

# G T F S

The General Transit Feed Specification (“GTFS”) is the global standard for describing transit digitally. GTFS is used by thousands of agencies world-wide, including roughly half of all transit agencies in the US. **It’s how customers get information about how transit can get them where they need to go.**

First created in 2006 through a public-private partnership between Trimet, the public transit agency in Portland, Oregon and Google, continued development and refinement of the GTFS specification is now carried out by a global community of public and private GTFS data producers and consumers. Officially recognized additions and modifications of the spec are reviewed and approved by the independent nonprofit organization MobilityData IO.

**READ MORE ABOUT GTFS AT [GTFS.ORG](http://GTFS.ORG)**

## USES

- Customer information in “Trip planners” (e.g. Google Maps)
- Performance analysis of the transit network using consistent and scalable methods
- Standardized reporting of core agency metrics

Stops and stations ○  
Mapping / geospatial ○  
Schedule, stops, and prices ○

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Streamlined GIS processes with more transit agency involvement
- Reduced reporting costs
- More easily analyze services from different operators including private operators
- Create improved accessibility analyses

Inclusion of schedule and frequency alongside geographic data ○  
Integration with multi-modal trip planning software applications ○  
Tools and community provided by other agencies using GTFS ○

## PROBLEMS

- Inconsistent application of specification across agencies
- Lack of technical capacity to build efficient maintenance systems
- Administering agencies don’t ask for GTFS and utilize within processes

## SOLUTIONS

- Utilize public data validation and other tools in house to assess consistency and quality, utilize in planning and GIS
- Develop or direct agencies to technical assistance programs that support MPO activities long-term