

MOBILITY FRAMEWORK FOR URBAN CENTERS

Innovation Working Group

APTA Mobility Recovery and Resilience Task Force

The current political, societal, and public health climate presents an opportunity to re-invent how transportation services are delivered across all modes. This opportunity is especially true for the cities where health concerns and social unrest have dramatically impacted travel and economic vitality.

While innovation has always been a hallmark of the transit industry, the COVID-19 crisis has hastened the need for change in the overall mobility ecosystem. New trends brought about by COVID-19 include social distancing, work from home, smaller gatherings, limited trips outside the home, hiatus on overseas travel, temporary closures of businesses, virtual gatherings for both business and social purposes, an uptick in online commerce, increased demand for curbside pickup and delivery services, and telehealth services, among others.

Discussions among transit agency leaders on the APTA Mobility Recovery and Resilience Task Force have concluded that a more transformative dialogue is needed in major metro areas to support comprehensive mobility management in response to these trends. However, the funding and programs remain in silos that mirror the modal agencies. There is little integration across these silos to create a truly intermodal environment, particularly in our cities, or to address how transportation is woven into the fabric of today's societal issues.

- It is time for metro areas to establish a multimodal mobility management authority (not a single mode agency) with responsibility for:
 - Local, intermodal transportation planning
 - Capital programs
 - Multimodal operations and maintenance
 - Partnership programs
 - Land use around transit centers and high capacity corridors
- Planning, management, and technical activities to support intermodal integration should be an eligible use of federal, state and local funds
- Encourage partnerships with third-party mobility solution providers
- Over time procedures should be established to allow flexibility in how mobility management authorities would spend their funds, based on local priorities
- Require the mobility management authorities to establish performance measures to address the most critical local mobility needs and to provide transparency on how priorities are being addressed
- Support intermodal, integrated policy, pricing, operational and technological innovations
- Address social inequities through pricing and policies (access to affordable transportation options)

- Encourage clean transportation and zero-emission, renewable energy alternatives (e.g., more emphasis on alternative fuels, including hydrogen, CNG, solar, and electric vehicle solutions such as EV charging infrastructure and grid modernization)
- Address modal resiliency through life-cycle investment planning, data management solutions, integration, partnerships and engagement with public safety, public health, and emergency management organizations
- Include such elements as:
 - “Transit First” policy
 - Complete Streets – creating the intermodal street and highway environment
 - Innovative transit solutions – advanced Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), Group Rapid Transit (GRT) and Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) concepts; micro-transit and micro-mobility solutions; high-speed, high-capacity alternatives
 - Integrated corridors – all roads, all modes
 - Neighborhood accessibility solutions for connectivity to opportunities for all people
 - “Flexible Fleet” solutions to dynamically address demand and offer mobility alternatives
 - First and last-mile connectivity solutions
 - Curb management solutions
 - Pricing alternatives (congestion pricing, parking management, curb management, fare subsidies or credits)
 - Common payment solutions
 - Integrated, open data and operating systems
 - Advanced technology solutions including automated vehicles (AVs) and connected vehicles (V2X)
 - State-of-the-art sensing, communications networks, cybersecurity, data analytics, artificial intelligence and data management solutions
 - Preventive health measures such as contact tracing and touchless payment solutions
 - Mobility on Demand and Mobility as a Service solutions to support the Complete Trip in an equitable manner

It was the consensus of the Innovation Working Group of the APTA Mobility Recovery and Resilience Task Force that we must begin to re-invent mobility and look at urban transportation through a new lens. The new lens must consider the current social equity dialogue (our industry has a huge part to play in this new social discourse), resiliency in the face of recurring health and security threats, Mobility as a Service, and intermodal balance.