# **DEMAND-RESPONSE TRANSIT**



### **Description**

Demand-response transit (DRT) is a non-fixed route, flexible transit service, often referred to as dial-a-ride. DRT provides curb-to-curb or door-to-door pickups and drop-offs upon customers' request and usually requires advanced scheduling by the customer.

Transit agencies choose DRT to flexibly accommodate more people in areas with low population or poor road conditions. DRT is a transit solution when the funding or the external environment cannot support fixed-route transit.

#### **Target Market**

- Low-density communities that support large metropolitan areas.
- People with disabilities who would not otherwise be able to commute to employment opportunities. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 requires transit agencies to provide demand-responsive paratransit service to eligible people with disabilities within 3/4 mile on either side of fixed-route services.

## **How Will This Help?**

- Expands transit service coverage by flexibly filling gaps in existing mobility.
- Increases social equity within the region, increasing mobility for underserved populations.

#### Implementation Issues

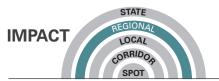
DRT has a higher operation cost than fixed-route services. Planners should analyze alternatives to make sure no other less-expensive options fits local needs before implementing DRT.

Also, customers often fail to show up for scheduled trips. High no-show rates significantly impact schedule efficiency and on-time performance.

Finally, coordinating DRT with other transit services results in efficient use of resources, especially when and/or where service demand is low.



TIME







FUNDING

#### **SUCCESS STORIES**





Houston, Texas The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris

County's METROLift program has provided mobility service to people with disabilities throughout the Houston metropolitan area since 1991.



