



Florida Department of Transportation Research

Transit Extraboard Management - Optimum Sizing and Strategies

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Transit agencies often employ backup, or extraboard, drivers to maintain regular service schedules when their regular drivers are unavailable. Agencies also use extraboard drivers when attrition causes manpower shortages and for special assignments outside the normal workload.

To manage extraboard, factors such as labor agreement provisions and work rules, the amount of manpower available, and the nature of the work to be done must be considered. Researchers surveyed the extraboard management practices of 35 transit agencies of various sizes around the U.S. They found that the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) agency uses an Excel-based program that combines the management of extraboard and regular workforce needs.

A review of the DART tool by the researchers showed that it has a user-friendly design and makes use of data types that are readily available in most transit agencies.

Researchers tested the DART tool at the Volusia County Transit (VOTRAN) agency. They selected VOTRAN because it is the largest of Florida's small transit agencies and uses a high number of extraboard employees. After the test period was completed, VOTRAN reported that it will continue using the DART tool. Other Florida transit agencies have indicated interest in adopting the DART tool after it has had further testing to assure that it will be applicable to their needs. The DART tool has potential to be especially helpful to agencies in determining the level of recruitment needed to maintain optimal staffing levels and service to the public.



Good extraboard management optimizes driver scheduling and reduces costly inefficiencies.

Project Manager: Elizabeth Stutts, Public Transportation Office, elizabeth.stutts@dot.state.fl.us
Principal Investigator: Christopher DeAnnuntis, University of South Florida, deannunt@cutr.usf.edu