



State RTAP Manager's Peer Roundtable Summary

February 27, 2020

Q: What are some ways you are using your RTAP funding?

A: RTAP programs are using funding to provide trainings, conferences, roadeos, and scholarships for those opportunities. Scholarships can include local, regional, and/or national conferences. Some programs contract this segment out to their transit association or to industry consultants or trainers. Technical assistance is also provided through State RTAP programs using grant funding.

Q: How do you market your RTAP program?

A: RTAP marketing is done through newsletters and websites, sometimes also in conjunction with state transit associations. CALACT, the California Association for Coordinated Transportation, provides the marketing for the California RTAP program, including a [website](#), bulletin, and social media.

Q: What are some good ideas for planning a bus roadeo and getting more drivers to attend?

A: Brian Travis from California RTAP recommends to try to have the roadeo over the weekend, when drivers are less likely to be driving. Deborah Bach from New Mexico RTAP suggests having special events for drivers. Kari Banta from Texas RTAP schedules their roadeo at the beginning of their conference. They make it a fun, family event and it has been successful. Other suggestions are to include trainings on important topics like wheelchair securement, human trafficking, or active shooters, so staff can be trained on multiple topics. National RTAP has a [Best Practices Spotlight article on driver training](#), that includes bus roadeos.

Q: Can anyone share their State Management Plan?

A: Several states offered to share their plans with the participants of the call. Cara Marcus of National RTAP let attendees know that if anyone wanted to submit their plans as samples for consideration on the National RTAP website so that other agencies could use them as a template, to let us know.

Q: Has anyone used the new National RTAP Cost Allocation Calculator?

A: While no one on the call shared their use our new [Cost Allocation Calculator](#), there will be a [webinar](#) in March if people are interested in learning more. RTAP Managers were also asked to fill out the RTAP survey, currently underway, if they do start using it.

Q: What issues do you see in terms of ADA, DBE and/or Civil Rights? Is your program providing training?

A: A number of states provide training, some using Easter Seals Project Action (ESPA) and other trainers. Some provide ADA, DBE and/or civil rights training at their annual conferences. Minnesota RTAP provides training based on their survey results, and these were topics that were requested for training, so they will be offered. There may be different ADA trainings for drivers and managers based on their needs. Two states on the call stated that they are just starting to provide these trainings.

Q: How do you identify sources for local match for FTA grants?

A: States have identified various sources, including local sales tax on items like candy, county and state funding programs, and legislative funding for a pilot program.

Q: What is happening in your state in terms of Medicaid and NEMT?

A: One state is moving from a brokerage model to a statewide NEMT program and creating a healthcare plan to address this.

Q: How can subrecipients coordinate with each other? How can you facilitate that? Do you have any peer exchange initiatives?

A: Many of the RTAP programs are working actively on this. Jaimie Baldwin described how Oregon received funding specifically for a peer exchange program. Moira Moon from Colorado RTAP discussed how their program hosts a monthly transit call that is attended by about 70 participants.

Q: Have you changed your scholarship program in terms of forms, eligibility guidelines, etc.? Has anyone automated the process?

A: Texas RTAP has strict scholarship guidelines and has automated their process using their grant software. Harinee Iyengar from Minnesota RTAP implemented an automated form-based scholarship application program through their revised [RTAP program website](#). The Oregon RTAP program has also automated their scholarship application process.

Q: How have new laws about medical and/or recreational marijuana led to new training needs or recruitment strategies?

A: Tyler Bender from Ohio RTAP discussed training at their annual conference on this topic

Q: Has your program been hearing any issues from transit providers about implementing the new FMCSA Clearinghouse for drug & alcohol testing that went into effect 1/6/2020?

A: The Minnesota RTAP program has had a number of questions on this topic from subrecipients. They are planning a workshop on this at their upcoming spring training, even having an expert on site at a table for individuals to receive answers to specific questions.

Q: Procurement has been the biggest "hot topic" in our State RTAP Manager survey to date. How are you finding ProcurementPRO 2.0? What procurement training needs do you see?

A: Minnesota RTAP is planning training on ProcurementPRO and procurement training for tribal providers. Colorado produced a [Procurement Guidebook](#). RTAP programs also leverage National RTAP for procurement technical assistance.

Q: What are state practices regarding replacement vehicles?

A: Deborah Bach from New Mexico RTAP discussed her state's experience with using mileage, condition and age of the vehicle for replacement planning.