

Albany, NY

Capital District Transportation Authority Transportation Planning Services



Nelson\Nygaard, with subconsultants Wilbur Smith Associates and Runways Transportation Company, was contracted by the Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA) to provide on-call services to support their Transit Development Plan process. The initial scope called for a Park-and-Ride Lot Inventory and Usage Survey, and the establishment of network running times and consistent run time period definitions based on observed data. Nelson\Nygaard returned to hold public workshops to help the CDTA better understand community preferences for transit service.

Park-and-Ride Lot Profiles. The project team visited each of CDTA's 27 active lots twice. For every visit, Nelson\Nygaard inventoried the lot, assessing usage, condition, and amenities. Surrounding land uses were recorded, the nearest bus stop was identified, and "mail back questionnaires" were distributed. Using the information collected at the Park-and-Ride lots and from the surveys, Nelson\Nygaard produced a profile for each lot summarizing conditions, amenities, usage, and user characteristics.

Scheduling Improvements. The project team worked with CDTA staff to gather INIT run time and schedule adherence data, as well as current HASTUS segment scheduled run time data. The findings were incorporated into a report documenting best practices and opportunities for improvements.

Planning Game Exercise. Nelson\Nygaard held two sessions of its well-known Smithville Planning Game© the first for representatives from the entire CDTA service area; the second session exclusively for the community of Saratoga Springs. The game educated attendees about the difficult tradeoffs that must be considered when planning transit services and helped attendees design their own "short-term" transit network. The results of each session were incorporated by CDTA staff into the planning element of the Transit Development Plan.

Project Duration: 2005–2006

Total Budget: \$150,000

Nelson\Nygaard Budget: \$100,000

For more information:

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