

Wednesday, October 29
Poster Session

5:30-7:00 PM

Jeff Becker

Jeff Becker is Senior Manager of Service Development for the Denver Regional Transportation District, a position he has held since 1999. Jeff has been involved in transit service development since 1974, for the first 25 years of his career at the Tidewater Transportation District Commission in Norfolk, VA. He has been involved with all aspects of developing innovative services including: bus and light rail; general public DRT and ADA paratransit; ridesharing and vanpools; performance evaluation; timed transfer networks; visitor tours and shuttles; pedestrian ferry service; contracted services; marketing; fares/pricing; research; and implementation methods and technologies. Jeff was responsible for planning and implementing innovative general public DRT programs for both Tidewater Transit and the Denver RTD; the RTD program, currently with 22 service areas, is the largest in any USA metropolitan area. He is an active participant in TRB, CTAA, and FTA-based and other committees relevant to paratransit. He holds a BS in Civil Engineering from Virginia Tech and an MS in Civil Engineering from Carnegie-Mellon University and has coauthored two recent papers relevant to DRT: "Business strategies and technology for access by transit in lower density environments" (Elsevier, 2011) and "Metropolitan Transit Agency's Experience Operating General Public Demand-Responsive Transit" (TRB, 2013).

Roger Teal

Roger Teal, president of DemandTrans Solutions, is a technology entrepreneur and consultant with a multi-faceted background in technology development, research, consulting, and academia, with a specific focus in the transportation sector. His company, whose predecessor he co-founded in 1994, has developed successful software applications in several areas, notably resource scheduling systems, Web-based data collection systems, and a technology platform for multiple forms of demand responsive transit services. Dr. Teal has personally directed the development of several large software systems for his company's clients. Dr. Teal also serves as CTO for a startup company, KnowDelay, which has developed a predictive analytics service that forecasts weather-related air travel delays for airline travelers multiple days in advance of their flights. In addition, he is a part-time faculty member in the M.Sc. Analytics program of the University of Chicago. Dr. Teal was formerly a tenured faculty member (and founding member) in the transportation systems program in Civil Engineering at the University of California, Irvine, where he conducted research on private sector service contracting for public transportation, demand responsive transit, carpooling, and taxicab regulation/deregulation. He holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from MIT, an M.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Tufts University—his dissertation focused on paratransit innovation in urban transportation.

Niels Larsen

Niels Larsen is head of planning and business development for FlexDanmark. Niels has been a major contributor to the development of FlexDanmark to its current status. Prior to assuming his current position, he was head of FlexDanmark's IT and Projects Department, and before that the head of BeKTra (demand-controlled public traffic), which was the predecessor organization to FlexDanmark. Beginning in 1997, he was the project leader for the implementation of the DRT IT system at the PTO of North of Denmark, which provided the technology foundations for the spin-off organizations BeKTra. During the last 15 years Niels has grown a small call center from supporting a single PTO to becoming a nationwide DRT company, in important part by showing how cooperation between the public transport organizations have improved performance and reduced costs for the DRT services. The foundation of FlexDanmark is a shared DRT IT-system, with one facilitator in each region supporting numerous online authorizees and operators. The IT system can work as a real-time tender system, for all publicly funded individual passenger transport. The cooperation and scale has provided the basis for a modularized IT structure and a focus on a multi-modal approach to transport, with DRT serving as security grid for everyone to get to and from all locations. Niels holds Masters degrees in both Industrial IT and Economics (in addition to a Bachelors degree in Economics) from Aalborg University, and has completed masters level courses in management from Aarhus University.

Griete Similon

Griete Similon supports the "managing public transport" at De Lijn, the only public bus transport company of Flanders in Belgium. The De Lijn management team follows the policy framework of legislation and regulations in consultation with the Flemish government. There is also a special interest in the relationship with the public railway transport organization. Ms. Similon has helped De Lijn advance the social function of public transport in Flanders with the implementation of the "Belbus", the bus on call. This is a demand responsive service, integrated with fixed route service, for users who live in less populated environments. Between 2000 and 2006, Ms. Similon was the coordinator of the basic transport mobility project. This was a bottoms up initiative in which De Lijn with local governments made proposals for specific public transport improvements and De Lijn provided guidance in legal and functional matters, while being directly responsible for implementation of bus stops and related street modifications to maintain satisfactory traffic flow. Ms. Similon managed the follow on financial portion of this project. She also worked closely with the project's partner organizations to insure good quality project evaluation. In her current position, Ms. Similon is involved in determining how to use the results of research studies focused on the social concept of public transport as well as new legal developments, including agreements with the Flemish government, to improve De Lijn's services and performance. Ms. Similon's education includes a masters' degree in public administration science, communication and mobility marketing.

Odette Buntinx

Odette Buntinx has since 2010 been responsible for the technology elements of the Belbus (DRT) system of De Lijn, the Flemish public transport company, where she has worked since 1990. She is currently overseeing the development of a new and integrated software system, which includes planning, reservations, operations, monitoring and post-processing functionality, to replace the Ring software system that has been used by Belbus for the past decade. She is also involved in researching future opportunities for small local demand-driven systems inside and outside the public transport market. Ms. Buntinx has a long involvement in DRT for De Lijn, including implementing early DRT operations in low density areas where they were an essential element of the public transport network. She was actively involved in the development of more than 30 DRT systems. She participated in the major European projects (SAMPO, SAMPLUS, etc.) focused on DRT, which led to the introduction of the Ring software system by De Lijn. For several years, she was in charge of school transportation services for De Lijn, with responsibilities that included putting contracts out to tender, managing contracts, budgetary management, and strategic policy input. Prior to that Ms. Buntinx was in charge of the Marketing Department at De Lijn Limburg, where she was responsible for market research, development of concepts of transportation tailored to the local mobility market, external communication, promotion, maintaining relations with local authorities, and management of mobility contracts.

Graham Lightfoot

Graham Lightfoot has 40 years' experience of working with community-based and public passenger transport operations in Ireland (since 1990), Britain (1976-1989) and Australia (1974). His work has been at all levels, as project volunteer, project co-ordinator, local and national committee member, local authority officer, national development officer, researcher and consultant. He now works part time as Assistant Manager with Clare Accessible Transport and is an Associate Consultant with the TAS Partnership, specialists in public transport operations. Graham has been involved in transnational European projects at various levels, including the preparation of proposals, managing and co-ordinating projects, leading work packages, serving on advisory committees, organising and chairing meetings, seminars, workshops and conferences. This involvement has been related to a number of EU research and technological development projects on rural, urban, multimodal and sustainable transport since 1995 and to a number of EU training, research and technological development projects on ICT, including teleworking and distance learning from 1994 to 2004. Graham holds a B.S. in Transport Management and Planning from Loughborough University of Technology. He is a chartered member of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport Ireland and has a certificate in social auditing from the Institute of Social Auditing, Ireland. He has RSA certificates in the Assessment and Internal Verification of Vocational Qualifications.

Stuart Murray

Stuart Murray is Project Manager at Transport for Greater Manchester. He has been interested and involved in the provision of accessible public transport services since the 1990's. From a youth and community work background, he was frequently exercised by the issue of how people managed to access facilities and events. His ability to secure his first job in this field was helped by being able to articulate the personal problems of using public transport as a parent of very young twins. He became particularly interested in the challenges facing older people in respect of transport and mobility and completed a Masters degree in Gerontology (2008) with this issue as a focus. He has been in his position at Transport for Greater Manchester since 2006, with a brief to work on the integration of the wide range of social needs transport across the City Region. This has included three years as the Lead Partner for a European Union funded project which was concerned with the effectiveness of the 'first and last miles' of the journeys that people needed to take. He is chair of the Age UK Manchester Board of Trustees and involved with work to make Manchester an Age Friendly City. These interests will continue after he leaves his current post in late 2014.

Sharon Doyle

Sharon Doyle is the Manager of Mobility Plus for York Region Transit. Sharon has more than 25 years of transit industry experience and has been with York Region Transit (YRT/Viva) in Ontario, Canada, since its inception in 2001. YRT/Viva offers local and rapid transit services across nine York Region municipalities to more than one million residents, with Mobility Plus providing door-to-door shared-ride accessible public transit service for people with disabilities. As head of Mobility Plus, Sharon is responsible for overseeing the scheduling, dispatching and provision of specialized transit services across York Region. She and her team are instrumental in introducing technology innovations for Mobility Plus to enhance the rider experience, multi-modal services and operational performance.

Rob Bryans

Rob Bryans is the Director of Sales and Business Development at RouteMatch and specializes in solving technology challenges that large urban transit systems face. His knowledge of ITS technologies include fixed route and paratransit CAD/AVL, integrated mobility management, and real time traveler information systems. He has 9 years of experience deploying multiple projects and has driven efficiencies, reduced operational costs and generated overall efficiencies for RouteMatch clients. His understanding of public transit and paratransit operations is an asset to all RouteMatch clients with whom he works.

Chukwuemeka David Emele

Chukwuemeka David Emele is a researcher at the University of Aberdeen, UK. Dr. Emele has a computing background with a PhD in Computing Science from the University of Aberdeen, 2011. His principal research field is multi-agent systems, with a focus on computational models of policies, argumentation, trust, and information networks. He is interested in how systems may be designed and analyzed for policy compliance, and how these techniques can be applied to support human decision making (e.g. in collaborative planning teams). Special interest lies in the application and exploitation of new technologies to facilitate the provision and uptake of intelligent mobility solutions. One of Dr. Emele's current works is focused on investigating shared transport alternatives to private car use (e.g. Demand Responsive Transport, shared taxi services, voluntary car schemes, liftshare –collectively known as flexible transport services). In this light, Dr. Emele is the principal investigator of a Knowledge Exchange (KE) project that aims at transitioning one of the outcomes of a recent research into a deployable product, which will be operationalized and exploited to support real-life transport to health services within the North-East of Scotland such that more effective transport services could be provided. The product developed in the KE project is portable and scalable, and could potentially be exploited in other parts of the world. Other research interests include Big Data, opinion analysis, social media, crowdsourcing and machine learning.

Arnd Bätzner

Arnd Bätzner has an educational background in piano, physics and railway engineering, holding a master's degree from ETH Zurich. He is currently working on a Ph.D. thesis at the University of St.Gallen's Institute for Systemic Management and Public Governance, focusing on the last-mile linkage role of elevated short-distance connectors in dense urban environments, including skybridges, cable cars and people movers. In parallel to academic studies, Arnd has worked in economic research for the investment banking division of Credit Suisse and in corporate strategy at Swiss International Air Lines. His consulting work includes optimization projects focused on intermodality in both Swiss and trans-border public transportation. In fall 2011, Arnd was a guest researcher at the Future Cities Laboratory in Singapore, analyzing urban parking and shared vehicle markets. He is a non-executive director at the nationwide Swiss car-sharing operator Mobility and a member of the TRB Rail Transit Systems committee.

Heather Hume

Heather M. Hume is the Manager of Paratransit Programs for the MassDOT Rail and Transit Division. Her duties include overseeing the MBTA's ADA paratransit service, coordinate with statewide mobility management efforts, and manage innovative projects designed to ensure the sustainability of paratransit services throughout the MBTA service area. Ms. Hume has also served as a Service Planner with the MBTA and helped coordinate the efforts of Governor Deval Patrick's Executive Order 530 Commission on Community, Social and Paratransit services across the Commonwealth. Heather is a former enlisted Army Reserve member who has an extensive background in both Fixed Route and Paratransit operations. She started her career driving buses while at the University of Massachusetts and also assisted with transportation for the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics. In 2005 she worked for the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority and eventually found her way east working for Greater Lynn Senior Services as an Operations Supervisor for their contract operating MBTA's ADA paratransit. Heather has her Master's Degree from the Michael and Kitty Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy at Northeastern University in Boston with a focus on Transportation Policy.

Martin Schiefelbusch

Martin Schiefelbusch is a mobility consultant and transport planner based at the regional mobility agency for the State of Baden-Württemberg in Stuttgart, Germany (NVBW - Nahverkehrsgesellschaft Baden-Württemberg). Dr. Schiefelbusch is responsible for building up the agency's Centre for Innovative Public Transport, established April 2014 to provide advice, support and coordination for public transport stakeholders in the region, with a specific focus on rural areas. Before his current post, he was advisor for community transport for the State of Rhineland-Palatinate and assisted in the development of different volunteer-based transport schemes. He studied Transport Planning and Geography at the Technical University Berlin and took a MSc degree in Transport Planning and Management at the University of Westminster in London in 1997. His PhD on the travel experience in public transport at Technical University Berlin was completed in March 2007. From 2000 to 2014 he worked at the Nexus Institute for Cooperation Management as mobility researcher, consultant and project manager on a wide range of topics related to public transport, mobility behaviour, planning procedures and citizen participation in transport for clients from government, industry and research. From 2008 to 2012 he was also involved in a historical study of international collaboration in the railway industry. He is author and editor of numerous articles, conference papers and several books, including most recently (with Hans-Liudger Dienel) *Linking networks: The formation of common standards and visions for infrastructure development* and *Trains across borders – Comparative studies on international cooperation in railway development*. A comprehensive article on the "Bürgerbus" concept in English can be found in *World Transport Policy & Practice*, vol. 19.

Owen Quinn

Owen Quinn is Project Manager of Accessible Transportation Services (ATS) of the City of Hamilton (Ontario), Canada. Owen has worked with ATS since 2006 and been employed with the City of Hamilton since 2001. He previously worked as an urban planner for the City of Hamilton as well as other municipalities in Ontario since 1994. In his current role as Project Manager of ATS, Owen is responsible for the coordination and implementation as well as the on-going management of ATS' new eligibility policy. He is a transit staff advisor to the City's Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities. In addition, he is responsible for the development and review of specialized transit (paratransit) policies. Owen is currently a member of the Accessible Transit Sub-committee for the Canadian Urban Transit Association. His educational background includes a B.A. in Urban and Regional Planning from Ryerson University.

Tyler Means

Tyler Means is a transportation planner with the Mid-America Regional Council in Kansas City. Mr. Means has a primary focus of transit issue relating to older adults, persons with disabilities, persons of low-income and veterans. His current goal is to create a regional mobility management system based off the recently completed one-click online resource database, Link for Care. Mr. Means has a Master's Degree in Urban Planning and a Bachelors of Arts in Environmental Studies from the University of Kansas.

Carol Wright

Carol Wright, Assistant Vice President of Mobility and Transportation at Easter Seals, Inc. in Washington, DC is the director of Easter Seals Project ACTION. She is co-director of the National Center on Senior Transportation and leads the Veterans Transportation Assistance Programs for Project ACTION. Prior to joining Easter Seals, Carol's experience included serving as Associate Director for the Small Urban & Rural Transit Center, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, at North Dakota State University, where her primary responsibilities were the development and delivery of national training programs and outreach efforts. She has more than 12 years of experience as Executive Director of senior services and public transportation for a multi-county agency in central North Dakota, served as director of a residential facility for individuals with traumatic brain injuries, held management positions in long-term care, and was an independent consultant in marketing and development.

Imran Siddiqui

Imran Siddiqui is Director of Research & Development at IT Curves. Imran started his professional career in the software industry in 2005 and has worked in different technical capacities from Software Engineer to Chief Technology Officer at various leading companies in the software industry. Imran has been working with IT Curves Inc. since September 2009 in the capacity of Director of Research and Development. His main area of expertise is algorithms analysis and design. He is involved in designing application architecture and supervising the engineers in the company, as well as planning and decision making regarding technical matters. Over the past four years, he has worked with University of Maryland faculty members and PhD candidates on the commercial aspect of efficient ride sharing algorithms. A primary focus has been the best utilization of medical vehicles in term of times and miles to provide ride-sharing services. While working with IT Curves, Imran has obtained patents for two processes for the taxi and paratransit industries: (1) Intelligent Automated Dispatch and Mobile Resources Management System; (2) Efficient Automated Ride Sharing System. Imran graduated from Punjab University's College of Information Technology in Lahore, Pakistan in 2002 and completed a Masters in Computer Sciences in 2005 from Lahore University of Management Sciences, under the supervision of professors from MIT and Purdue. He focused on algorithm analysis and design and database optimization techniques in his graduate education.