

Call for Papers—TRB 92nd Annual Meeting: January, 2013, Washington, D.C.
Weekday Exception Scheduling and Special Events Planning in Rapid Transit Systems

The TRB Committee on Rail Transit Systems (AP065) invites you to submit papers for the upcoming TRB Annual Meeting in 2013. The committee is planning on sponsoring a session on Weekday Exception Scheduling Practices and Special Events Planning in Rail Transit Systems.

Weekday exception scheduling in rail transit services can provide better service to customers by matching transit supply to ridership demand more precisely, with the potential to reduce operating costs. Treating Fridays/Mondays differently from other weekdays offers interesting possibilities. As commuters trend towards more flexible work scheduling, telecommuting, and 4½-day weeks, gaps in ridership have widened. Additionally, many local-scale special events (such as sports games, school events, or late-night shopping) recur on a weekly cycle, typically on Wednesdays or Thursdays, but not every weekday.

Earlier studies have shown that labor agreements permitting exception scheduling as part of picked/bid crew schedules could reduce bus operating costs in a typical urban environment. Available savings of up to 25% were route-specific, whereas 25% service fortification was required on routes with higher ridership on certain days. No run-cutting studies have been completed to validate these findings. A group of papers is sought that focuses on different aspects of these questions:

1. Is weekday exception scheduling feasible in a rail rapid transit operating environment? What are the best practices? Do ridership patterns support such a policy change in a broad range of environments?
2. Generation of proposed operating plans with weekday exceptions and run-cuts in a typical rapid transit environment, followed by scenario testing through computerized run-cutting.
3. What are the general trends in time periods/routes that require service fortification on Fridays, versus service reduction? Are there seasonal effects?
4. What labor agreements are needed to facilitate weekly exception schedules? Do current agreements provide a good starting point? How can agreements be reached? What are their unit-cost impacts?
5. Identification of implementation issues and possible mitigation strategies. Issues may include: systems with infrequent service or network features like timed-transfers may be negatively impacted by small frequency reductions; customers may become confused by separate daily schedules; supporting infrastructure (payroll, internal reports) may be unavailable.
6. What are the demographic, social, cultural, and other variables that generally gives rise to weekday exceptions? What are the characteristics of routes or lines likely to have significant and recurring weekly ridership deviations? Identify and quantify underlying factors and properties affecting rail rapid ridership deviations from weekday averages (e.g. number/size of business districts, station character, route length, stop spacing, express/local/zonal service, “radialness” or “feederness”, and colleges, etc.)

Please indicate **AP065** on the Submission Review form to indicate that the paper is being submitted in response to this call for papers. Authors who have submitted papers are requested to send the paper number and title to the **TRB Committee on Rail Transit Systems (AP065)** by August 1, 2012.

Questions? Please contact the chair:

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