

PUBLIC TRANSIT AGENCY DATA SHARING PRINCIPLES: INTEGRATING NEW TECHNOLOGIES INTO TRANSIT SERVICES

VISION STATEMENT

Data is the foundation of 21st century transportation systems. As new transportation technologies rapidly emerge they create data streams with vital information for management, proactive planning, and policymaking. These data must be available to public transit agencies, and to our other local and regional government partner agencies, in an accessible format to support sustainable, accessible, and affordable transportation.

The California Transit Association has incorporated a January 2017 [document developed by the National Association of City Transportation Officials \(NACTO\)](#), and by transmitting this set of data sharing standards to our public transit agency members, we aim to facilitate better working relationships between operators of public transportation systems and private transportation providers, by elevating and standardizing the process of data sharing. These will enable more proactive, data-driven transportation planning solutions and allow private mobility providers to exchange data with public transit operators in the most secure, cost effective, and efficient manner possible.

The California Transit Association data sharing standards set a path forward for:

- 1. Better Data for Transportation Planning**
- 2. Inclusion in Mobility Options**
- 3. Better Tools for Safety**

1. BETTER DATA FOR TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Operators of public transportation systems seek the best data to understand, manage, and maintain increasingly constrained transportation networks. This data comes from real time information about operations on our streets. New mobility providers and other GPS- or AVL-enabled fleets collect information that can provide unique insights to transit agencies on the operation of our streets. Sharing of this data in an accessible, secure, and interoperable manner will allow agencies to manage, maintain, and proactively plan based on accurate data. The following information should be available to public transportation providers from all mobility providers and fleets operating in our communities.

»» **Manage Local Streets:** Corridor level trip routing information including speed, travel time, and volume data is essential for better street management.

»» **Manage Curb Space:** Curb space has become increasingly desirable among mobility providers in our communities. Provision of information on pick-up and drop-off locations allows public agencies to properly allocate and dynamically manage curb space to prevent congestion and ensure safe operations on our streets.

»» **Prioritize Moving People:** As urban populations grow, public agencies must move more people in the same amount of space without increasing congestion. To provide efficient transportation for the greatest number of urban dwellers, data to prioritize the movement of vehicles with higher occupancy is necessary. This includes data on vehicle occupancy, non-revenue VMT, as well as vehicle dwell times.

2. INCLUSION IN MOBILITY OPTIONS

Our public transportation operators should provide mobility for all residents, regardless of incomes, ages, and abilities. While new mobility options offer the potential to expand services beyond those that traditional transit agencies currently provide, it is essential they do so while maintaining equity and accessibility.

»» **Equitable Provision of Mobility Services:** Maintaining a record of denied, declined, or cancelled ride—as well as availability and demand for vehicles, and wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAV) in particular—by location allows local agencies to observe trends over time and expend transit and other resources where needed.

3. BETTER TOOLS FOR SAFETY

Data can provide essential insight for the understanding and prevention of collisions on our streets. As local agencies seek to use every tool at their disposal to prevent the loss of life on streets, new approaches to collecting and analyzing data are required. New mobility providers collect driver behavior information that provides insight essential for proactive safety decisions to achieve Vision Zero goals. Additionally, information regarding autonomous vehicle operation disengagement (when vehicle operation shifts to human driver) is pertinent to safe streets for all users.

»» **Identification of Design Issues:** Trends in incidents of rapid acceleration and deceleration, autonomous operation disengagement, as well as collision occurrence and severity help to identify street design issues that, if corrected, can make urban streets safer for all users.

NEXT STEPS

Near Term: NACTO and Data Sharing Standards supporters will work together toward the use of the World Bank’s Open Traffic to streamline and standardize data for all NACTO cities. This will include transit vehicles with Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) systems and GPS location data from other new mobility providers. The California Transit Association will monitor these developments.

Long Term: To enable more proactive, datadriven transportation planning and policy, NACTO will work with its member cities and private mobility providers towards secure and standardized exchange of anonymized data essential for better transportation planning, equity in mobility options, and new tools for safety. The California Transit Association will monitor these developments.

###

Open Traffic is a global repository that translates vehicle GPS data into anonymous historical and real-time travel information and travel statistics. This platform provides an API and visual map-based interface for querying data essential to understanding, managing and planning for better streets.

SUGGESTED DATA

	Data	Submission type
1. Better Data for Transportation Planning	Speed	Corridor
	Volume	
	Travel Time	
	Pick-up Location and Time	Block face
	Drop-off Location and Time	
	Vehicle Occupancy	Corridor
	Non-Revenue Vehicle Miles Travelled	Log: Miles/month
Vehicle Dwell Time	Log: Hours/month	
2. Equity in Mobility Options	Number, Date, and Time of Unfulfilled Rides	Log: Number/quarter
	Number, Date, and Time of Declined Rides	
	Number, Date, and Time of Cancelled Rides	
	Vehicle Availability by Type	GPS Location Data
3. New Tools for Safety	Collision Occurrence	GPS Location Data
	Collision Severity	
	Rapid Acceleration	
	Rapid Deceleration	
	Autonomous Vehicle Operation Disengagement	Time, Location, and Protocol