

Technology Applications are Improving Operations for Idaho Transit Providers

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The Federal Transit Administration and the State of Idaho is investing nearly \$3 million in technology to support the operations of its transit providers – providing significant benefits to the users of their bus systems. The three primary Idaho technology initiatives include real time traveler information, demand response and fixed route dispatch systems including AVL and MDT, and management systems to automate data collection and grant administration. This session will begin by describing the Idaho public transportation landscape which encourages technology as an enabler of their program goals. Idaho's transit providers are primarily rural or small urban systems, which also include some intercity services. The technologies being deployed involve twelve separate transit providers providing service in Idaho. The information presented will focus on an overview of the three Idaho transit technology initiatives mentioned above. The information will illustrate the uniqueness of the deployments to ensure they are directly supporting enhanced efficiency/effectiveness of transit operations in Idaho, and enabling improved services through enhanced coordination. The planning for these initiatives was completed two years ago; therefore, this presentation will demonstrate deployed systems and describe the benefits of each. For those considering similar technology applications, the session will also address the challenges encountered and the approaches implemented to ensure success. There may be other presentations proposed that would address some of these technologies in more detail with the specifics of the deployments. This proposed session will provide the overview and context to better understand these potential more detailed presentations.