

RTAP SPOTLIGHTS

Washington State Rural Transportation Assistance Program

WINTER 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

- ❑ **NOTABLES:**
Quarterly musings from Marianna Hanefeld, State RTAP Manager
- ❑ **PROFILES:**
Jody Smith, Training Coordinator, Link Transit
- ❑ **NRTAP AND FTA UPDATES**
- ❑ **OPPORTUNITIES:**
Transportation Reimagined—CTANW Summit 2021

SPOTLIGHTS is published once a quarter. If you have an idea for a story in your area that you'd like us to share, a colleague you would like us to feature, or have an event or announcement to promote, please email me at the address below.

Washington State RTAP

Marianna Hanefeld
Program Manager, WSDOT

marianna.hanefeld@wsdot.wa.gov
425.777.0557

NOTABLES: QUARTERLY MUSINGS FROM MARIANNA HANEFELD, STATE RTAP MANAGER

It's difficult to believe we've progressed to a new year! During 2020 we were bombarded by economic and physical disruption, a bit of chaos, and a whole lot of amazing creativity. Many leaders are talking about a return to normal, others about a "new" normal, and the word "pivot" has entered our common vocabulary.

In the past year, you've done things you didn't expect to do in incredibly short periods of time, and with uncertain resources. You've served your communities and forged pathways to keep your customers healthy, fed, and connected. None of that would've been possible unless you were positioned for resilience prior to the pandemic. Pre-COVID, you were working with partners, finding ways to bring people to life-saving appointments, employment, and food.

Now, instead of delivering people to services, you are delivering services to people: food, medical needs, and personal attention, to name a few.

More recently, many of you are using your pre-COVID networks and vehicles to get people to vaccination sites and make meal delivery an ongoing part of your regular service.

I've been thinking about how our rural and tribal transportation world will look in 2021 and into the future. I'm encouraged to know that you are continuing to position yourselves for resiliency in the long term.

And that's good news for your passengers, communities, and systems going forward!



PROFILES: JODY SMITH, TRAINING COORDINATOR, LINK TRANSIT



Jody Smith (R) with her partner and one of her beautiful pups

Meet Jody Smith, Training Coordinator for [Link Transit](#) in Wenatchee. Jody is responsible for the operations side of the training department at Link. Her background is a perfect fit for this position, since

she holds both a BA and MA in education. She and her assistant Dawson Murren work hard to provide fun, creative, and motivating ways to train new coach operators while helping senior drivers maintain their skills.

Jody says, “I like to make a difference by positively touching people’s lives in any way I can. I have a lot of fun making pre-trip videos to help with the CDL test, motivational videos with the positive guest comments, and other various training videos that help our drivers become safer and supported in their difficult job.”

To help facilitate their trainings, Jody and Dawson have their own [YouTube channel](#) with such titles as, [Cone Practice](#) and [Breaking News! Link Transit has the BEST Employees](#).

In her free time, you’ll find Jody enjoying cherished family and friends. She loves being outside and spending quality time with her two pups.

NRTAP AND FTA UPDATES

In keeping with our theme of being positioned for resiliency, the [recording](#) and [presentation slides](#) from NRTAP’s recent webinar, “*Rural Transit Planning in the Time of COVID and Beyond*” are now available. The presentation featured suggestions for rural and tribal transits during and after the pandemic.



Federal Transit Administration

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is working closely with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and other federal partners to provide guidance to the public transportation industry in response to COVID-19. FTA posted a new FAQ regarding [eligibility of transportation services to COVID-19 vaccination sites](#) on its website that covers the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and ER funding requirements.

ADA

Americans with Disabilities Act

Credit: ADA National Network (adata.org)

A great basic course from the **ADA Guru: Introduction to the Americans with Disabilities Act**

Monday, March 1, 3 p.m.: register with your full name and agency to yourADAguru@gmail.com.



Introducing TACL: The Transportation Technical Assistance Coordination Library

The [TACL](#) provides guidance on methodology and a platform for access to coordination resources across a diverse range of transportation technical assistance centers and FTA. Please join us for a webinar at 11 a.m. Tuesday, February 23, to learn more about TACL and how to utilize it to find transportation coordination technical assistance resources. [Register for the webinar](#).



Participate in a National RTAP Intercity Bus Peer Roundtable:

National RTAP is updating resources and training for intercity bus stakeholders involved in meeting rural transportation needs through Section 5311(f). They’re working with FTA and TRB’s Rural, Intercity Bus, and Specialized Transportation Committee to reach stakeholders interested in supporting national and regional networks.

We’ll hold a peer roundtable at 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 9, to develop webinars, peer roundtables, technical briefs, and/or other training formats. [Register for the roundtable](#).

OPPORTUNITIES

Transportation reimagined—CTANW Summit 2021

A virtual summit, March 9 & 11; 16 & 18; 23 & 25; 30 & April 1

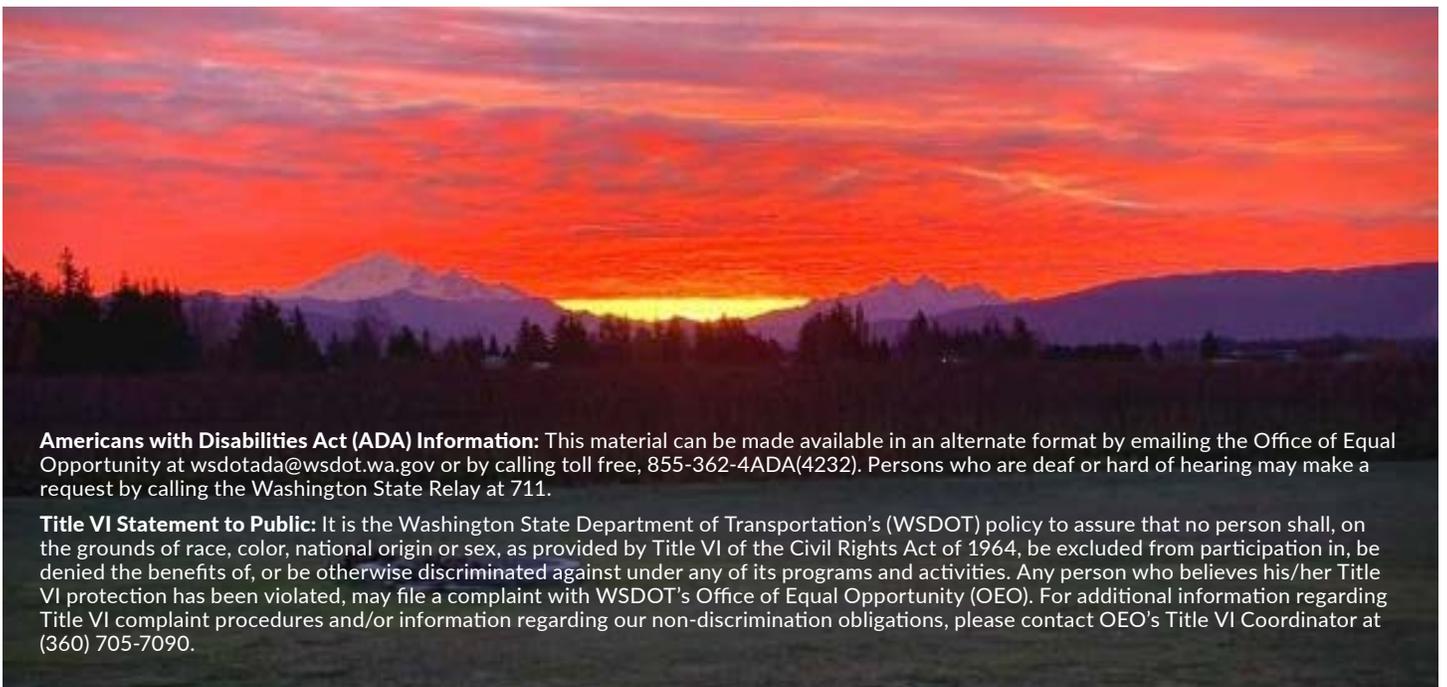
Keynote speaker:
Carol Wright, Easterseals,
speaking on “How to thrive during a crisis and beyond.”

Session topics include equity, defensive driving, virtual travel training, reimagining service delivery, travel training industry standards review, basic HR laws and practices, reimagining business operations, liability insurance and HR issues related to the pandemic, and much more. Additional information and registration can be found on the [CTANW website](#).



Reminder: RTAP scholarships are available for this summit and any upcoming training. If you have staff who need financial assistance for certifications, professional development, or other training, please see the [state RTAP website for details](#), instructions, and application forms.

WSTA announces the Transits Next Leader Institute: TNLI will provide an in-depth view of the industry, from transit fundamentals to human resources and operations. Leaning on industry titans from current and retired general managers and CEOs to elected officials, this program’s objective is to provide fellows with real-world skills to ensure their personal and professional success while providing the industry with talented leaders for the future. Applications close Wednesday, February 24. For more information, application, curriculum, and costs, please see [WSTA’s TNLI website](#).



Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information: This material can be made available in an alternate format by emailing the Office of Equal Opportunity at wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov or by calling toll free, 855-362-4ADA(4232). Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may make a request by calling the Washington State Relay at 711.

Title VI Statement to Public: It is the Washington State Department of Transportation’s (WSDOT) policy to assure that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin or sex, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise discriminated against under any of its programs and activities. Any person who believes his/her Title VI protection has been violated, may file a complaint with WSDOT’s Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO). For additional information regarding Title VI complaint procedures and/or information regarding our non-discrimination obligations, please contact OEO’s Title VI Coordinator at (360) 705-7090.