



2014 PM 1 Breakout Session Recap

PM 1: Expanding Transit Networks Through Last Mile Connectivity

Moderator:

Dr. Brian D. Taylor, Professor of Urban Planning, Director of the Institute of Transportation Studies, and Director of the Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies in the Luskin School of Public Affairs at UCLA

Panelists:

- Jacob Lieb, Sustainability Policy Manager, Countywide Planning and Development, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
- Jennifer Bergener, Director of Rail Program and Facilities Engineering, Orange County Transportation Authority and Managing Director, LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency
- Natalie Meeks, PE, Public Works Director, City of Anaheim
- Evan Meyer, COO and Co-Founder, RideAmigos

Summary

This session discussed the need for meaningful first and last mile solutions that can broaden the reach of Southern California's expanding transit network and examined how the region is building projects, leveraging the private sector, and utilizing social networks to improve access. As moderator Brian Taylor noted, trips are made from door to door and dock to dock, but it's the rail lines and freeways that attract the most attention. Yet, if we can improve people's connections to and from our lines/freeways we can have a huge impact on their overall transit experience.

Takeaway

The overall takeaway is that as Southern California's transit networks continue to grow, agencies and businesses must develop a variety of innovative first/last mile solutions to broaden the reach of transit and meet the demand for convenient connections. The solutions don't necessarily have to be transit based. LA Metro is examining how to enhance bike/ped/carshare connections around the stations and partnering with the private sector to create vanpool linkages. The LOSSAN corridor is integrating ticketing, fares, and schedules to make their system more customer-friendly and partnering with tourist businesses in Santa Barbara to incentivize people to leave their cars behind.

ARTIC is designing a state-of-the-art new transit center that will feature connections to the nearby entertainment, business, and resort areas via a wide variety of modes. Transportation demand management companies like RideAmigos are helping individuals and agencies to leverage their social networks to dramatically improve their commutes and increase ridership. People make the decision to take transit if it does not require extra effort when compared to driving, and if it's convenient, pleasant and intuitive. By continuing to work together and create seamless first/last mile solutions, we can have an outsized impact on ridership of the overall system and a huge influence on the connectivity of the region.