Learning to use GTFS: World Bank’s Online Course for Developing Regions
Holly Krambeck, Tatiana Peralta Quiros, and Elizabeth Resor (World Bank)

ABSTRACT TEXT: The World Bank Transport & ICT Team has created an online learning course about GTFS, General Transit Feed Specification, in collaboration with experts in this field. The course objective is to empower participants to create, manage, and use GTFS feeds, particularly in cities that do not already have complete electronic systems for storing and managing their transit system data. The course methodologies are based upon the World Bank and other successful experiences in creating GTFS feeds in resource-constrained environments and reflect the latest work and knowledge in open data and open-source software.

This presentation will provide an overview of the course with some key examples of content from course, such as how to map GTFS data, open source tools for creating and editing a GTFS feed, and case studies of creating a GTFS feed in resource-constrained environments (Nairobi, Kenya, and Manila, Philippines). Because this presentation focuses on learning it will be highly interactive and adapt to the audience interest and experience, giving more technical explanations where there is interest.

GTFS Best Practices: A New Guide Created Collaboratively by Data Consumers, Producers, and the Rocky Mountain Institute
Aaron Antrim, Principal, Trillium Solutions, Inc., Portland, OR
Sean Barbeau, University of South Florida, Center for Urban Transportation Research, Tampa, FL

ABSTRACT TEXT: Google states that their Google Transit service, based on GTFS data, is offered to around 18,000 cities around the world. However, Google is certainly not the only user of GTFS data. As a result of third-party developer innovation, GTFS data is now being used by a variety of third-party software applications for many different purposes, including trip planning, ridesharing, timetable creation, mobile data, data visualization, accessibility, analysis tools for planning, and real-time information systems. However, as is often the case with innovation, the use of GTFS data by a large number of agencies and developers has lead to gray areas in the specification that were open to interpretation.

This presentation will discuss the GTFS Best Practices (http://gtfs.org/best-practices/), a newly published set of documents that help clarify certain areas of the GTFS specification and provide official guidance to producers and consumers of the data. These best practices will help data producers create improved GTFS datasets that represent similar scenarios in the same way, which will result in improved user experiences for applications that use GTFS data. Better consistency in datasets will also make it easier for app developers to create new multimodal applications.

We will discuss GTFS use cases in general, the specific Best Practices (and how to apply them), and lessons and experiences from the process of developing GTFS Best Practices.
Publishing, consuming, and improving GTFS with the Transitland platform
Drew DaraAbrams, Ph.D., and Ian Rees, Mapzen, San Francisco, CA

ABSTRACT TEXT: Transitland is a community-edited data service aggregating transit networks across metropolitan and rural areas around the world. Each day Transitland fetches GTFS feeds representing approximately 1,500 transit operators (which includes transit operators that the World Bank has already supported in their efforts to create GTFS feeds, as discussed in Session #1). All of these feeds are imported and made available for querying by anyone through both simple visual interfaces and powerful APIs.

Transitland aggregates feeds that have been created with World Bank resources.

In this talk, we’ll demonstrate how a transit agency can submit their GTFS feed to the Transitland Feed Registry in order to share their data more widely. We’ll also show how the Transitland platform can help both the producers of data at agencies and outside consumers of data to work together on checking GTFS feeds against the best practices (as discussed in Session #2) and fixing common errors.