



## Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Announces General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) requirement and National Transit Database (NTD) reporting change

Here's what transit agencies need to know about these new requirements—  
and how to reach out to Caltrans' California Integrated Travel Project (Cal-ITP)  
for free technical support

In early March 2023, the [Federal Transit Administration \(FTA\) finalized](#) its reporting changes to use the **General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS)** as the mechanism to report geographic service area coverage to the National Transit Database (NTD).

We are excited that the FTA responded to the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) requirement to report geographic transit service area coverage with this data that approximately 75% of California fixed-route transit agencies already produce in order to help their customers navigate an agency's routes and schedules via mobile phone maps and transit apps. This new requirement actually *reduces* the reporting burden for transit agencies—and it reinforces the beneficial nature of data standardization and interoperability at the core of Caltrans' California Integrated Travel Project (Cal-ITP).

What transit agencies should know:

- **Submit your valid GTFS data with your NTD report** using a permalink URL starting with the 2023 Reporting Year.
- **Make sure your GTFS is consistently valid and up-to-date.** FTA will be downloading your data at regular intervals throughout the year. Each time FTA downloads your data, it needs to be accurate and valid. Cal-ITP GTFS Quality Reports at <http://reports.calitp.org> provides monthly summaries of the validity of all California GTFS data feeds. If you need assistance making sure your data feeds are valid, we can help: [hello@calitp.org](mailto:hello@calitp.org).
- **Make sure all your fixed-route operations are included in your existing GTFS feeds.**
- **If you don't have or manage your own GTFS feeds,** get in touch with us so we can help you get started: [hello@calitp.org](mailto:hello@calitp.org).

In the [same announcement](#), FTA also **finalized its sample-based ridership reporting**, which will **from time-to-time require transit agencies** (including small and rural ones) **to submit weekly ridership reporting** in order for FTA and decision-makers to get much more rapid feedback about the status of transit ridership.

What transit agencies should know:

- The new weekly reporting form, WE-20, is intended to be a “best-available data” snapshot of unlinked passenger trips (UPT) and vehicle revenue miles (VRM) and need not reconcile with the more heavily validated MR-20 monthly reporting form.
- Agencies will be selected to provide the additional WE-20 reporting for a limited period of time (some number of weeks) and will be required to submit the WE-20 form seven business days following the referenced reporting week.
- The first cohort of selected agencies will begin reporting in Summer 2023 and given three months to prepare.
- Vanpool operators may report vehicles operating at maximum service (VOMS) instead of UPT and VRM.
- If selected during a challenging time, agencies may request that FTA temporarily relieve them of this duty.

Cal-ITP is here to help as transit agencies familiarize themselves with these new reporting requirements. Whether you need help getting a GTFS feed or want support with your current feed, Cal-ITP can provide free technical assistance. Reach out to [hello@calitp.org](mailto:hello@calitp.org) to get started!