COVID-19 Tribal Transit Manager Peer Roundtable I – Summary
April 2, 2020

1. How are tribes responding to this crisis? Are tribal transit agencies providing service?
   a. Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma
      i. They are still running service but are not at full capacity.
      ii. Mostly for employment and NEMT, dialysis and cancer treatment.
      iii. Government buildings are closed to the public.
      iv. There is a stay at home order until April 30, 2020.
      v. Not sure what they will do. Looking at it week-to-week.
      vi. The numbers are really jumping. The next few weeks are critical.
   b. Muscogee (Creek) Nation Transit
      ii. Suspended service.
      iii. Contracts with another transit agency in the area to provide service for their community.
      iv. Mostly for employment and NEMT, dialysis, and cancer treatment.
   c. Sitka Tribe of Alaska
      i. Suspended services.
      ii. Hoping to get furloughed people paid.
      iii. Curfew - after 5:00 PM, there is a fine if people abuse the evening curfew.
      iv. They are trying to prevent outsiders coming in.

2. CARES Act
   a. The CARES Act was just signed. There is information on FTA’s website. FTA is trying to get the information out.
   b. $30 million for tribal transit
      i. Tribal apportionments published at
   c. Over $2 billion for 5311 programs
      i. 5311 apportionments published at
   d. Available for both capital and operational costs.
      i. Assume most will be used for operating funding.
   e. Can pay transit operators who have furloughed drivers because of COVID-19.
   f. Use TrAMS.
g. Contact tribal liaisons for more information.

3. Infrastructure Funding coming - New Bill

4. What options are there to provide minimum service?
   a. Spacing between people is difficult to maintain when demand is high.
   b. Partnership with other transit authorities who typically carry their overflow. They are paying this authority to provide rides.

5. Cleaning and safety
   a. Drivers wearing masks, N95 if available.
   b. Limit number of passengers per driver.
   c. Keep passengers in the back seat.
   d. Cleaning between rides.
   e. Board from back on larger buses.
   f. Fare-free to avoid contact or proximity with drivers.
   g. Some services are running the largest vehicle possible to reduce people density.

6. Problems with driver retention
   a. Older drivers don’t want to drive under these circumstances.

7. State DOTs and how they are working with their tribal recipients
   a. They want to learn how they can help.
   b. Communicating by email, sometimes by phone.
   c. May be organizing a roundtable in their state to discuss ideas and CARES Act.

8. People would like to see ongoing discussions and weekly updates from National RTAP and CTAA, perhaps coordinated.
   a. The next National RTAP COVID-19 Tribal Transit Peer Roundtable is Thursday, April 9, at 1:00pm EDT (12:00pm CDT, 11:00am MDT, 10:00am PDT, 9:00am AKDT, and 7:00am HST), to work around an Intertribal Transportation Association meeting that day and the FTA Webinar about the CARES Act.
   b. Here’s the information to join the Roundtable:

   Join from your computer, tablet or smartphone:
   https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/747258189

   You can also dial in using your phone (recommended):
   United States: +1 (571) 317-3122
   Access Code: 747-258-189