

# Wyoming Intercity Bus Service Study: Finding and Filling in the Gaps in Rural Areas

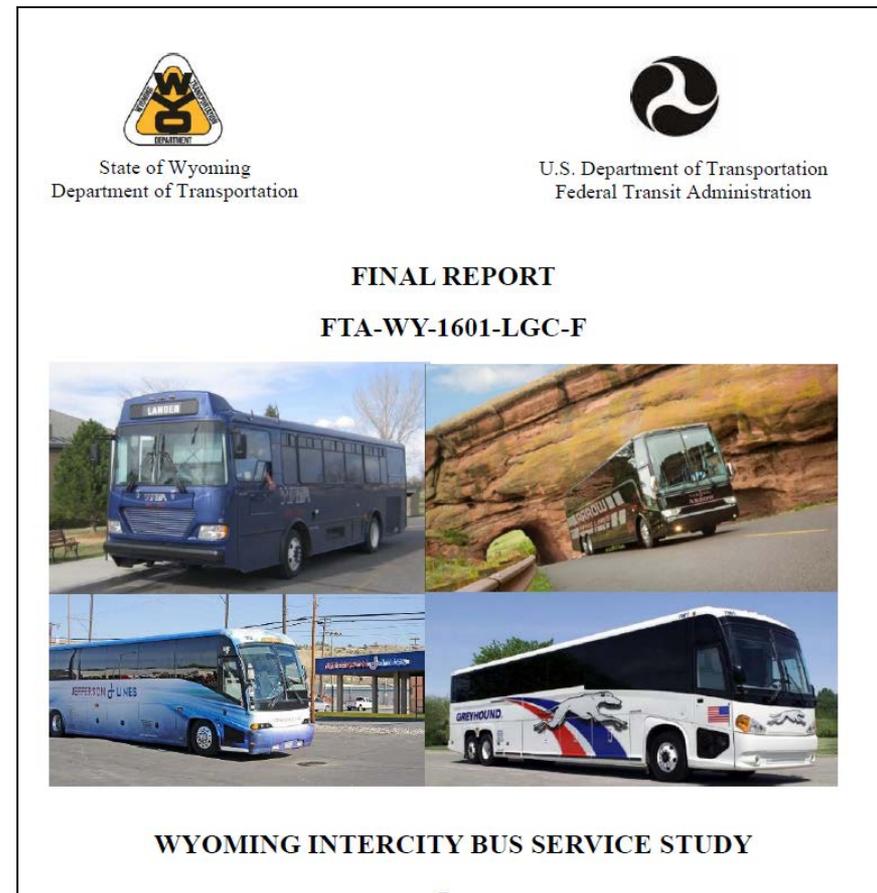
2018 National Rural ITS Conference

David Kack, Director

Small Urban, Rural and Tribal Center on Mobility

# Agenda

- Overview of Project
- Literature Review
- Survey Results
- Corridor Study
- Next Steps



# Why Intercity Service?

In many states, intercity bus service is a vital link between otherwise isolated rural communities and the rest of the nation.

National objectives include:

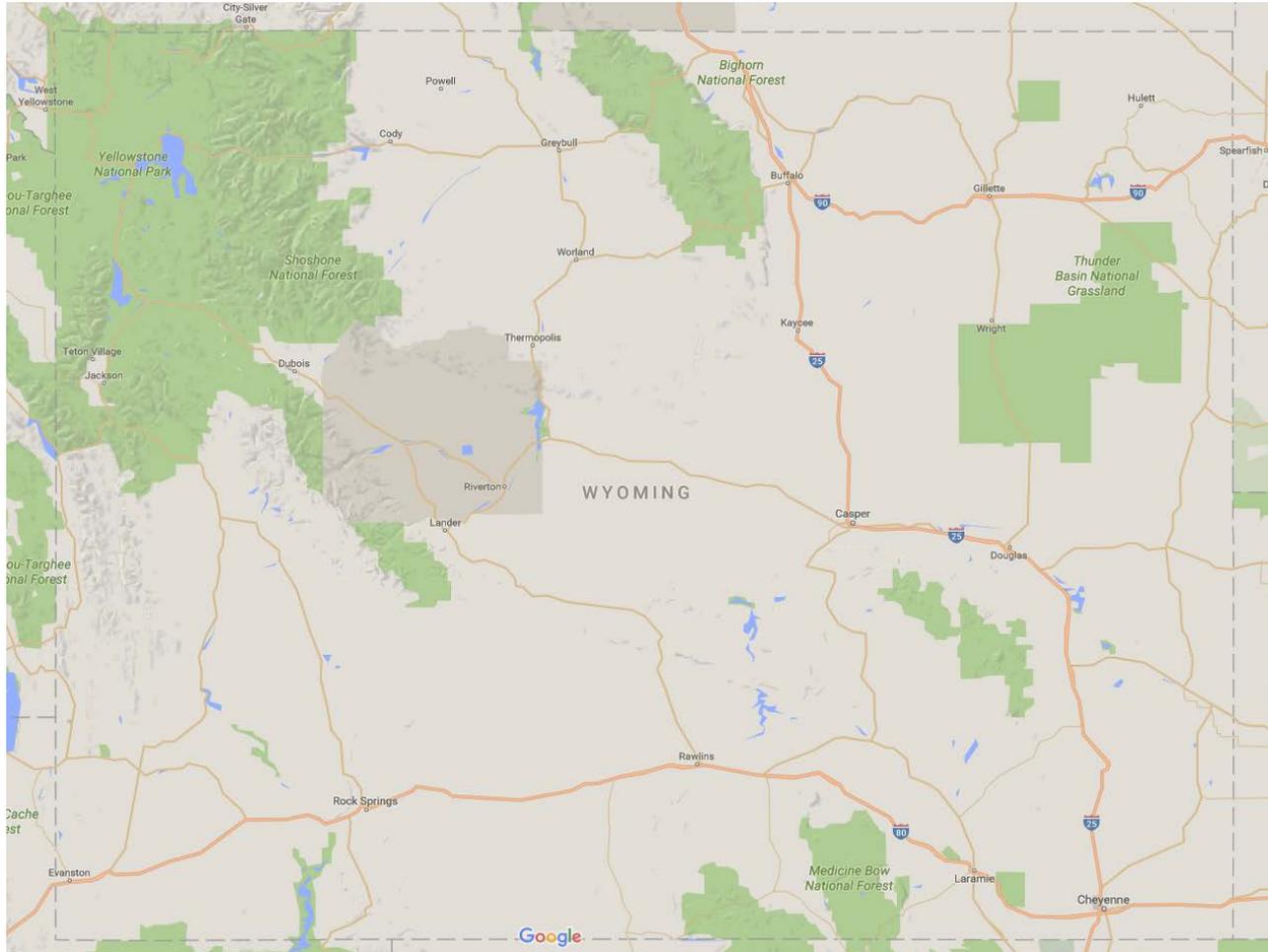
- Support the connection between rural areas and the larger regional or national system of intercity bus service.
- Support services to meet the intercity travel needs of residents in rural areas.
- Support the infrastructure of the intercity bus network through planning and marketing assistance and capital investment in facilities.

Source: FTA Circular 9040.1G

# Project Goals

- Provide a current assessment of Wyoming's ICB services;
- Provide a methodology that can be used to determine if the ICB service needs are being adequately met;
- Provide a process to identify potential routes.

# Wyoming



Only 28 of 99 cities/towns listed by U.S. Census Bureau have a population of 2,000 or more people (2014 estimate)

# Wyoming

- Approximately 51% of the population of Wyoming (about 300,821 people) is served by national ICB service providers
- 17 of the 28 largest cities in the state (of at least 2,000 people) have ICB service
- Lack of service is primarily in central and far eastern Wyoming

# Literature Review

- Federal Regulations - FTA Circular 9040.1G
- KFH Group, Inc., “Effective Approaches to Meeting Rural Intercity Bus Transportation Needs.” TCRP Report 79. 2002.
- NCHRP, “Research Results Digest 356, Analysis of State Rural Intercity Bus Strategies: Requirements for Utilization of Section 5311(f) Funding.” 2011.

# State Reports-Studies

- Alabama
- Colorado
- Kansas
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Montana
- Nebraska
- North Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Washington

# State Survey

7 of 13 states responded

- California
- Colorado
- Nevada
- Oregon
- South Dakota
- Utah
- Wyoming

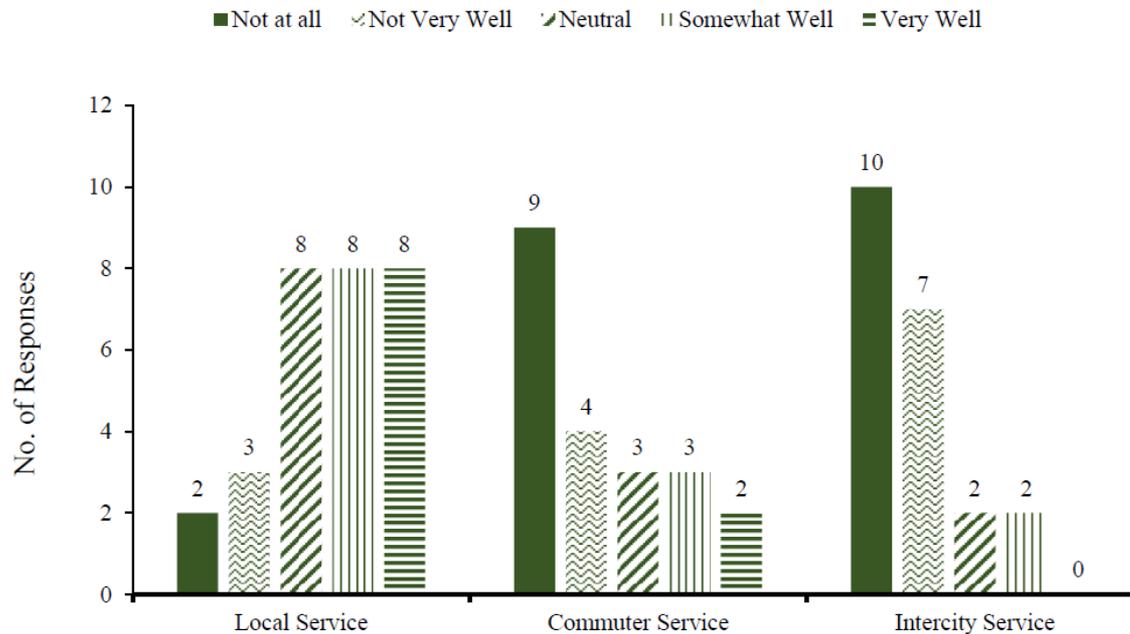
# Rider Survey

- Riders of ICB were most often using the service to visit family or friends followed by other purposes such as relocating; returning home; attending a funeral; or going to take care of parents.
- Most riders stated they used an Internet search or word of mouth to get information about the route they were using.
- 62% of Wyoming residents riding ICB were satisfied or somewhat satisfied with available information about ICB.
- 46% Wyoming residents riding ICB were satisfied or at least somewhat satisfied with the frequency of ICB services, with 31% being neutral, and 23% were somewhat dissatisfied or dissatisfied.
- Respondents reported that the three leading factors that lead to ICB use are lack of access to a vehicle, lack of ability to drive and gas prices.
- Over two-thirds of those using the ICB services (67%) have a household income of less than \$30,000 per year.

# Transit System Survey

To what extent do you feel that local, commuter and intercity bus service needs are being met in your area?

N = 29



Note: 81% of respondents noted that intercity service needs were not being met very well or at all

# Transit System Survey

Table 11: Routes for Potential Implementation and/or Improvement

From (City or Town)	To (City or Town)
Casper	Cold Creek
	Paradise Valley
	Robinson Road
	Bar Nunn
Cody	Powell
Cody/Powell (NW Wyoming)	Billings (MT)
Evanston	Salt Lake City
Jackson	Wilson
	Jackson Hole Airport
Jackson/Moose	Grand Teton National Park
Lander	Riverton
Laramie	Centennial
	Cheyenne
	Rock River
Lusk	Casper
	Cheyenne
	Douglas
	Torrington
Sheridan	Billings (MT)
	Casper
Shoshoni	Riverton
	Casper
Riverton	Salt Lake City
Wind River Indian Reservation	Riverton

# Corridor Analysis

Table 1: Proposed Routes and Major ICB Destination

Route	Cities	Population	Major ICB Destination
1	Lander	7,642	Casper
	Riverton	10,953	
2	Cody	9,740	Billings (MT)
	Lovell	2,404	
	Powell	6,407	
3	Thermopolis	3,020	Casper
	Worland	5,366	
4	Lusk	1,578	Cheyenne
	Torrington	6,738	
5	Greybull	1,868	Billings
	Worland	5,366	
6	Newcastle	3,513	Gillette

# Next Steps

- Strive for 85% (24 of 28 cities) of the most populated cities in Wyoming to be connected to an ICB service provider or, at a minimum, a more populated city
- Explore opportunities to enhance connections to ICB services
- Implement definition of meaningful connections
- Adopt process to review intercity bus service needs on a regular basis
- Review and update definition of meaningful connections

# Questions?

