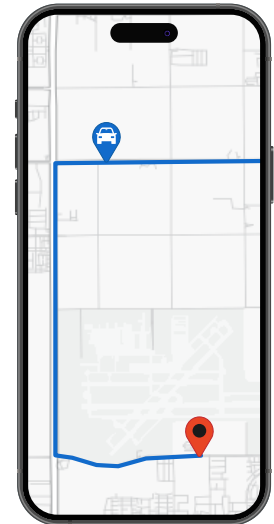# GTFS Realtime

ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

❯ What is GTFS Realtime?

GTFS Realtime provides transit riders with dynamic information and updates in the apps they already use to plan trips. It allows agencies to show riders:

- Live vehicle locations
- Estimated arrival times
- Alerts and service changes

❯ How GTFS Realtime is Created

GTFS realtime is based on vehicle location information tracked through an Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) system that is published in the appropriate format with software.

How GTFS benefits riders and supports transit agencies:

Builds trust by providing live vehicle arrival and location information

Increases ridership

Reduces real and perceived wait times

Gives agencies more information

❯ Getting Started with GTFS Realtime

To get started with GTFS Realtime:

1. Establish or confirm your use of AVL technology to track your transit vehicles, and your ability to track vehicles throughout your service area (particularly considering internet service)

2. Reach out to your AVL vendor about if they offer GTFS Realtime feed publishing. Alternatively, seek out other vendors that can offer publishing services alongside your existing technology

3. Share GTFS Realtime feed location (url) with trip planners and feed aggregators.

4. Work with your vendor(s) to monitor and maintain accuracy of your GTFS Realtime information.

❯ GTFS Realtime Resources and Support

There are many resources available to help you create or update your agency's GTFS files. The National Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) helps all agencies with technical guidance, regardless of whether or not they are in a rural area. For a list of helpful resources, go to WEB LINK.

If you have questions, please email the AZDOT Transit Group at transitgroup@azdot.gov

GTFS Realtime Documentation

Realtime Documentation: https://gtfs.org/documentation/realtime/reference/

Best Practices: https://gtfs.org/documentation/realtime/realtime-best-practices/