

East Bay Paratransit MDC/AVL Pilot Program

COUNTYWIDE

PROJECT BENEFITS:

In-vehicle mobile data terminals (MDT) will provide EBP with two-way messaging, electronic passenger manifests, vehicle status, and GPS location updates via the integrated GPS receiver. The system will allow EBP to use the existing voice-grade radio network for data communications and can provide a sophisticated wireless message router, which can support higher volumes of data than alternative solutions.

PROJECT STATUS:

Installation of hardware, software, and MDC/AVLs has begun and is in progress. Final version of software upgrades necessary to support the MDT/AVL application has been completed. MDT/AVL systems were installed in six pilot vehicles and are currently being tested.

To find out more about this project, please contact the Project Sponsor.

PROJECT SPONSOR:

Alameda-Contra Costa
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ACT Transit and BART, acting in their capacity as the East Bay Paratransit (EBP) Consortium, purchased and have begun installing Mobile Data Computers (MDC)/Automatic Vehicle Locators (AVL) on a portion of the EBP fleet of vehicles. MDC/AVL are small computers located on the vehicles that can communicate with scheduling software. MDC/AVL allow for a higher level of data collection and communication to improve delivery of service as opposed to manual entry and/or radio communications.

MDCs allow dispatch to relay pick-up and drop-off information via the computer rather than via the radio communication. This allows dispatch to add passengers, reassign drivers, and make other changes to the drivers' manifests throughout the day such as cancellations, no-shows, and other issues that occur. This increases productivity and service quality. Finally, MDCs will allow for 100% collection of real-time data for reporting and analysis. Currently, EBP reporting and analysis is based on a statistically valid sample of random days of service.

Project Budget and Funding

TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$561,645
<i>Funding</i>	
ACTIA Paratransit Gap Grant Award	\$500,000
Matching Funds	
Source: Local Match	\$61,645



Project Schedule

ACTIA Grant Awarded (Cycle 3)	June 22, 2006
Award Contract with StrataGen	October 2006
Assign IT/Project Manager	November 2006
Purchase Hardware in Conjunction with Installation of Software	September 2006 (Purchase) April/May 2007 (Install)
Install MDTs in Six Pilot Vehicles	November 2007
Complete Driver/Dispatcher Training	January 2008
Complete Project On-line Startup and Testing and Adjustments	March 2008
Data Gathering/Evaluation Complete	May 2008
Grant Funding Period Complete	June 30, 2008

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