Council of University Transportation Centers

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TRASNPORTATION ASSOCIATION AND THE COUNCIL OF UNIVERSITY TRANSPORTATION CENTERS

The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) is an association representing public transportation providers, industry suppliers, governmental transportation organizations, universities and other transit related interests in the United States, Canada and abroad. APTA's mission is to serve and lead its diverse membership through advocacy, innovation and information sharing to strengthen and expand public transportation.

The Council of University Transportation Centers (CUTC) was established in 1979 by the major transportation research centers and institutes in the United States. CUTC provides a forum for the Universities and Centers to interact collectively with government and industry. CUTC's mission is to promote university research, education, workforce development, and technology transfer as essential to the nation's transportation system. CUTC's vision is to raise the profile of university research and education so that university transportation centers are recognized and called upon for the knowledge creation, innovative research, and education necessary to have the best transportation system in the world.

Purpose of Partnership

APTA and CUTC desire to enter into an on-going partnership that is formalized by means of a cooperative agreement signed by both organizations. This agreement recognizes the long-standing partnership and complimentary visions in support of the public transportation industry. The partnership activities will be subject to on-going review to ensure that the needs of APTA and CUTC and the public transportation industry are met.

Common Goals for Partners

1. To increase the supply of well-trained professionals in the public transportation industry.

2. To enhance the quality of public transportation education for students attending CUTC institutions.

3. To promote knowledge and networking opportunities for students with young transportation professionals and industry leaders.

4. To share information and technical assistance.

5. To promote and enhance public transportation research at CUTC institutions.

Specific Objectives and Activities of the Partnership

1. Provide effective communication between APTA and CUTC. The partners will share insights of CUTC and APTA members' needs and work closely to ensure that APTA informs CUTC members about research and workforce development needs. Under this partnership, CUTC members will inform APTA members of the availability of CUTC students and faculty resources.

   The following activities will be undertaken to achieve the desired communication objective:

   a) As resources are available and needs dictate, conduct CUTC sessions (i.e., research, workforce development, young professionals, etc.) during APTA's Annual Meeting and/or APTA conferences, meetings and webinars.

b) Invite APTA staff or members to attend and present during CUTC's winter or summer meetings.

c) Provide stronger linkages between APTA and CUTC's websites.

d) CUTC student members may register at APTA student member rates for APTA conferences and other events.

e) Continue to provide discounted registration rate (federal government rate) to the faculty and staff of CUTC members at APTA conferences and meetings.

2. Provide a forum for discussion of CUTC's research and workforce development initiatives. The partnership will undertake the following activities to support this objective:

   a) APTA will encourage CUTC participation in APTA activities, programs, committees, including, but not limited to:

      - APTA Workforce Development Committee
      - APTA Research and Technology Committee
      - American Public Transportation Foundation
      - Technical and Planning Committees (addressing issues across all modes of public transportation).

APTA and CUTC agree to maintain this agreement for a period of two years and to review its effectiveness on an annual basis.

Any extension or modification of this agreement can only be made with the explicit written approval of both APTA and CUTC. Either party may terminate this agreement after 30-days written notice to the other party.

The performance by each party of its commitments under this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) shall be limited to the terms of the MOU. Nothing contained herein shall create or imply an agency relationship between the parties, nor shall this MOU be deemed to constitute a joint venture or partnership between the parties.

This agreement enters into force upon approval of the respective governing boards as evidenced by the signature of the Chief Executive Officer and Leadership of the organizations.

Signed this 4th day of January 2025.

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