



Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation



GPS Applications in United States Transit

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In U.S., Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) currently is synonymous with use of Global Positioning System

- Pre-1980's Radio voice communication
- Up to early 1990's Odometer & Signpost systems
- 1990's GPS dominant AVL technology
- May 1, 2000 U.S. Government stopped intentional degradation of GPS signals
- 2008 GPS technology represents 80⁺% of all transit AVL systems deployed

Transit seeks improvements to:

- Operations
- Communications
- Passenger Information

- Scheduling & Planning
- Safety & Security

BENEFITS from GPS Deployments

Operations

- Productivity gains (increased passenger trips / capital savings reduced fleet demands)
- Improved schedule adherence
- Labor savings (fewer road supervisors, less manual data entry)

BENEFITS from GPS Deployments (continued)

Communications

- Improved communications between transit operations staff
- Reduced voice radio traffic

Passenger Information

- Predict bus arrival times
- Reduces complaints about late vehicles

Scheduling & Planning

- More complete & accurate data
- Aids in effective bus stop placement

Safety & Security

- Enhances driver & traveler safety & security
- Better response to route detours

AVL-GPS System Costs dependent on:

- System size
- Level of sophistication
- Components to be included/integrated ullet



•\$500-\$2000 per vehicle

•O&M cost = 2% capital

TOTAL Project Cost: •\$15,000 maximum per vehicle •\$8000 median per vehicle

LEVEL OF SOPHISTICATION & INTEGRATION

Standard:

- Computer Aided Dispatch
- Mobile Data Terminal
- Emergency Alarms
- Digital Communications

Sophisticated:

- Real-time Passenger Information Vehicle Component
- Monitoring Automatic Passenger Counters
- Automated Fare Payment Systems
- Automatic Stop Annunciation
- Automated Destination Signs
- Traffic Signal Priority

GPS Applications in United States Transit U.S. TRANSIT MODES

65 Rail Systems

Rail Transit



Fixed Route Bus

B,600 Agencies

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I,260 Agencies

Rural Transit



5,400 Agencies Demand Response Service



GPS Applications in United States Transit 6 of U.S. TRANSIT MODES that use GPS

Rail Transit



Fixed Route Bus



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65 Rail Systems

Rural Transit



5,400 Agencies

Demand Response Service



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Number of Public Transit Agencies Using GPS Technology:

Between 1,200 and 2,000

Primary GPS Transit Applications:

- 1. Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL)
- 2. Geographic Information System (GIS)
- 3. Traveler Information System
- 4. Transit Signal Priority
- 5. Automatic Passenger Counters (APC)
- 6. Electronic Fare Payment System





GPS Applications in United States Transit Data Management & GIS



Top GPS Purposes for Geographic Information Systems

- 1. Bus Stops
- 2. Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL)
- 3. Bus Stop Amenities
- 4. Rail Stops
- 5. Rail Right-Of-Way
- 6. Transit Yards and other facilities
- 7. Transit Real Estate



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GPS Applications in United States Transit Traffic Signal Priority



Traffic Signal Priority Emitter with Switch: Emitter initiates request for signal priority to be checked by Traffic Signal Controller against pre-determined desired condition



Optical Detector

Intersection

System

Traffic Signal

Controll

Detection System: Optical Strobe Light or Radio Frequency-Infrared Tags

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Automatic Passenger Counter



GPS-location stamped information





Public Transit Agencies Using GPS Technology

Agency	Number of Vehicles	Context / Success of Deploymen	
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LAC MTA) Los Angeles, California	2,450 buses 127 light rail 104 heavy rail; 30 BRT	Integrated AVL-GPS system archives and automatically feeds run-time data to scheduling department.	
Denver Regional Transportation District (RTD) Denver, Colorado	1,335 buses 70 light rail	Use of AVL-GPS, combined with an upgrade in the radio communications system and MDTs, improved on-time performance and increased ridership.	
Metro Transit Minneapolis & St. Paul, Minnesota	922 buses 24 light rail	Integrated AVL & CAD along with APC and new regional digital 800MHz radio system.	
Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) Atlanta, Georgia	556 buses 336 heavy rail	Use of AVL & CAD resulted in operating savings and improved data collection, but also had high implementation costs.	



Public Transit Agencies Using GPS Technology

Agency	Number of Vehicles	Context / Success of Deployment
Milwaukee Country Transit System (MCTS) Milwaukee, Wisconsin	484 buses	Use of an integrated AVL-GPS system improved on-time performance and adherence to schedules.
Ann Arbor Transportation Authority (AATA) Ann Arbor, Michigan	82 buses	Deployed integrated AVL-CAD, MDT, remote diagnostics, and silent alarms on fleet in stages. Improved on-time departures, but not arrivals. Initially, major errors in vehicle location data.
County of Lackawanna Transit Scranton, Pennsylvania	32 buses	Deployed basic AVL-GPS system in about 9 months
Montachusett Area Regional Fransit Authority (MART) [–] itchburg, Massachusetts	23 buses	Employs AVL-GPS and MDT for its fixed and demand-response buses.



MPLEMENTATION & OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

Costs

- Capital funding sources
- Sustaining O&M funding

Implementation

- Lengthy procurement and installation process
- Institutional relationships
- Software or extensive customization
- Accurate GIS database
- National ITS Architecture consistency

Operations

- New technical expertise
- Reluctance of existing staff
- Schedule adherence design difficult
- GPS signal reception problems

Other GPS Transit Applications:

- Computer Aided Dispatch & Scheduling (CADS)
- Maintenance Management
- Transit Communications
- Security Cameras & Systems
- Weather Information Systems



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SUMMARY

GPS Transit Applications:

- Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL)
- Geographic Information System (GIS)
- Traveler Information System
- Transit Signal Priority
- Automatic Passenger Counters (APC)
- Electronic Fare Payment System Computer Aided Dispatch & Scheduling (CADS)
- Maintenance Management
- Transit Communications
- Security Cameras & Systems
- Weather Information Systems

Promote Increased Use

Address Implementation and Operational Challenges