ITS and the small Rural Transit organization

or

hw DY knw f ur keepn ^W teknoloG?
Central Area Rural Transit System, Inc (CARTS)

- Demand responsive system
- Very little “live” dispatching
- Service area is 1,042 square miles/approximately 423 road miles covered
- CARTS vehicles/Contractor vehicles
- Using Mobilitat – Easy Rides Software
- Communicating with cell phones
Challenges

• Cell phone coverage equal to radio coverage – still have some dead zones

• Coordinating agencies policies prevent working within your program
  • Provide programs for agencies to use – accuracy of data provided
  • Have to consolidate data from many sources – not always presented the same way
  • Manual data entry – margin of error
Challenges continued...

• Programs and hardware always changing
  • Hardware capacity to keep up
  • Funding to acquire hardware and software
• Small agencies – no IT professional
  • Have to rely on others to help determine needs
  • Not experienced with transit
  • Ongoing software maintenance adds more costs
  • Is hardware maintenance/repair available locally?
Wish List

• In house technology replacement plan
  • With limited staff is it possible to keep up with the latest technology?
  • What steps do we take to plan?
    1. Determine needs/wants based on facts
    2. Assess the resources available
    3. Rank the resources in order of usefulness
Wish List

• Statewide scheduling/reporting program
  • Alaska systems are so varied - do the smaller systems have the capacity – some things are still done with pencil & paper
  • Why change what is working – sort of? Will all the bells and whistles increase our efficiency or just bog us down?
• On board data collection/reporting system
  • Enough for both owned and contracted vehicles
• Funding
CARTS

Get a Ride!

A Community Solution for Public Transportation

Jennifer Beckmann
Executive Director
P.O. Box 993
Soldotna, AK 99669
907-262-8900
carts@alaska.net
www.ridesalaska.org