

Technology in Rural Transportation



A recent study documented more than eighty proven, cost-effective “low-tech” solutions to rural transportation needs, most developed and implemented by local transportation professionals. One of the solutions is outlined below:

Learn all about the simple solutions on the Internet at <http://inform.enterprise.prog.org>

The simple solutions report is available from Hau To at (503) 892-2533, or email: to@crc-corp.com

Low Cost Paratransit

Overall goal:	To offer a service that will improve the mobility of senior citizens and visitors. Additionally, it was important to the project’s planners that the program be accessible to the disabled community, above and beyond the Americans with Disability Act.
Technical approach:	The program, Summit Stage Paratransit, began with one dedicated vehicle operating seven days per week, and has recently added another vehicle in response to increased demand. The paratransit service operates from 6AM to midnight. Drivers have radio contact with fixed route transit so that if necessary a transfer may be arranged. Summit Stage Paratransit attributes its efficiency and success to its affiliation with the fixed-route transit program. The paratransit service is included in the overall planning and operations budget for the countywide transit system.
Current status:	The service has expanded and become widely used since its implementation in 1993.
Location / geographic scope:	Summit County, in the Colorado Rockies.
Agencies involved:	Several county agencies, as well as various community groups.
Cost information:	First-year operations costs were approximately \$37,000. The service is funded by a 0.5% mass transit sales tax in the county.
Key contacts:	Jim Schaffer, Summit Stage Supervisor, 970.668.4164.
Have goals been achieved?	Yes. The service is very popular with its clients, and widely accessible to citizens with disabilities.
Solution timeline:	Service began in 1993, and continues to expand.



Technology in Rural Transportation

A recent study documented more than eighty proven, cost-effective “low-tech” solutions to rural transportation needs, most developed and implemented by local transportation professionals. One of the solutions is outlined below:

