



CHAPTER I

Introduction

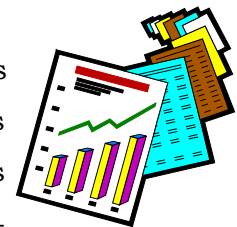
The Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA), on behalf of the Crow Nation (CN), contracted with LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc. to prepare a six-year transit service plan as a Technical Assistance Project. The plan focuses on public transportation issues and the transit needs, alternatives, and programs for CN members. This Final Report presents the preferred transit service plan, organization alternatives, financial alternatives, and implementation plan. The report contains a description of the preferred service plan including the level of service, route descriptions, draft route schedules, service plan, capital plan, financial plan, management plan, dispatching methods, and implementation timeline for each of the major elements of the preferred plan.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study is to analyze and recommend strategies for the implementation of CN transit service which will affect the delivery of public transportation services over the next five years. This document describes the existing CN conditions related to public transit services, discusses service and other alternatives for meeting transit needs into the future, identifies the locally-preferred set of transit service alternatives, and presents an implementation plan for the next five years.

REPORT CONTENTS

Chapter II presents the mission statement, goals, and objectives for the study and the future transit service. Chapter III presents the existing community conditions, demographics, and economics as well as a CN transportation system overview. Chapter IV provides an overview of the existing CN transit service. Chapter V presents the CN transit needs assessment.



Chapter VI presents the peer communities analysis conducted in order to determine the operational structures and costs of other Native American Reservations and communities in Montana operating public transit services. Chapter VII reviews the questionnaire results.

Chapter VIII presents coordination strategies for the local human service transportation providers within the study area. Chapter IX reviews the various transit vehicles that CN can purchase for the transit system including the type, size, cost, seating capacity, and general description of the various transit vehicles. Chapter X reviews the transit service alternatives that CN can implement and includes the advantages, disadvantages, and capital needs for each alternative.

Chapter XI presents the organizational alternatives, which were used in the determination and analysis of the transit service alternatives. Chapter XII presents the financial alternatives that can be used to fund the preferred transit service plan. Chapter XIII presents the preferred transit service plan selected by the stakeholders committee. The preferred transit service plan includes the route descriptions, route schedules, operational costs, and capital needs. Chapter XIV discusses the implementation plan, which reviews the steps needed to install the preferred transit service plan. The implementation plan includes the capital plan; management requirements; six-year financial statement; and timeline of the planning, implementation, and feedback schedules for the major elements of the preferred transit service plan.

STUDY APPROACH

As in many regions, the Crow Nation is seeking to find the most effective means of providing public transit service. Informal public transportation services are currently provided within the study area by local human service agencies, which each provide limited transportation services to meet the needs of their specific clients. A key element in the development of the transit service alternatives was to clearly evaluate the unmet needs of CN members, local residents, and local businesses. The current effort focuses on the feasibility of providing public transit services to meet the community's needs. One important step toward providing an integrated community-wide transportation system was involving key players such

as the CN Tribal Council, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), human service agencies, key stakeholders, CN members, and local residents.

Project Team

An initial kick-off meeting was held in Crow Agency on June 22, 2007. The meeting was attended by key CN staff and a CTAA representative. This project team met to discuss the project goals, priorities, and timeline for completion of the final study. The project team also discussed the key local stakeholders who would be critical in completing the study.

A second stakeholders committee meeting was held on August 8, 2007 after the public open house. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Technical Memorandum #1, as well as provide input and comments to LSC. The third stakeholders committee meeting was held on September 18, 2007 to present the transit service alternatives. The preferred transit service plan and implementation plan were reviewed at the fourth stakeholders committee meeting held on October 23, 2007.