DATA COLLECTION, MANAGEMENT & REPORTING

Transit agencies often have a wealth of data – whether it is filed away in a cabinet, aggregated into a spreadsheet, or collected automatically through equipment. Through better data management practices, transit agencies can leverage their existing data sources for better decision making. New data sources can provide agencies with more data, and potentially create more efficient workflows. New technologies offer passive data sources, which collect data automatically using hardware and connected devices. For example, automatic passenger counters (APCs) collect ridership information, automatic vehicle location (AVL) collects location data, and automatic fare collection (AFC) collects fare and ridership data. The use of hardware and connected devices can increase the reliability of data, and the amount of data collected. The implications of better data practices range from improving service planning, fleet management, operations and even a more streamlined reporting process.

*Pre-work for **Facilitators***

- Inventory the data sources you currently receive from transit agencies in your service area.
- Consider what data that you could benefit from receiving transit agencies?
- What resources can you provide to agencies to assist with data collection and sharing?

Questions for Discussion

- Discuss the data sources that your transit agency currently uses.
  - Take note of which data sources are produced *internally* (ex. ridership, finance, service data, etc.), and which data sources are produced *externally* (ex. Census demographics, air quality, traffic counts, etc.)
- Discuss how those data sources are stored?
  - Paper records
  - Digitized paper records (ex. PDFs or scanned images)
  - Spreadsheets (ex. Google Sheets or Microsoft Excel)
  - Database or other data repository (ex. Microsoft Access)
- Discuss how those data sources are collected?
- Discuss how those data sources are collected?
  - Manally
  - Automatically

- Discuss your data wishlist – what is information that you would like collect?
- Does your agency currently use internal data standards? Discuss the current standards used.
- Discuss barriers to data collection and storage.
- Discuss open data – open data is data that can be freely used, re-used and redistributed by anyone – subject only, at most, to the requirement to attribute and share-alike
  - Does your agency currently offer open data for use?
  - Does your agency use open data for internal purposes?
  - What are barriers to use and offer open data at your agency?
- Discuss what/how the Summit organizer can facilitate better data collection in your region?
- Are there potential partners (who are not currently *this* table) that could support data collection & management in your locality.