Building Ridership and Visibility for Four Transit Agencies











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Project Overview

The goal of this project is to build transit ridership in the Mountain and Desert Communities of San Bernardino County that serve very distinct areas.

- VVTA serves the Victor Valley and Barstow with a service area population of over 350,000 and annual fixed route ridership of more than 1.7 million.
- MBTA serves the Morongo Basin with a service area population of about 61,000 and annual fixed route ridership of about 262,000.
- Mountain Transit serves two distinct service areas in the San Bernardino Mountains – the Crestline/RIM area and Big Bear Lake. The total service area population is about 44,000 and annual fixed route ridership is about 141,000.
- NAT serves the city of Needles with a population of less than 5,000 and annual ridership of about 28,000.



Why Are People Currently Using Transit?

During the past week, how many days have you ridden the bus?

Within the past week have you transferred to or from another neighboring system?

Which of the following would be most likely to cause you to ride the bus more often or to keep riding longer?







Which of the following would be most likely to cause you to ride the bus more often or to keep riding longer?

If they could ride for free for a week, would more of your friends and family members try riding the bus?







Inventory of Current Marketing Collateral









Survey Results

What transit users like about transit:

- Not having to rely on others for rides
- Not having to own or pay for a car
- Not having to walk or bike

Passenger information Sources

- Printed information is primary source for more than
 1/4 of riders
- 61% of riders have Smartphones

Highly positive response regarding the willingness of others to try transit if it were free for a week

- 11% No, not even if it was free
- 41% Maybe
- 48% Definitely



Building on Common Findings

Build on common findings regarding rider motivations

- Transit "frees" riders from:
 - The cost of driving
 - · Having to ask for or wait for a ride
 - Discomfort of walking or biking
- Transit provides independence and freedom to travel on one's own terms.

Campaign Slogan: Set Yourself Free

- Set yourself free from worrying about your ride.
- Set yourself free from the high costs of driving.
- Set yourself free from having to ask for a ride.
- Set yourself free to travel independently.
- Set yourself free from having to walk in hot weather.
- Set yourself free from searching for parking.
- Set yourself free to go your own way.



Campaign Plans

- Common creative platform.
- Customized marketing plan for each system – messaging and media specific to key targets.
- Two types of strategies:
 - Enhanced passenger information tools to make it easier for riders to try transit – long term value.
 - Ridership promotion campaign to generate trial and increased usage thru a free ride offer.
- Consistent promotion of Google Transit to make riding the bus easier.





Morongo Basin Transit Authority



Ride MBTA FREE with your CMC ID







And Early Fall Augu

SET YOURSELF FREE

> FROM WORRYING **ABOUT YOUR RIDE**



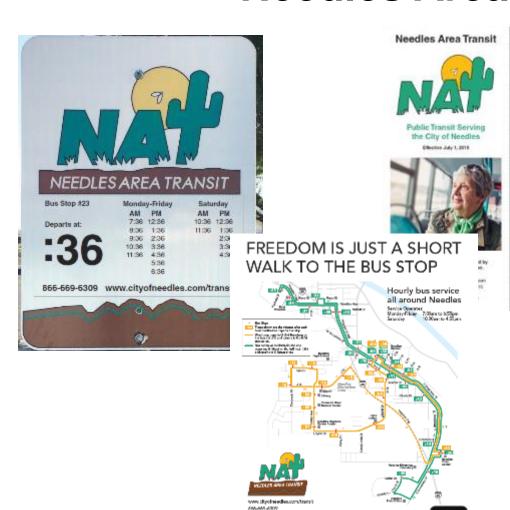
Ride MBTA FREE this Summer Semester June 11-July 11 with your CMC ID

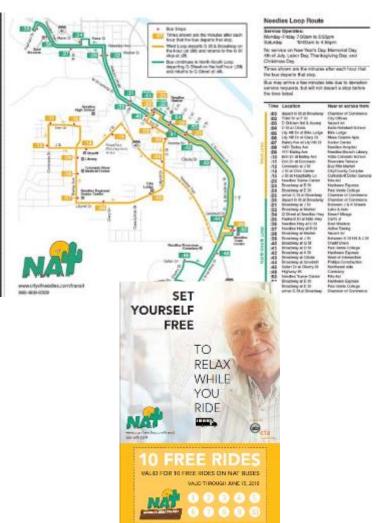


Morongo Basin Transit Authority



Needles Area Transit





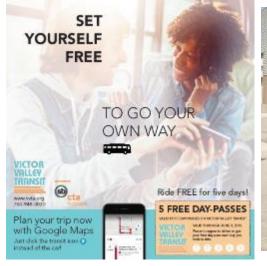
Needles Area Transit





Victor Valley Transit Authority









Get your Victor Valley Transit free rides... www.vvta.org/freerides





Victor Valley Transit Authority





Mountain Transit

















Wins

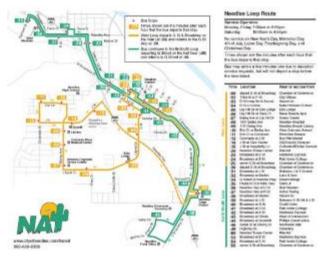














Wins

- Create a consist campaign theme across agencies
- Create marketing collateral with a long shelf life
- Increase Ridership (during promotional months)
 - MBTA saw an increase from 4% to 9%
 - Mountain Transit saw an increase from 15% - 35%
 - Needles increased by 52%
 - VVTA TBD



