

TIDES Update Meeting – Meeting Agenda, Notes and Action Items

Wednesday, January 10, 2018

TRB / Washington DC

1. Introductions

- **See list below**

2. Updates

- a. 2017 TCRP proposal “Improving access and management of transit ITS data”
Proposed \$600,000 project over 24 months
 - **Project was not funded this year. There were only 7 projects funded and the total funding was not very large. We will try again in 2018 with a smaller proposal.**
- b. Data Sample Collection
 - i. Blacksburg Transit (VA)
 - ii. MBTA (Boston, MA)
 - iii. NYCT (New York, NY)
 - iv. Memex (Italy)
 - **Data sets were collected from the above agencies. Hurray for them! Several agencies said that they had planned to submit a data sample but hadn’t done so yet.**
 - **See more notes below on next steps.**

3. Related projects

- a. GTFS-ride - <https://github.com/ODOT-PTS/GTFS-ride>
Specification and tools to manipulate GTFS-ride, an open ridership data standard
- b. GTFS-stat - <https://github.com/osplanning-data-standards/GTFS-STAT>
A GTFS-based data transit network data standard suitable for dynamic transit modeling
- c. Interoperable transit data conversation
(GTFS, GTFS-realtime, “GTFS-diff”)
- d. Transit open source software conversation
(One Bus Away, Open Trip Planner, Transit Clock)
- e. MBTA Performance - <https://github.com/amonat/mbta-perf-tools>

- John briefly described the above projects and their relevance to TIDES
- John mentioned several other data sources such as origin-destination information, real-time predictions, surveys, detailed passenger movements, etc. We should be thinking about these as possible extensions as we develop the initial data structure so that it is flexible enough for future needs.
- Kate noted that the emergency preparedness community is also very interested in the “GTFS-diff” concept in order that transit schedules be as up to date as possible, and be adjustable, in the event of an emergency.
- Gabriel said that Korbato was been developing a common data structure for their work and that it would be a good place to start for TIDES. They hope to make it open source eventually
- Tony said that NYCT is archiving the predictions that are made by OneBusAway and that this is part of the base code
- Raymond suggested that we consider how to manage “clipboard” data, such as manual dispatch data. Laura agreed.
- Hoki suggested that we consider storing traffic signal information. This could support analysis to drive configuration of multimodal traffic signal systems
- John mentioned the Awesome Transit site (<https://github.com/luqmaan/awesome-transit>) as a good resource. Aaron added Transit Wiki (https://www.transitwiki.org/TransitWiki/index.php/Main_Page) as another

4. Next Steps

- a. Funding opportunities
 - i. 2018 TCRP proposal
 - ii. Pooled Fund Concept
 - iii. Other ideas
- Eric suggested exploring Moore Foundation as possible grant source
 - Could Sidewalk Labs be supportive? They have an existing process of intergovernmental agreements
 - Jeff said that RTD is part of existing intergovernmental pooled funding agreements for police mapping and CAD/AVL radio towers.
 - Kate mentioned the AASHTOware model, for maintenance of software. Contact is Matt Hardy.
 - Could APTA be interested? Need to clarify different from existing standards process and the benefit to the transit industry.

b. Data Samples Collection

- **John** will send out the call for data samples again. (Chicago, Denver, Minneapolis-St.Paul all said they would submit one.)
- **Stephen** will continue to collect the samples and store them on his Sharepoint.
- Stephen reminded that we need to make sure that there is not Personally Identifiable Information (PII) in the data samples and that it is okay for others to see the data. **Stephen** will followup with the agencies that submitted data samples already to make sure the data can be shared.
- **Raymond** will setup a private GitHub to mirror the data samples

c. Participants

- i. Attract more transit agencies?

- Consider international participation
 - o **John** will work with **Sylvain** to see if there is a way to get a mention at IT Trans and if there is a way to attract other international participation
 - o

d. Organizational ideas?

- Kate suggested exploring possible academic connections more deeply. Are there new professors looking for a project? Could the interest students? Are there UTCs that would take this project up?
- **John** and **Hoki** will check if there is way to explore this at the UTC conference that is upcoming in Minneapolis

5. Closing

- John asked what the best communication channel was. We agree that the Tides Project Google Group will be the primary channel for now. If it gets too much traffic we can split it into two or more groups for different levels of discussion.
- **John** will review his email lists, re-advertise the Google Group, and then use it exclusively for communications.

Attendees

John Levin, Metro Transit, Minneapolis

Nisar Ahmed, MTC, San Francisco

Jeff Becker, RTD, Denver

Stephen Granger-Bevan, Velocilytics

Sylvain Haon, UITP

Tony Laidig, transitdata.net

Eric Lind, Metro Transit, Minneapolis

Gabriel Sánchez-Martínez, Korbato

Jay Gordon, Korbato

Laura Riegel, MBTA, Boston

Raymond Chan, CTA, Chicago

Jonathan Wade, RTD, Denver

Hoki Tse, Metro Transit, Minneapolis

Catherine Lawson, U Albany

Aaron Antrim, Trillium

Steve Yaffe, Arlington Transit