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Federal Transit Administration's Impact on Public Transportation in the United States

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Federal Transit Administration

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FTA

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

FTA's Impact on Public Transportation

Amy Changchien
Director of Planning
& Program Development
Region 10

March 2014



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

DISCUSSION TOPICS

- **Facts about the FTA**
 - Who?
 - What?
 - How?
- **Highlights of FTA's Impact**
- **Career Options in Public Transportation**

Who is FTA?

Federal Transit Administration

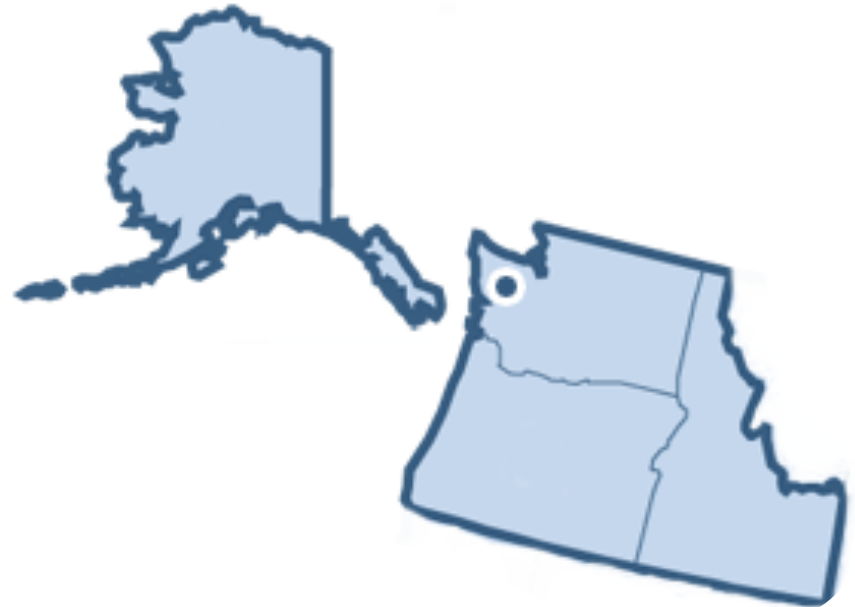
- One of 9 modal administrations of USDOT
- ~ 520 staff
- HQ in DC
- 10 Regional Offices
- **\$10.9 Billion** annual budget in 2014



Who is FTA?

Region 10 Portfolio

- **Alaska**
 - **Idaho**
 - **Oregon**
 - **Washington**
- **130 active grantees**
 - **\$710 Million awarded in FY 2013**



What does FTA do?

FTA's Mission

Improve Public Transportation for America's Communities



How does FTA funding work?

- **Congress**

- Passes laws
- Appropriates funds



- **FTA**

- Sets policy & requirements
- Awards grants
- Provides technical assistance
- Conducts oversight



What does FTA do?



Policy-Setting & Guidance



Grant Administration



Technical Assistance



Oversight



Regulatory Authority on Safety



FTA Grant Program Types



- **Formula Grant Programs**
 - How much money a grantee receives is determined by a formula established in law
- **Discretionary Grant Programs**
 - Congress or FTA determines, at their discretion, how much money an individual grantee receives

Who Receives FTA Funds?

- Transit Agencies
- State Department of Transportation
- Local Government and Public Agencies
- Non-Profit Transportation Providers
- Indian Tribes
- Universities / Research Centers
- Consultants / Contractors

What does FTA fund?

- Capital Projects
- Operating Assistance
- Planning
- State Safety Oversight (for passenger rail)
- Research and Demonstration Projects
- ITS projects
- Emergency Relief

Take a Guess



Rail Transit Projects



Transit Types



More Transit Types



Rural Transit



Transit & Related Projects



Bus Rapid Transit



Highlights of FTA's Impact

- **Infrastructure and Development**
- **Transit Capacity and Coverage**
- **Affordable Mobility and Accessibility**
- **Economic Growth and Opportunity**

Highlights of FTA's Impact (cont'd)

- **Environmental Stewardship**
- **Responsive and Innovative Leadership**
- **Enhance Mobility, Connectivity, and Energy Independence**



So, what does all this mean?

Highlights of FTA's Impact (cont'd)

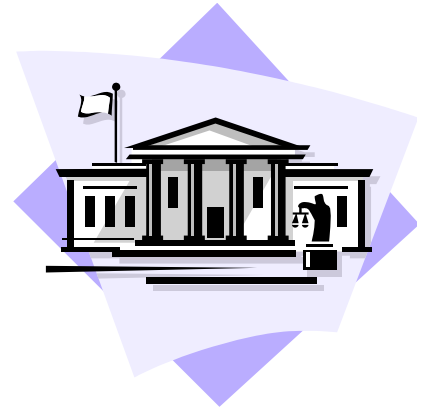
Growth between 1995 and 2013

- **37% increase** in transit ridership
- 20% growth in population
- 23 % increase in vehicle miles traveled

Federal Financial Assistance is Critical

- Fare Box Revenue Recovery Ratio of **20-30%** for most Bus and Rail operations and much less for other transit modes

Career Options



GOVERNMENT

- **Federal** – FTA, other USDOT modal agencies, DHHS, VA, and HUD, etc.
- **State** – DOT, Resource Agencies, HHS, etc.
- **Local** – City, County, Transit Agencies, MPOs, etc.
- **Other** – APTA, CTAA, state transit associations

Career Options

NON-GOVERNMENT

- Non-Profit Transit Providers
- Non-Profit Transit Advocacy Groups
- Consultants / Contractors
- Academic Research
- Industry Research & Development

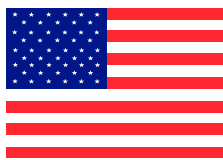


Career Options



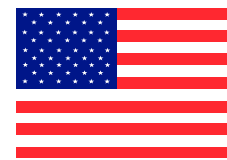
INTERNSHIPS

- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
 - STIPDG Program
- Office of Personnel Management (OPM)
 - Pathways Program
- Agency-specific Internships



For more info, go to

www.USAJobs.gov



FTA Regional Office Setup

- Regional & Deputy Administrators
- Planning & Oversight Directors
- Legal Counsel & Civil Rights Officer



- ❑ **Community Planners**
- ❑ **General Engineers**
- ❑ **Transportation Program Specialists**
- ❑ **Environmental Protection Specialists**
- ❑ **Support Staff (including interns!)**



Questions?



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Federal Transit
Administration
www.fta.dot.gov