Reservations, Scheduling and Dispatching (RSD) Subcommittee: Frequently Asked Questions

1.   How was the Reservations, Scheduling and Dispatching (RSD) Subcommittee started?

The RSD subcommittee is part of the Standards Coordination Committee (SCC) established by the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE). The subcommittee was formed after a two-year study researching the gaps in standardized data exchange formats to enable multimodal and accessible travel. The research was sponsored by the USDOT Multimodal and Accessible Travel (MAT)/Vulnerable Road User (VRU) program.

Please refer to the RSD White Paper for additional background on this initiative.

2.   Who are the key contacts for the RSD subcommittee?

Please see the contacts information for the subcommittee Co-Chairs below:

- **Daniel Whitehouse**, Vice President of Paratransit and On-Demand Services, Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART); **Email**: dwhitehouse@smartbus.org

- **Santosh Mishra**, President & CEO, Flexlynqs; **Email**: santosh.mishra@flexlynqs.com

3.   Who are the key contacts for the SCC?

Please see the contacts information for the SCC Co-Chairs below:

- **Elliott McFadde**n, Greater Minnesota Shared Mobility Program Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Transportation, **Email:** elliott.mcfadden@state.mn.us

- **Eric Plosky**, Executive Director, MobilityData, **Email:** eric@mobilitydata.org

4.   Who are the key contacts from ITE?

Please see the contacts information for ITE below:

- **Siva Narla,** Senior Director, Transportation Technology, ITE, Email: snarla@ite.org

- **Ashraf Ahmed**, Transportation Technology Project Specialist, ITE, **Email**: aahmed@ite.org

5.   How do you define RSD under this initiative?

As part of this initiative, RSD covers planning, booking, payment, operation and information functions for demand-response trips (those that are not on a fixed route or fixed schedule). Also, it is assumed that the trips are provided to eligible and verified customers.

6.   What services and modes does this initiative cover?

This initiative covers the following

- Directly-operated or contracted public demand-response transportation services

- Private demand-response transportation services

- Private business providing direct-to-consumer demand-response services (e.g., ridesharing and ridehailing)

7.   What is the purpose of the RSD Subcommittee?

The subcommittee will serve as the centralized community of practice to:

- Facilitate discussions among workgroups to identify gaps in the existing technical specifications and standards related to demand-response RSD (please refer to the RSD White Paper for specifications).

- Identify user needs for RSD functionality.

- Harmonize existing specifications and standards, and use user needs to identify common use cases and applicable parts of the specifications/standards.

- Develop and submit standardization recommendations to the SCC for the identified use cases.

8.   Why do we need this RSD subcommittee when there are so many other industry-wide initiatives on various aspects of RSD?

This initiative does not replace ongoing standardization workgroup activities in the industry. The RSD Subcommittee will serve as a volunteer-driven initiative and will incorporate inputs from stakeholders contributing to the ongoing workgroup activities at independent forums.

9. **Are you developing any standards? If not, how are you engaging with the Standards Development Organizations (SDOs) and Community-based Development Organizations (CBDOs)**?

The RSD Subcommittee will facilitate industry-wide discussions to develop recommendations for the SCC so they can work with SDOs and CBDOs for standardization.

10. **What are the expected deliverables and timeline for those deliverables over the next 18 months?**

This is still under discussion.

11. **Describe the subcommittee governance structure?**

The Standards Coordination Committee (SCC) and its subcommittee governance structure are described in the draft SCC Charter. This document will be reviewed and approved by the SCC.

12. **What is USDOT's role?**

The USDOT sponsors many standards activities by supporting the standards organizations to facilitate standard activities such as the SCC, as well as providinge technical support through subject matter experts (SME) to help accelerate the research and development of the foundational and draft documents needed to develop relevant standard and industry specifications.

13. **Where can I find more information?**

The subcommittee uses athe [GitHub](#) site for public information sharing. AIt also, there is has an open Microsoft Teams channel where documents are stored at: [MAT2 RSD SC](#)

14. **How often does this subcommittee conduct its meetings?**

The subcommittee currently meets bi-weekly on Thursdays via Zoom web-conference.

15. **What are the details to join the meeting?**

Please reach out to the subcommittee Co-Chair [Daniel Whitehouse](#) for Zoom Conference details.

16. **Who can participate?**

The subcommittee is open to anyone interested in this initiative.

17.   What can I expect at subcommittee meetings?

An agenda is circulated prior to the meeting. The subcommittee Cco-Schairs share updates, invite stakeholders for presentations and facilitate discussion among the participants per the objectives under Q4.

18.   How can I get involved beyond the subcommittee meetings?

Please reach out to the subcommittee co-chairs. Also, ITE has also set up a Microsoft Teams site for ongoing discussions.

19.   I don't have the time to participate in subcommittee meetings, however, I would like to stay in the loop. How can I stay informed?

Please reach out to the subcommittee Cco-cChairs to discuss your level of interest and preferred mode of involvement.