HOW CHT REALIZED $200,000 ANNUAL SAVINGS IN OPERATIONS

Chapel Hill Transit

Offers over **142,000** annual hours of service

7.5 M Riders per year
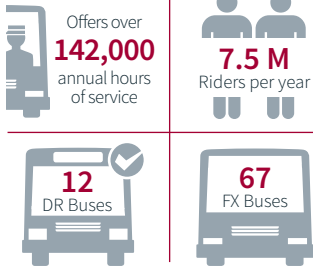
12 DR Buses

67 FX Buses

Industry

Fixed Route

Paratransit

Products

FX/BlockBuster

Results

BEFORE

3-4 weeks to put together a streetable runcut

AFTER

2 - 3 days to do it; annual savings of **$200,000**

After the implementation of Trapeze FX/BlockBuster, CHT was able to move from a manual process to an automatic process for its fixed route transit's routing and scheduling system.

Background: Chapel Hill Transit (CHT) provides public transportation service throughout the Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and University of North Carolina community. It's a municipal department within the Town of Chapel Hill and was established in 1974. CHT, which operates fixed route and demand response service within a 25 square mile service area, became a fare-free system in January 2002.

Challenges: Before implementing Trapeze FX/BlockBuster, CHT employees had to manually create runcut scenarios. It would take three to four weeks to put together a streetable runcut and prepare it for the drivers. When vehicle operators had specific requests or pointed out certain difficulties, schedulers had to go back to the drawing board and start all over again. This manual process was not only tedious and time consuming but also inefficient and costly.

Solutions: In 2008, CHT installed FX/BlockBuster, Trapeze's routing and scheduling system for fixed route transit.

The system included an advanced runcutting function. CHT schedulers can now create various runcut scenarios within two to three days instead of three weeks. With its comprehensive and fully automated functionality, FX/BlockBuster also helped CHT eliminate human error that came with manually adjusting a large amount of data. Today, worrying about missing runcuts as well as copy and paste errors are memories of the past. BlockBuster combines powerful algorithms and comprehensive parameter settings to quickly generate various cost-effective operator assignment scenarios. The system is configured with CHT's specific rules and requirements.

Considering all these parameters, BlockBuster looks at hundreds of thousands of possibilities to put together a runcut — it would be impossible for schedulers to do this manually.

> "*Trapeze FX with BlockBuster helped Chapel Hill Transit reduce weekly driver payroll by almost 200 hours. This reduction adds up to annual savings of about $200,000.*"
>
> *Nick Pittman,*
> *Transit Planning Coordinator,*
> *Chapel Hill Transit*

Results: FX/BlockBuster reduced the time of creating workable runcuts from up to four weeks to a mere few days. Furthermore, CHT reduced weekly driver hours by almost 200 which added up to annual savings of approximately $200,000. BlockBuster was able to realize these efficiencies by combining two or three piece runs to eight-hour runs, shortening shift breaks, and tightening all schedules overall. Bringing down expensive part time runs to a minimum was another major cost saving factor.

Trapeze™