Comparison of Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs)

- Governance
- Functions
- Funding

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Comparison of RTAs

- 13 RTAs serving metro areas similar in size to Southeastern Wisconsin
- Northeastern Illinois RTA
Governance

• Board size
  • Ranges from 7 to 16
  • Median is 10
  • Average is 11

• Elected or Appointed
  • 12 of 14 have appointed boards
  • 1 has elected board
  • 1 board has members serving by virtue of their office (City Mayors and Managers and County Executive and Manager)
Governance (continued)

- **Non-voting members**
  - 2 of 14 RTAs
    - State DOT (2)
    - Outside local units of government (1)
- **RTA appointing authority**
  - Shared authority (9 of 12 RTAs)
  - Sole authority (3 of 12 RTAs)
    - Governor (1)
    - County Executive (1)
    - City/County Mayor (1)
Governance (continued)

- RTA appointing authorities
  - Municipal (10)
  - County (10)
  - Governor (2)
  - State Legislature (1)
  - State DOT (1)
  - Metropolitan Planning Organization (1)
  - Other RTA members (1)
Functions

- 12 of 14 serve as transit funding and operating agency
  - 1 is funding agency only
    - Northeastern Illinois RTA
    - Its transit operators are regional—Metra, Pace, CTA
  - 1 is operating agency only
    - Hampton Roads Transit
    - Local governments provide funding
• **Transit Operations**
  
  • 12 of 14 provide all the transit service within their service area
  
  • Exception—2 of these 12 have communities which have opted out of RTA
  
  • 1 (Austin) contracts for rural transit service in the outlying portions of the RTA area with counties which provide rural transit service
  
  • 1 (Northeastern Illinois) is a funding agency only (Metra, CTA, and Pace Transit operators)
  
  • Several provide transit service between their RTA area and communities/counties outside the RTA area under contract with (and subsidized by) the outside communities/counties
Funding Source

• Source of Dedicated funding (13 RTAs)
  • Sales tax – 10
  • Payroll tax – 3

• 7 Multi-county RTAs
  • 2 have different levels of taxes by counties
  • 5 include portions of counties, and 2 include entire counties
Summary

• Governance
  • Most common is appointed board with 10 members and shared appointment authority

• Functions
  • Most common is RTA serving as transit funding and operation agency

• Funding
  • Most common is sales tax dedicated funding
  • Most multi-county RTAs have differential tax levels or include parts of counties