TransitData 2020

6th International Symposium on the
Use of Public Transit Automated Data for Planning and Operations

ONLINE * August 11-13, 2020
https://transitdata2020.ca/

**Hosted by the
Transit Analytics Lab (TAL)
University of Toronto Transportation Research Institute (UTTRI)**

Draft Program – July 7, 2020
Subject to change

<mark>* All program times EDT Eastern Daylight Time (4 hours behind Greenwich Mean Time (GMT-4))</mark>

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

09:00* Plenary 1: **Introduction to the Symposium and Transit Analytics Lab**
Words of Welcome and Introduction to UTTRI's Transit Analytics Lab (TAL).

09:45 Plenary 2: **A Conversation with Professor Nigel Wilson: The Long Road to Data-Powered Transit**
Emeritus Professor Nigel Wilson of MIT is the *éminence grise* on research related to the use of automated transit data for planning and operations. We will engage him in conversation to discuss his perspectives on the use of transit data, where we are today and what lies ahead.

10:30 Break

10:50 **Parallel Sessions of Lightning Presentations - Part 1**
Our Call for Submissions resulted in over 80 accepted submissions from academics and practitioners alike. These studies will be presented in an innovative format of 6-minute lightning presentations, a sort of *tapas tasting buffet,* offering a broad menu on data-driven tools for planning and operations, methodology enhancements, and perspectives on related policy and organizational issues.

11:50   Lunch Break

1:15   Lunch Activity (TBD)

1:40   **Parallel Sessions - Part 2**

2:40   Break

3:00   Plenary 3: **Data-Driven Analyses and Visualizations in Response to COVID 19**
         The entire world is grappling with responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Transit
         agencies have had to scramble to rethink their schedules, services and sometimes
         networks, and data has played a critical role in these analyses. This session will provide
         some perspectives on the use of data to assist planning and operations in response to
         the pandemic.

4:15   Break

4:30   Plenary 4: TBD

5:30   End of Day 1

Wednesday, August 12, 2020

09:00   Plenary 5: **Spotlight on Transit Data / Analytics Laboratories**
         A small number of research laboratories from around the world have been on the
         forefront of conducting applied research related to transit data and analytics **in
         collaboration** with Public Transport authorities and operators. This session will
         provide a spotlight on some of their activities.

10:40   Break

11:00   **Parallel Sessions - Part 3**

12:00   Lunch Break

1:00   Lunch Activity (TBD)

1:45 Plenary 6: **Data Management Challenges and Initiatives – Panel Discussion**
     A few transit agencies have moved beyond just ensuring quality assurance of their data to developing comprehensive data management programs and sophisticated analytic capabilities. This panel discussion will bring together some of the managers from these agencies to discuss the organizational challenges they have faced, and their different approaches to these challenges.

3:00 Break

3:20 **Parallel Sessions - Part 4**

4:20 Plenary 7: **Pertinent Initiatives Related to Data Specifications and Management**
     This session will highlight some current studies or recent initiatives that support enhanced data management or encourage the use of data specifications. One such study is TCRP Project G-18 entitled *Improving Access and Management of Transit ITS Data.*

5:20 End of Day 2

Thursday, August 13, 2020

09:00 **Parallel Sessions - Part 5**

10:00 Break

10:20 Plenary 8: **New Data Sources: Perspectives and Challenges - Panel Discussion**
     Automated transit data has primarily been derived to date from transit ITS or smart card technologies. But new potential sources of data, including Location-Based services, social media, etc. are being used in research and applications, opening new horizons on their use for transit planning and operations. This panel discussion will provide some perspective on these new sources of data, their potential use in transit, and some of the challenges they raise, including quality assurance, manipulation, protection of privacy, cybersecurity, etc.

11:50 Lunch Break

1:15 Lunch Activity (TBD)

1:45   Plenary 9: **Academic/Industry Collaboration on Data Analytics and Applications –**
         Panel Discussion
         Academic researchers and transit agency staff often inhabit two separate worlds.
         However, in recent years the use of automated data to develop analytics applied to
         transit planning and operations has become an area of growing common interest,
         where collaboration is feasible and of mutual benefit. This panel includes experts who
         have worked to build such collaborations and will discuss both benefits and challenges
         in pursuing academic/industry collaboration to enhance transit effectiveness and
         efficiency through the application of data.

2:45   Plenary 10: **Looking to the Future**
         The final session will provide some concluding remarks about the Symposium, and
         open up perspectives on the future with thoughts for participants to reflect on as they
         move forward.

3:45   End of Symposium