form of public transportation in all 64 parishes, DOTD has been conducting educational visits to all of the parishes in Louisiana that do not currently have some form of public transportation service. Throughout the summer DOTD has conducted outreach meetings. As a result, West Feliciana Council on Aging, a former Section 5311 Rural provider has expressed interest in the program.

WORKSHOPS

DOTD has also hosted 11 STARS workshops/trainings from July through September at locations including Greater King David, Crossroads, Inc., and Lafayette COA, among others. Additionally, DOTD has conducted PASS and Maintenance training sessions, and a DOTD staff member attended BusCon in Chicago with a Lafourche ARC committee member.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Don't forget to register for the 2013 LADOTD Annual Public Transportation Conference, "Louisiana Transit: We Go the Distance," from November 20-22 at the Hyatt Regency in New Orleans.

If your agency or someone within your agency deserves recognition for a job well done, or has already received recognition or an award, please let us know. Email or send a brief description, photos, and contact information to Donna.Lavigne@la.gov or to Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development/Public Transit Section, attn: Donna Lavigne, P.O. Box 94245, Baton Rouge, LA 70804.

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Beyond public transportation systems, TTI recommends a “diversified approach” to reducing congestion (p. 17). This includes relatively simple and low-cost operational treatments, like removing crashed vehicles rapidly from the freeway, timing traffic signals more effectively, and adding a short section of roadway.

Through executing some of these operational treatments, both Baton Rouge and New Orleans saved delay hours and congestion costs during 2011; Baton Rouge saved over 1 million delay hours and \$25.3 million (p. 52), and New Orleans saved 1.2 million delay hours and \$27.4 million (p. 51).

In addition to operational strategies, TTI suggests adding capacity to vital corridors in the form of

more lanes, new roadways, new or expanded public transit and adding to bus and rail fleets. Furthermore, the researchers propose solutions that change usage patterns, such that fewer people are traveling during normal “rush hours.” These solutions may involve employers offering flexible work hours and telecommuting options. Similar to providing more choices surrounding the time of day one is driving on the roadways, TTI recommends providing more choices in general in terms of routes, travel mode, and tolled lanes to allow travelers to customize their trips to adequately meet their needs.

Keeping in theme, another potential congestion management solution involves varying development patterns moving toward denser development with a mix of uses (jobs, housing,

shopping), allowing more people to use transportation modes other than the private vehicle, i.e. walking, biking, and transit. This diversified development pattern may also allow residents to live closer to work and other destinations, making trips shorter, which could also reduce congestion (p. 17).

Finally, TTI recommends having realistic expectations about congestion management. The researchers say that it is expected that large urban areas and some locations near important activity centers in smaller urban areas will inevitably likely experience congestion, but that this congestion does not have to last all day (p. 17).

Source:

Shrank, David, Bill Eisele & Tim Lomax. (December, 2012). *2012 Urban Mobility Report*. Texas A&M Transportation Institute. College Station, TX. Retrieved <http://mobility.tamu.edu/>. Accessed 9/10/13.

FROM CAPITOL HILL...

On September 10, U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced that the U.S. Department of Transportation’s (DOT) Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) 2013 discretionary grant program will be awarding \$474 million to help fund 52 transportation projects in 37 states.

The TIGER Discretionary Grant program is highly competitive and allows DOT to invest in road, rail, transit, and port projects that will have a substantial impact on a region, metropolitan area, or the country. This program has proven to be very successful at generating vast applicant interest, illustrated by the 585 applications for TIGER 2013 funds DOT received.

Among the 52 projects receiving grant funds, 25 (funded at \$123.4 million) are projects in rural areas of the country; 12 are projects in the eastern U.S.; 17 are in the south, 9 are in central U.S. states, and 14 are in the west.

