

## Public Transit Authorities Deliver Community WiFi



### Meet April Tanaka

Mrs. Tanaka is the Assistant Deputy Director of a Regional Transit Authority in Northern California. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, ridership is down, and public buses are underutilized. She's been tasked with utilizing RTA vehicles in a way that benefits her community at large.

### Current Challenge

The COVID-19 pandemic created massive challenges within the public transportation sector, including Regional Transit Authorities and the communities they serve. Now that ridership is temporarily limited to essential travel only, RTA's are discussing how they can support their communities during this challenging time.

After taking a few cues from the education sector, they decided to act in a similar fashion. They would equip RTA buses with wireless edge solutions to provide "super-hotspots" in areas where many struggle to access the Internet. To make those hotspots a reality, Mrs. Tanaka's organization needed reliable routers with built-in LTE modems capable of broadcasting Wi-Fi. Additionally, her IT team needed a way to manage this initiative simply and easily.

### Solution

After reaching out to the expert team at USAT, Mrs. Tanaka was presented with a Cradlepoint solution. USAT would install Wi-Fi enabled IBR1700 wireless edge routers — with Gigabit-Class LTE — on every bus. With these routers, and a signal boosting MIMO antenna kit, her organization can provide Internet access within the various "digital deserts" in her community — expanding distance learning, telework, and telehealth opportunities.

RTA leadership, fleet, and IT teams can use NetCloud Manager to centrally monitor Wi-Fi and application usage analytics, track cellular signal strength and quality throughout the city, make configuration changes, and control web filtering in compliance with various security guidelines.

### Benefits

Her team worked with partners to place LTE-connected RTA vehicles at strategic locations such as schools, libraries, parks, and neighborhoods — providing Wi-Fi service for students performing school work, job-seekers filling out applications, and residents filing unemployment claims and census forms. The agency was also able to provide meal delivery services to seniors and high-risk groups.

Mrs. Tanaka's ingenuity and partnership with USAT enabled her RTA to deliver a public transit solution during a community crisis that allows for innovation, flexible services, and the ability to capitalize on new technologies for years to come.



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