



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
 - i. Declared an emergency on March 13, 2020.
 - 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 <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/apportionments/table-4-fy-2020-cares-act-section-5311c-public-transportation-indian>
 - c. Over \$2 billion for 5311 programs
 - i. 5311 apportionments published at <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/apportionments/table-3-fy-2020-cares-act-section-5311-rural-area-apportionments>
 - 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](tel:+15713173122)

Access Code: 747-258-189