Planning for Resiliency in Transit: Beyond COVID-19
Meghan Boydston, AICP
APA Colorado Conference
September 2021
Overview: CDOT Pandemic Protocols for Bus Operators

Lessons Learned

Beyond COVID-19
Overview: CDOT Division of Transit and Rail Pandemic Protocols for Bus Operators
Project Purpose

- Pandemic protocols that meet legal requirements and follow best practices
- All-in-one document with standard-operating-protocol level of detail
- Distributed in December 2020 to bus operators and transit agencies
Short-Term Protocols Contents

- 1.0 OVERVIEW
- 2.0 DECONTAMINATION
- 3.0 HYGIENE
- 4.0 PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT
- 5.0 TESTING, SCREENING, REPORTING
- 6.0 SOCIAL DISTANCING
- 7.0 ENGINEERING CONTROLS
- 8.0 COMMUNICATIONS WITH STAKEHOLDERS
- 9.0 BUS OPERATIONS
- 10.0 HUMAN RESOURCES
- 11.0 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS
Project Approach

- Compiled relevant federal, state, and local laws, and executive/public health orders.

- Compiled guidelines of federal agencies and professional organizations.

- Interviewed contracted bus operators.
Outcomes

- Positive feedback from bus operators about the process and final product
- Adopted for use by other CO transit agencies
- Riders appreciate the focus on their safety, well-being, and health
- CDOT Division of Transit and Rail has a road map to handle future pandemics
Lessons Learned
Stakeholder Involvement

- Hearing stakeholders through interviews
- Understanding on-the-ground experience operating transit during the pandemic
Evolving Pandemic Policies

- Rapidly changing policy environment
- Layers of policy – local, state, federal
- Meeting CDPHE standards
Enforcement

- Transit face mask requirement
  - Face masks required on transit through January 18, 2022
  - Riders have complied overall and not many incidents have occurred
Responsibility for upholding protocols is divided between three parties – bus operators, CDOT, and passengers.

Checklists for easy navigation and reference.

Differentiates between required protocols and guidance.

Checklists for Recommended and Required Protocols

These checklists include a summary of all protocols included in the Short Term Pandemic Protocols for Bus Operators document. These checklists assign responsibility for each protocol to CDOT, Bustang and Bustang Outrider Operators, and passengers. Certain protocols apply to multiple parties or entities.

Checklists include a summary of all protocols included in the Short Term Pandemic Protocols for Bus Operators document. These checklists assign responsibility for each protocol to CDOT, Bustang and Bustang Outrider Operators, and passengers. Certain protocols apply to multiple parties or entities.

Certain protocols that are required by federal, state, or local law, executive order, or public health order are noted in with an asterisk and **bold blue text** in the checklists. Because these are frequently changing, please consult the latest version of all laws, executive, and public health orders. For a summary of applicable laws and guidelines at the time of writing, consult Section 1.2.

**CDOT and Bustang and Bustang Outrider Operator Protocols**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operators</th>
<th>CDOT</th>
<th>Operators and CDOT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Protocols with an asterisk (*) and in **bold blue text** are required by federal, state, or local laws, executive or public health orders.

**Decontamination**

*(See Chapter 2 for More Information)*

- Develop and implement a plan for routine cleaning and disinfection:
  - Daily cleaning and disinfection of vehicles and facilities.
  - Weekly deep cleaning of vehicles and facilities.
  - **Cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas at shift changes and layovers.**
- Maintain an adequate supply of disinfectants and supplies and store them properly.
- Use disinfection products and supplies that meet EPA's criteria for use against COVID-19 and have a back-up plan with alternative methods if supplies run short.
- Use the appropriate cleaning and disinfecting supplies and methods for hard, non-porous surfaces; soft, porous surfaces; and electronic surfaces, avoiding the dry sweeping method.
Beyond COVID-19
Innovations in Incorporating Public Health in Transit

- Engineering Controls to limit pandemic risks
  - Bustang buses have UV radiation cleaning within the HVAC units, in process of installing shields for driver compartments
- Station and Stop Design
  - Integrating public health principles into bus stop and station design
Continuous Emergency Management Monitoring

- World Health Organization Pandemic Phases
- Contagious Virus Response Plan
- All-Hazards Approach
Trends in Transit Agencies’ Response to COVID-19

- Partnerships with transportation network companies
- Alternative metrics to measure transit’s value
- Incentives to lure back riders
- Rise in contactless payment
- Adjusting schedules to pandemic commute shift
Thank you!

- Contact:
  - Meghan Boydston - meghan.boydston@hdrinc.com
  - Mike Timlin - michael.timlin@state.co.us