

TCRP Report 200 PREVIEW

Contracting Commuter Rail Services

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Overview

- Project Overview
- Current Contracting Practices
- Assessment and Trends
- Product Preview

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Process

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- Report in Final Stages of Editorial Review

Research Purpose

- To share information about different approaches for providing commuter rail service.
- To develop a guidebook to help public agencies understand and consider how and when to apply different approaches to implement new commuter rail services or evaluate changes for existing services.



Legacy Commuter Rail Systems (12)

- PATH, New York and New Jersey
- MBTA, Boston
- LIRR, New York
- Go Transit, Toronto, Ontario
- RTM, Montreal, Quebec
- Metro-North, New York City
- NJ TRANSIT, New Jersey
- SEPTA, Philadelphia
- MARC, Maryland–D.C.
- Metra, Chicago
- South Shore Line, South Bend–Chicago
- Caltrain, San Francisco–San Jose/Gilroy

Post-1989 Commuter Rail New Starts (19)

- Tri-Rail, South Florida
- SLE, New Haven, Connecticut
- Metrolink, Southern California
- VRE, Northern Virginia–D.C.
- COASTER, San Diego County
- WCE, Vancouver, British Columbia
- TRE, Dallas–Fort Worth
- ACE, Stockton–San Jose
- Sounder, Tacoma–Seattle–Everett
- Rail Runner Express, Santa Fe–Albuquerque
- Music City Star, Nashville
- FrontRunner, Salt Lake City
- WES, Tri-County, Oregon
- Northstar, Minneapolis
- MetroRail, Austin
- A-train, Denton County, Texas
- SunRail, Orlando
- RTD, Denver
- SMART, Sonoma/Marin Counties, California

CURRENT CONTRACTING PRACTICES

Approaches to Service Delivery

- Agency-Operated Commuter Rail
- Contracted Commuter Rail
 - Bundled
 - Unbundled
- Mixed Agency-Operated and Contracted Commuter Rail

Agency Operated

- PATH
- LIRR
- Metro-North
- NJ TRANSIT
- SEPTA
- South Shore Line
- FrontRunner
- SMART



Contracted-Bundled

- MBTA
- MARC
- SLE
- Caltrain
- COASTER
- TRE
- ACE
- Rail Runner
- Music City Star
- MetroRail
- A-train
- Denver RTD



Contracted--Unbundled

- Go Transit
- RTM
- Tri-Rail
- Metrolink
- VRE
- WCE
- Sounder
- SunRail



Mixed Agency Operated and Contracted

- Metra
- Northstar
- WES



ASSESSMENT AND TRENDS

Factors That Influence Approaches to Service Delivery

Every decision is made in the context of the local circumstances.

- Ownership for control of the railroad
- Commuter rail agency governance
- Agency capability to perform the primary functions for commuter rail
- Railroad employee considerations

Factors That Influence Decision to Bundle or Unbundle Contracted Services

- Functions provided by the railroad owner or operator
- Competitive marketplace for procurement
- Operating environment
- Government and policy considerations

Trends

- Agency-operated new starts
- Public-private partnerships
- Procurement practices
 - Longer contract terms
 - Unit pricing
 - Performance metrics
 - Competition
- More bundled contracts



PRODUCT PREVIEW

Guidebook Resources

- History
- Regulatory Environment
- Key characteristics
- Approaches to Service Delivery
- Decision Tree Analysis
- Case Studies (10)
- Profiles (31)



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QUESTIONS?