

# Transit Tuesday Webinar: Celebrating ADA at 30th - What's Next?"

November 10, 2020 Bonnie Epstein, Director of Mobility Services

Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)
St. Petersburg, Florida



#### **PSTA Background**

- Population of 949,827 (2015)
- Median age of 46
- 24 municipalities 22 served by PSTA
- 41 bus routes
- 11.66 million Fixed Route Trips
   FY19
- 362,357 paratransit trips FY19
- 70,200 Mobility Program Trips FY
   19







#### **Mobility On Demand**

Provide On Demand Rides to ADA clients using multiple providers – Lyft, United Taxi, Wheelchair Transport - through the Goin integrated platform

- Funded by innovative Mobility on Demand Sandbox grant from the FTA
- This grant programs supports new approaches to traditional service





#### **Mobility on Demand**

- Capitalize on success with other TNC programs by partnering with Lyft, United Taxi, and Care Ride.
- Piloting with a portion of PSTA's eligible paratransit customers – now open to all ADA customers
- Real-time trips to work, school, medical, and shopping MOD improves mobility for our customers while being cost efficient





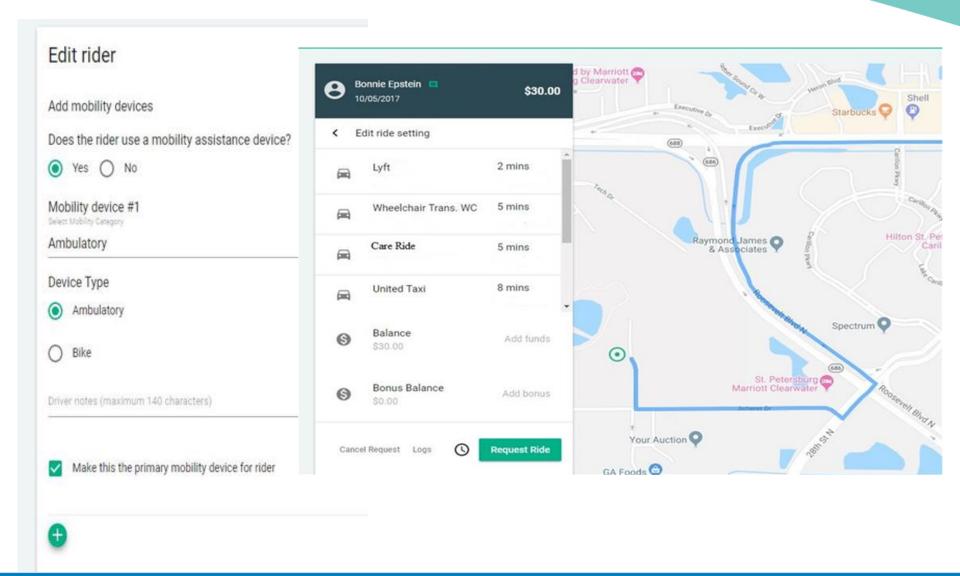
## **Mobility on Demand**







### **Mobility On Demand**





## **MOD Successes and Challenges**

- 10 participants in January 2019 –
   Over 500 registered riders
- Call Center expansion/training
- WAV providers
- Provider integrations
- Invoicing and tracking
- Contracting/procurements





Eligibility Process (until July 2020)

- Client Application is mailed or download from PSTA website.
- Client completes applicant section and medical provider completes medical verification section.
- Completed Application is sent to PSTA.
- PSTA Processes and Approves Application for Service.
- Letter is mailed to client with acceptance of eligibility.



#### Reasons for Change

- We provide a great paratransit service and had a high level of ridership in the past few years, especially on the ambulatory side
- The growth was so high that our contractor couldn't handle it.
- We wanted to implement this new process to educate our riders on other services we have such as Mobility on Demand and Fixed Route.
- The new process only allows those who truly need the service to use it.



Eligibility Process (July 2020 – present)

- Call for application
- 30-minute mobility consultation
- Medical verification
- Eligibility outcome



SHARED RESPONSIBILITY; PASSENGER AND PSTA



DEEPER REVIEW OF NEEDS



EDUCATION OF APPLICANTS



MAINSTREAM OPTIONS WHEN APPROPRIATE



PARATRANSIT WHEN NEEDED



**GRANULAR** OUTCOMES



BROADER SPECTRUM
OF SERVICES
PROVIDED



#### Unconditional

- Applicant unlikely to ever be able to ride fixed route
- Cognitive disability
- Extreme fatigue
- Limited ambulation
- Limited use of mobility device

#### Conditional

- Climate
- Day/Night
- Good/Bad day
- Fixed route if:
  - One-seat ride
    Able to get to close stop
- Look at common/frequent trips





Successes and Challenges of New Process

- New Technology Needed.
- Learning Process for Staff.
- Clients and Agencies Used to Old Fast Approval Process.





#### **Contact Information**

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