



National
Center
for
Rural
Road
Safety

Est. Dec. 2014



Challenges with Transit Planning & Implementation in Rural Areas

Presented by: David Kack



What is Rural?

Rural area An area encompassing a population of less than fifty thousand people that has not been designated in the most recent decennial census as an “urbanized area” by the Secretary of Commerce.

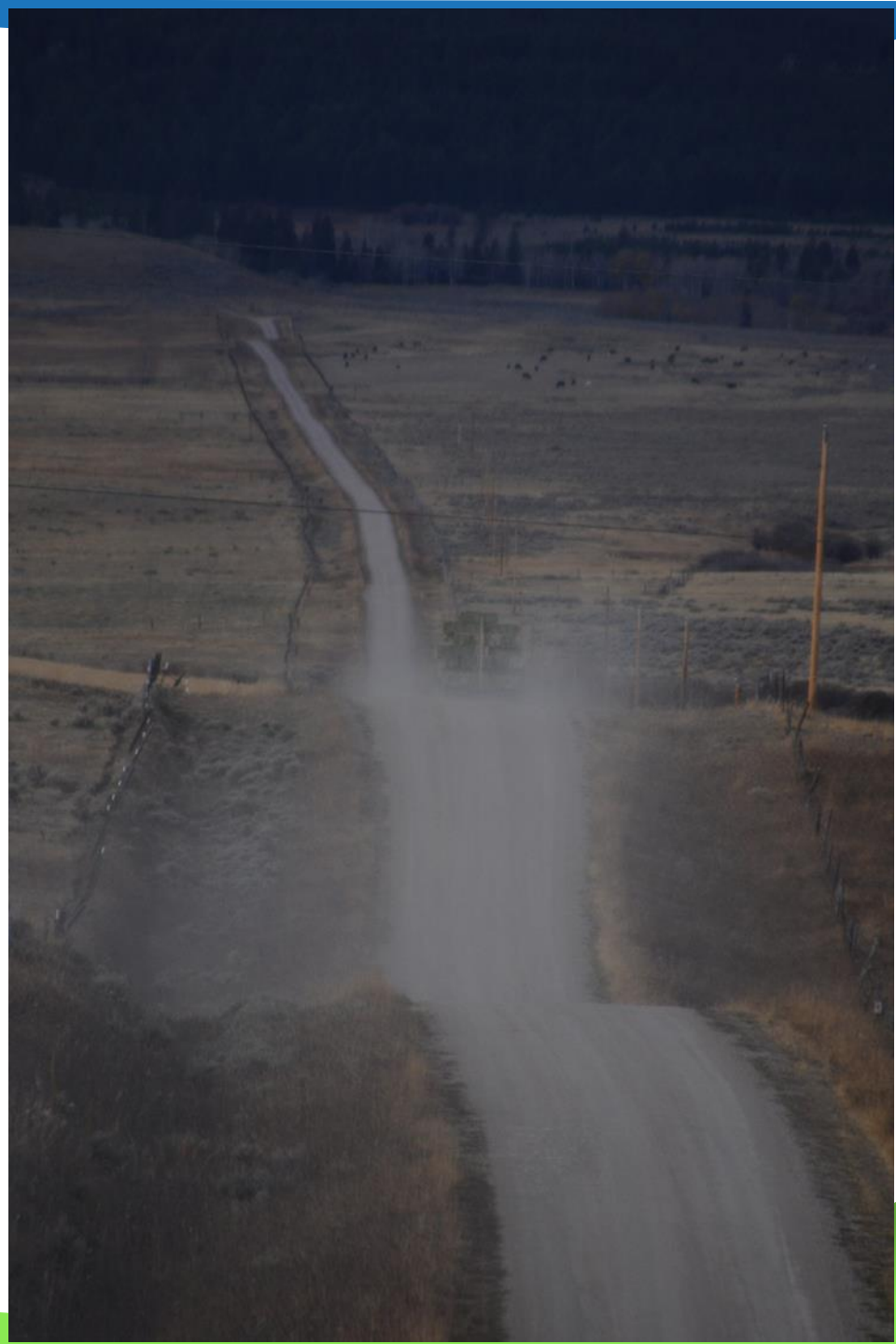


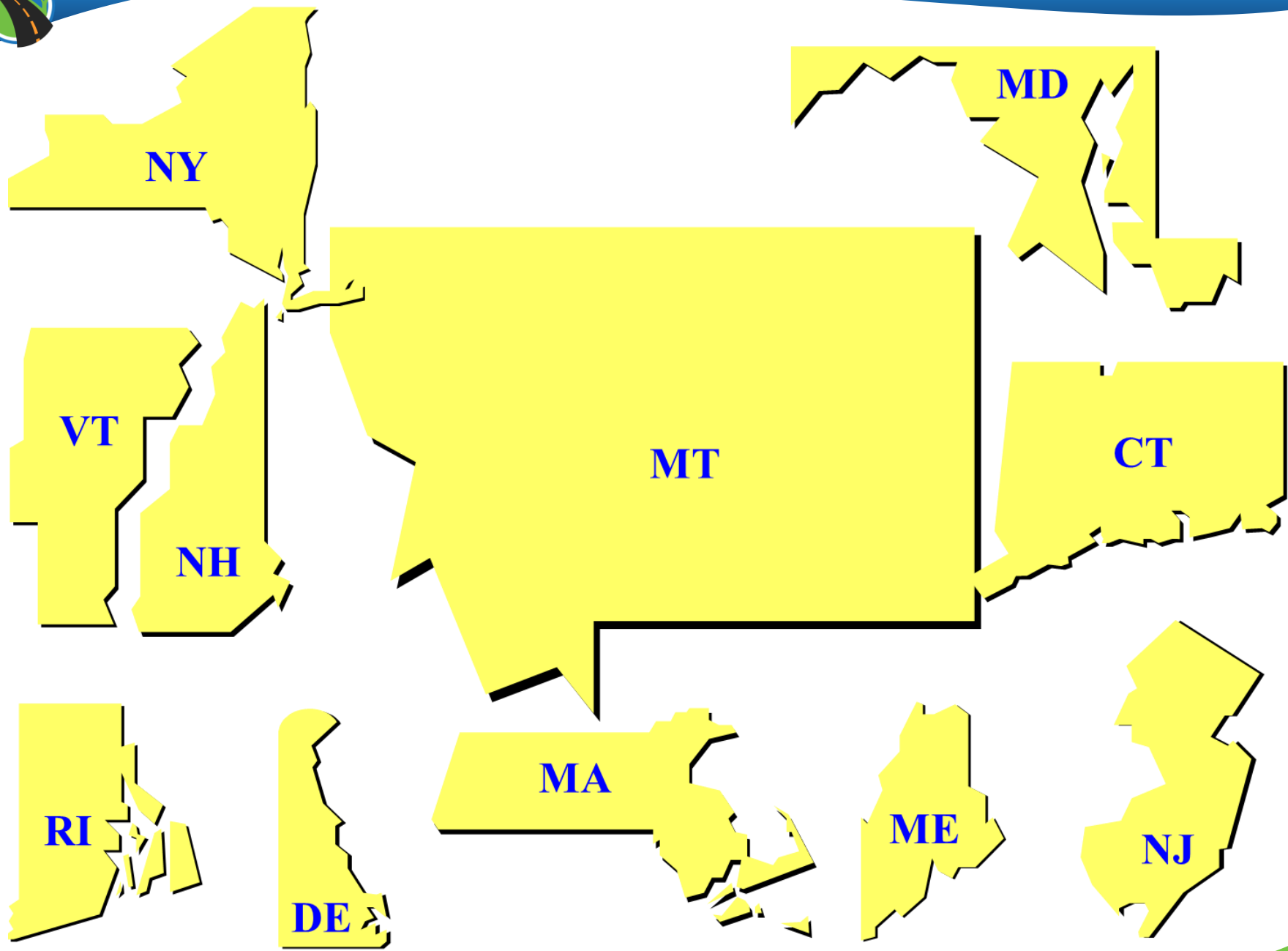
Federal Transit Administration Circular 9040.1G



What is Frontier?

- Through the 1890 Census, the Census Bureau used to define the “frontier” as a territory with less than two persons per square mile.
- Recently, a number of agencies within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has defined “frontier” as any non-metropolitan county that has a population density of 6 or fewer persons per square mile.







Rural (Public) Transportation Issues

- Longer Distances
- Lower Population Densities
- Limited Services in Small Communities
 - Medical services, shopping, employment, etc.
- Few Transportation Options



Challenges

- Rural areas often lead to small transit systems
- Often need to get smaller systems started, and then discuss coordination and consolidation
- State can play a role, but often defers to local decisions
- Regional systems can be difficult to implement politically



Recommendations

- Evaluate needs (employment, medical, shopping, etc.)
- Look at resources in the community (people, vehicles, funding, etc.)
- Plan to start small
- Contract if possible to limit risks



“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are”

“Progress is accomplished by the man who does things”



President Theodore Roosevelt



Questions

