

Tate Coleman

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Summary

Tate Coleman serves as Program Director for the TriTown Connector, a shared-ride on-demand microtransit program he proposed and implemented serving Southern Berkshire County, MA. Tate is also a Masters student and Dwight D. Eisenhower Graduate Fellow at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, studying Regional Planning and Civil Engineering. Prior to becoming the Program Director for the TriTown Connector, Tate has worked and volunteered for the Town of Great Barrington, MA, the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority, and the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission in various capacities for over 5 years, including as chair of the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee and a member of Great Barrington's planning department. Tate is also the Western Region Representative to the APA-MA Board of Directors.

Work Experience

- Jul 2022 - Present Microtransit Program Director, TriTown Connector
- Lead the TriTown Connector microtransit program, managing all aspects from service planning to operations.
 - Determine budget, fares, service levels, and operational logistics, including software and vehicle usage.
 - Forecast labor requirements based on demand and oversee a department with 20-25 staff members, including Operators, Schedulers, Dispatchers, and a Reporting Coordinator.
 - Manage reporting for state and federal funding, securing grant support for program initiatives.
 - Collaborate with local organizations to create partnerships and boost ridership.
 - Serve as a liaison with operators and supervisors to maintain effective relationships.
- Aug 2022 - Present Graduate Research Assistant, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- Work on MassDOT- and NSF-funded research projects as a Transportation Engineering Research Assistant under Dr. Eric Gonzales, including a "Data-Driven Approaches for Transit Asset Management" project aimed to improve how MassDOT determines capital project funding for MA's 15 Regional Transit Authorities.
- Jan 2019 - Present Chairman, Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC)
- Spearhead initiatives as chair of Southern Berkshire County RTAC, representing 13 member communities.
 - Provide recommendations on transportation services and service levels, with a focus on public and senior transportation.
 - Create planning documents resulting in new evening workforce transit and uniform bus stop branding.
 - Manage the implementation of a MassDOT Shared Streets grant for ADA accessibility improvements to 32 BRTA bus stops.
- Sep 2022 - Dec 2022 Graduate Consultant, PVRTA Network Redesign, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- Worked on redesign and network planning efforts for the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVRTA) as a part of a 15-person planning studio. Spearheaded a 5-member route redesign team, using REMIX software.
 - Conducted analysis of public input to inform decision-making.
- 2020 - 2022 Grant Writing & Land Use Planning Intern, Town of Great Barrington, MA
- Successfully obtained over \$350,000 in grant funding for the Town, including an awarded Shared Streets grant for bus stop redesign aimed at improving accessibility (ADA), and secured more cost-effective vocational education pupil transportation, resulting in over 50% annual savings.
 - Conducted comprehensive special permit application and site plan reviews, ensuring compliance with zoning bylaws and land use regulations.
 - Designed and conducted a study and public input survey for the allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds totaling \$2 million, presenting fund use recommendations to key stakeholders.
 - Played a role in grants and implementation of a coordinated 5-town Senior Transit service in 2020.

- 2019 - 2019 Transit Equity Intern, Berkshire Interfaith Organizing
Worked on various social justice issues, primarily designing and planning a "Wheels for Wellness" ride-sharing program funded by a T4MA grant.
- 2018 - 2018 Transit Intern, Berkshire Regional Transit Authority
Conducted manual passenger counts to test the accuracy (>95%) of new Automated Passenger Counters (APCs), allowing for continued Federal funding.

Education

- 2022 - 2024 Master of Regional Planning, University of Massachusetts Amherst (3.95 GPA)
- 2022 - 2024 Master of Civil Engineering, University of Massachusetts Amherst (4.0 GPA)
Selected as a Dwight D. Eisenhower Transportation Fellow for FHWA to conduct research on Alternative Performance Metrics for Rural Transit Agencies (2023-2024)
- 2022 - 2024 Graduate Certificate, Transit Operations & Management, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 2022 BA, Mathematics & Transportation Systems Analysis, Bard College at Simon's Rock (Summa cum laude)
Senior thesis: Creating a planning document with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) for implementing a county-wide integrated microtransit (shared-ride on-demand) service using existing resources. Received High Honors.

Boards & Committees

- 2022 - Present Western Region Representative, APA-MA Board of Directors
- 2022 - 2023 Member, Transportation Advisory Committee, Town of Amherst, MA
- 2020 - 2022 Advisory Board Member, Berkshire Regional Transit Authority
- 2019 - 2023 South Berkshire Representative, Statewide Regional Transit Authority Advocates Coalition (RTAAC)
- 2019 - 2021 RTAC Representative, Berkshire Regional Coordinating Council on Transportation (BRCCOT), Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Volunteer Activities

- 2020 - 2022 Spanish-Speaking Food Pantry Volunteer, People's Pantry, Great Barrington, MA
Have not had a chance to give back in this role since I began serving my community as Microtransit Program Director.
- 2016 - 2022 Community Supper Volunteer, Berkshire South Regional Community Center (BSRCC)