Service Area

TRANSIT MOBILITY + ACCESSIBILITY

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“Thank you to Alta Planning + Design for smooth project management and a professional final plan. We are excited for our regional communities to start using the plan to communicate, collaborate, and move forward with projects.”

— Jason White, Roaring Fork Transportation Authority Assistant Planner, regarding the Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Transit Access Plan, Aspen, CO
Mobility choices are vastly expanded when dependable transit service is combined with safe, convenient active transportation and shared-use facilities. Alta’s thoughtful planning and design enables these modes to intersect, resulting in strong, connected networks that build ridership and foster community vitality.

Alta recognizes the value of both cutting edge and traditional approaches centered on user and community needs. Our planners, engineers, landscape architects, and transportation demand management specialists strengthen transit and mobility options while maximizing return on investment.

Key Qualifications:
- First/Last Mile connections
- Bike share integration
- Station area planning and mobility hubs
- Shared-use mobility
- Transportation Demand Management
- Bike parking and end-of-trip facilities
- Transit corridor planning, design, and operations
- On-board bicycle storage
- Rails-with-Trails
APPROACH

Alta explores and enhances transit, active transportation, and new mobility options. We customize solutions for communities to increase equitable transportation choices for urban, suburban, and rural areas.

RESEARCH AND BEST PRACTICES
We work closely with national, state, regional, and local partners to create, test, and evaluate new tools to better integrate transit, walking and bicycling. Alta managed the content development for both the NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide and the FHWA Small Town and Rural Multimodal Networks Guide. Our staff also served on the Technical Review Team for NACTO’s Transit Street Design Guide.

CREATING AND TESTING INFRASTRUCTURE INNOVATIONS
Alta’s Tactical Urbanism team deploys temporary demonstration projects in communities small and large. From floating transit islands to protected bike lanes, these pop-up projects enable communities to “try it before you buy it.” We also evaluate these projects and strategies to help communities determine whether (and how) to make their innovations permanent.

PLACEMAKING
For transit, walking, and bicycling to work best, details matter. Our landscape architects and engineers work on a micro-scale to provide seamless links through wayfinding, bike parking design, transit stop/station design, and other areas where thoughtful attention to design detail is needed.
INTEGRATION OF NEW MOBILITY OPTIONS

With shared-use mobility and autonomous vehicles rapidly changing the transportation landscape, Alta helps communities understand how to integrate these emerging transportation modes to enhance transit. From curbside management policy to mobility hub design, we help our clients manage change and navigate complex decisions.

ROBUST ANALYSIS TOOLS

Alta draws from its vast pool of analysis tools to understand the relationship between transit, walking, and bicycling. Our Live/Work/Play model provides a composite sketch of where current or future transit and active transportation demand resides, while our bicycle and pedestrian suitability and systemic safety analyses illustrate how a transportation network functions from a comfort and safety perspective. Our health and equity mapping tools inform conversations meeting at the intersection of transportation and public health.
CASE STUDY

The Regional Bike-to-Ride project features secure bike parking location and design guidance for transit stations throughout greater Atlanta.

Improving Active Transportation Connections to Transit through Infrastructure Improvements

The Atlanta Regional Commission recognized the need to improve active transportation connections to regional transit hubs, as there is a significant population in the region that live and work within a five minute bike ride to transit. Alta worked with the Atlanta Regional Commission to develop the Bike-to-Ride document that provides infrastructure guidance to enhance safety and convenience for people riding bicycles to transit.

The team first conducted interviews with local transit agency staff to identify current access challenges and opportunities, augmented by conversations with peer agencies to identify best practices. The team then developed transit stop typologies based on land use and roadway context, transit service type, and demographics, resulting in a group of case study sites representing a broad range of conditions. Alta concluded this effort with annotated maps depicting bicycle access and parking recommendations for each case study site based on geospatial analysis and field audits. Bikeway corridor projects and bike parking recommendations were compiled into a Bike-to-Transit Idea Book that provides inspiration and technical information for local implementing agencies throughout the Atlanta Region.

Key Services Provided

Regional planning
Best practices research
Mobility hub/transit typologies
Transit First/Last Mile
Bicycle parking and end-of-trip facilities
Bicycle facility design concepts
Alta’s evaluation of bikeway conditions along key transit access corridors determined that bicycling to/from transit stops is not currently realizing its full potential, primarily due to gaps in the bikeway network and lack of adequate bike parking at transit stops.
Seattle’s Broadway corridor features “transit islands,” a protected bikeway, and clearly marked conflict points to enhance user safety and comfort.

Building Streetcar Systems Fully Integrated with Bicycle and Pedestrian Connections

**Key Services Provided**
- Station area planning and design
- Transit First/Last Mile
- Protected bike lane design

Seattle’s First Hill Streetcar sets a new standard for bicycle, pedestrian, and transit integration in a shared corridor. First Hill residents and active transportation advocates expressed strong interest in a world-class separated bikeway as part of this project. The City of Seattle proceeded with a two-way protected bike lane along Broadway with improvements to intersections and parallel bikeways along the entire streetcar line.

In addition to developing streetcar station placement recommendations, Alta led the design of the protected bike lane, bicycle intersection treatments, signing, signals, pavement markings, driveway crossings, and other conflict areas through the densely developed neighborhood commercial district. The protected bike lane opened in 2013, and subsequent planning and design phases are complete and pending construction funding.
Los Angeles Metro’s First/Last Mile Strategic Plan extends transit’s reach through transit stop enhancements and broader catchment area improvements. As part of a larger team, Alta developed a series of station typologies to guide strategic improvements throughout Metro’s service area. Using data, internal and external stakeholder outreach, and site visits, the team developed specific access improvements based on land use, residential and commercial densities, roadway network characteristics, and other factors. In 2015, the American Planning Association awarded its “National Planning Excellence Award for a Best Practice” to LA Metro for this innovative plan.
BIKETOWN’s launch, coupled with Portland’s most recent light rail extension, has vastly increased multimodal transportation options throughout the city.

Integrating Transit with the Nation’s First Hybrid Bike Share System

Key Services Provided
- Bike share integration with transit
- Transit First/Last Mile
- Bicycle parking and end-of-trip facilities

Alta provided planning and design services for Portland’s bike share system, BIKETOWN. As part of the initial feasibility study, Alta developed a bike share demand model based on residential and employment density, transit hubs, and other key attractors. Based on the model and client input, Alta delineated the initial service area with a tiered target station density based on anticipated use at the neighborhood level. This involved site surveys at 300 potential locations and identifying key attributes to help the community prioritize implementation efforts.

Following the selection of 100 top-tier station locations, Alta performed the final field surveys and developed detailed site plans for each station. Alta successfully drove an accelerated seven-month schedule to implement 100 bike share stations by the promised launch date.
Encouraging Transit Ridership through Engaging Individualized Marketing

In partnership with the Oregon Department of Transportation, Metro, and the City of Milwaukie, the Drive Less Save More individualized marketing campaign aimed to reduce drive-alone trips while promoting recent major transportation investments including a regional trail and light rail line. Through customized ordering, participants in the 4,500-household target area could select the information they wanted to encourage transit use, carpooling, bicycling, and walking. Within the program’s first four months, participation reached 20 percent, far exceeding typical participation rates of 8-12 percent. Alta’s Programs staff oversaw the campaign’s execution from start to finish.