Greetings!

Looking back over the past few weeks it is hard to believe how much our world has changed in such a short period of time. In last month’s letter, I talked about the advancement of ACT’s TDM legislation, the final steps of developing the TDM-CP exam and how great the year was shaping up for ACT. Enter COVID-19!

ACT, like every organization across the country, has had to quickly adapt to a new reality governed by social distancing to protect our health and the health of our family, friends, and colleagues. We made the decision early to postpone ACT’s Emerging Mobility Summit and shift the event to a half-day virtual summit. As a professional association, supporting the learning and growth of our members is central to our mission and ACT will be working to develop new programs and services to facilitate these activities and ensure that our community of TDM professionals remains strong and connected.

As TDM professionals, our goal is to create efficiencies within the transportation system to enable people to get to their destinations without driving alone. Yet, under the threat of a communicable disease, we are being told to distance ourselves from each other as much as possible. This has resulted in massive shifts in commute modes. Rush hour traffic is gone, unfortunately so is transit ridership. Telework is getting its moment in the spotlight as more than 150 million Americans have been ordered to stay at home.

But we must not forget, that many organizations still need employees to work on-site. Ensuring these individuals can still avoid driving alone will be a challenge for all of us – especially as the virus subsides and life returns to normal – we hope new drive alone habits and public fears of being close to others doesn’t create a permanent rise in drive alone commuting.

We plan to increase the number of webinars and launch new virtual discussion groups to provide opportunities for members to discuss their challenges and share their experiences and lessons learned as each of us do our best to respond.

We understand that some of our members may be dealing with their own challenges during this time. I encourage you to reach out to us if there is anything that we might be able to do to assist you and your organization through this unique time.

Best regards and stay healthy,

David Straus
Executive Director
Teleworking in a Time of Crisis

While teleworking had been one of the fastest growing modes of commuting before the outbreak of COVID-19, many organizations are finding out the hard way the importance of supporting work from home options for employees. As state and local officials continue to roll out “stay at home” or “shelter in place” advisories, many organizations have had to assess internal capacity for long-term telework implementation with only a few days’ notice. In response, ACT’s Telework Council, hosted an informative webinar with telework experts to help organizations prepare and adapt.

Allie Velleca, TDM Program Manager at AECOM and Vice Chair of the ACT Telework Council kicked-off the webinar by sharing her personal experience and offering key strategies for maximizing productivity. With schools and the vast majority of businesses closed there is now an added challenge for telecommuting as entire families are now home and people must now balance work with childcare. This challenge can be addressed successfully with employers understanding the unique situation and providing flexibility to employees to use the time that may have previously been used for the commute as part of their workday. This will help ensure that employees are able to step away from their work as needed, while still completing their necessary work.

Allie shared how AECOM was prepared to allow the majority of employees to telework at a moment’s notice. Since most employees have work-issued laptops, the organization was able to leverage...

COVID-19 Spurs ACT Members into Action

With the rapid spread of coronavirus, across America workplaces have been shutdown or asked to cut back on in-person services to prevent further community spread. Many of these advisories have come at short notice, leaving organizations to hastily prepare for more long-term and widespread teleworking amongst employees. Without existing technology or telework policies in place, the transition to more full-time telework for more staff can be difficult. This isn’t the only challenge COVID-19 poses to the commute and workday—vanpoolers and providers have also needed to take steps in responding. We wanted to take the time to acknowledge some of our members efforts to assist commuters and employers in addressing the impacts of COVID-19.

As the business community in central and southwest Virginia work to reduce the spread of COVID-19, many employers who have never considered telework are looking for ways to quickly implement remote working options. As the region’s Commuter Assistance Program, RIDE Solutions is working to help employers
understand their opportunities and implement programs to keep their employees, customers, and families safe. “Continuity of operations is critical in times like these,” says RIDE Solutions Director Jeremy Holmes. “But more important is the...

2020 Events News

Join us online for this special 3-hour virtual summit on the challenges and opportunities facing the mobility landscape and what innovative practices and tools can be used to meet them.

Panelists will speak on a variety of relevant topics such as congestion pricing, mobility as a service (MaaS), fare free transit, and more! View the full agenda [here](#).

*Share your excitement on social media with #EMSVirtual*

[Register for Virtual Summit](#)

ACT NATIONAL AWARDS

Nominations for the 2020 ACT National Awards are still open!

Those eligible for the awards include individuals, public and private sector agencies, businesses, non-profit organizations, colleges and universities, business associations, transportation management associations and transportation providers.

Nominations **MUST** be submitted by an ACT member in good standing. Nominees do not need to be an ACT member. Self-nominations are accepted and encouraged.

Each nomination must be submitted **by April 10th, 2020**.

[Submit Awards Nomination](#)
During Social Distancing

As transit ridership drops and teleworking dominates the national conversation on commuting, several members of the 2020 ImpACT! Leadership Class are thinking on their feet and pivoting their group project topics to meet the current concerns about what the commute will look like during and after the COVID-19 pandemic and our time of social distancing.

One group will now focus on establishing open calls for ACT members to learn how they are responding to COVID-19 and its impacts on their programs and services. The team will then develop a report to summarize key responses and strategies TDM organizations used when responding in a global pandemic.

Two groups found that they needed to make adjustments to their projects as they relied on in-person interactions at ACT national and chapter events. One of these groups had designed promotional items for each ACT chapter to encourage enthusiasm and support new member recruitment. They will look at how to re-purpose these items for later use perhaps as part of future chapter networking events, once we all are allowed to gather again in groups.

One group, using Netlift technology, is implementing a carpool program at Emory University focused on students. Since the university mainly encourages employees to carpool, these ImpACT participants hope to market to students that carpooling is cheaper and more convenient on campus. The group is now developing materials to send to students in June along with the regularly scheduled parking permit information.

Another group is working to examine and improve the collaboration between transportation management associations (TMAs) and transit agencies. A survey was distributed in partnership with ACT’s TMA Council and the group is now in the process of compiling and analyzing the collected data.

The Class of 2020 is still just as motivated and ambitious as they were when they first met one another in Florida a couple months ago and we look forward to following the great work they’ve set out to accomplish.

Executive Spotlight:
Becky Heieck, North Natomas Jibe

For everyone who lives or works in North Natomas, Jibe makes it easier to leave the car at home. Permanently funded by a property tax line item in one of the nation’s most diverse ZIP codes, Jibe provides and promotes smart, healthy alternatives to single-occupant vehicle transportation.
What are you and your organization seeking to achieve?
By building partnerships and alliances with schools, businesses, local government and regional transit authorities, Jibe seeks to unify the collective voice concerning all things transportation and accomplish more than each could do alone. Ultimately, we encourage transportation solutions such as walking, biking and busing that make it easier to leave the car at home.

How did you get to where you are today?
I’m a Sacramento native who has raised funds for a prominent national organization through a local affiliate. I directed a business organization that’s currently...

Blockchain and Transportation

On March 24, ACT hosted a webinar on an exciting new topic - Blockchain and Transportation: Protection, Privacy, and Payments with speakers Ian Todreas, Vice President of ERG, Inc. and Dr. Victoria Adams, CEO and Founder of CadwynBloc.

While blockchain can seem complex, Dr. Adams laid out how it works and the potential for it to improve the experience of using multiple transportation services in one decentralized and protected network.

The recording for this webinar is now live on the ACT website and we recommend you check it out!

Chapter & Council News

At the end of February, the Valley of the Sun chapter held a networking breakfast where there was a great discussion about transportation challenges facing the Tucson metropolitan area, as well as programs, projects and new initiatives being undertaken by various organizations.

Beth Gorman, Pima County Department of Environmental Quality, talked about a new initiative they are working on that she learned about at the ACT International Conference in NYC. The HR Department and DEQ at Pima County will be working with new hires to provide information about the transportation options available for their commute trip.

There was a lively discussion about future funding for Tucson, challenges facing transit in the city, new software applications available to better serve the transit riders, and autonomous vehicles in Phoenix.

The SEACT Chapter will host a chapter meeting on Thursday, April 9th at 1pm EST.
The meeting will include speakers largely focusing on vanpool among other topics.

You can register for the webinar meeting [here](#).

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### Getting To Know: Katie O'Sullivan, ICF

Katie O'Sullivan is a Senior Transportation & Smart Mobility Specialist at ICF, which supports agencies with TDM planning as well as the design, implementation, and evaluation of TDM programs. She is based in Buffalo, NY and grew up in Vermont. Prior to her current role at ICF, Katie worked in TDM and multi-modal transportation planning for an MPO (GBNRTC), the FHWA New York division office, a state DOT (MnDOT), and another firm (IBI Group). She studied geography at McGill University and regional transportation planning at the University at Albany. Outside of the TDM world, Katie volunteers as a hotline counselor for Crisis Services.

**What brought you to TDM/how did you get involved in the field?**
I was drawn to transportation planning and TDM, in particular, by the imperative to shift focus from vehicles to people within the transportation field. I decided to go and stay car-free when I left my rural hometown for college. That has proven to be one of the most...

[Continue Reading>>](#)

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### Members On The Move

Welcome to **On the Move**, where we recognize ACT members earning promotions, entering new positions, and other new employment opportunities. Submit announcements to Amanda Brangwynne at [abrangwynne@actweb.org](mailto:abrangwynne@actweb.org).

- **Nicole Rickey** has taken a new role at Johns Hopkins University as Parking Manager.
- **Kristina Valenzuela** has started a new position as a Technical Specialist at WSP USA.
- **Bailey Steele** has joined Agile Mile as an Account Manager.
- **Alix Scarborough** has taken a new position at Steer as a Senior Consultant.

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### We Want to Hear From You

Is there an effective TDM progra in your community? Are you passionate about micromobility or the role of AVs? Do you have a unique viewpoint on the role of TDM that you would like to share with others? No matter the topic, we want to hear from you! Share your stories and ideas about TDM and we will feature it in a Connections Newsletter and on the ACT website news page.

Contributions can be sent to Amanda Brangwynne ([abrangwynne@actweb.org](mailto:abrangwynne@actweb.org)) and scheduled for the next available publication.
Welcome New Members!

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>John Barobs</td>
<td>Move Minnesota</td>
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<td>Vanessa Battle</td>
<td>GoTriangle</td>
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<td>Dara Braitman</td>
<td>City of Pittsburgh</td>
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<td>Arian Bryant</td>
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<td>Alex Burns</td>
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<td>Alex Cowsky</td>
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<td>William Cunningham</td>
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<td>Noreima Diaz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Becca Gilberg</td>
<td>Washington University in St. Louis</td>
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<td>Tanisha Hall</td>
<td>Fairpointe Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eric Halvorson</td>
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<td>Efi Laina-Maherakis</td>
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<td>Annette Lam</td>
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<td>Amanda Luecker</td>
<td>State of Arizona / Capitol Rideshare</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlie Mace</td>
<td>City of Vancouver</td>
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<td>Amanda Marino</td>
<td>Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission</td>
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<td>Tai Mooney</td>
<td>ACCS c/o DS&amp;MG</td>
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<td>Catherine Nguyen</td>
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ACT is a community of professionals working to advance transportation options for commuters and improve the economic competitiveness of the cities, regions, and businesses they serve. [Encourage your colleagues to join](#); the larger our community the greater our impact!

Upcoming Events & Programs
Join Our Mailing List!