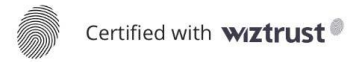




Press release
July 28th 2024



LRTA to launch new CAD/AVL and real-time system with Equans

The Lowell Regional Transit Authority (LRTA) announces the launch of its new CAD/AVL and real-time passenger information system, which will provide real-time bus tracking, trip planning, automatic announcement, and service alerts to all riders on a variety of media.

Created in 1974, LRTA provides public transportation services to residents and visitors of the Greater Lowell area. With 20 fixed routes, its goal is to become the transportation choice for people who live, work, and visit the area. Located 27 miles northwest of Boston, Lowell is the fourth largest city in Massachusetts.

Selected for this project in 2023, Equans has already installed and commissioned the Equans Computer-Aided Dispatch and Automatic Vehicle Location (CAD/AVL) solution, real-time passenger information (RTPI) and equipped all buses with Automatic Passenger Counters.

With the new Equans CAD/AVL, LRTA can improve passenger experience and operations efficiency. The Equans CAD/AVL system includes ADA-compliant Automated Voice Announcement (AVA), relieving bus operators from having to announce it themselves. The CAD/AVL is fully integrated to the vehicle's speakers and updates the destination signs automatically, even when buses interline.

Now, the Equans CAD/AVL system provides a GTFS Real-Time feed to Google, Transit App, and LRTA's website, which all utilize real-time service change updates, such as when a trip is cancelled, so that LRTA's riders never miss their bus.

Equans' CAD/AVL system offers many new ways to access real-time information for LRTA's customers, including Transit App, a real-time bus tracking website, and digital signage at the Transit terminal. With LRTA's new Real-time Transit bus app, riders can track buses in real-time, plan trips, and receive alerts when their bus is close to arriving at their stop, or when a service change occurs. Riders can "favorite" their most used stops to quickly access them from the home screen and set up reminders, so they never miss a bus again. Users can quickly get walking directions to any stop and tap the bus icon to see its actual location, direction of travel, last stop, on-time status, and even how many seats are available on the next bus through new real-time bus occupancy technology. The free Transit App is available for iOS and Android devices on the App Store and Google Play. LRTA's customers are also able to use this tool on their website.

One of the key highlights of this project is the implementation of Automatic Passenger Counting (APC) technology in all buses, which will facilitate accurate data collection and analysis. LRTA will benefit from reliable ridership data, real-time occupancy status shared with riders, and a simplified annual NTD reporting process.

"By investing in cutting-edge technology and modernizing our transit infrastructure, we aim to elevate the quality of service we provide to our passengers. This partnership with Equans marks a pivotal moment in our journey towards creating a more efficient, reliable, and passenger-centric transit system." – David Bradley, LRTA Administrator.

"We're proud to support the LRTA in providing convenient, reliable, and innovative mobility for their riders. Our service proven CAD/AVL technologies are a great addition to the LRTA fleet to ensure riders get the very best in real-time passenger information." – Mai Miyata, Project Manager for Equans.

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About Equans and Equans France

Rooted in a history that goes back more than a century, Equans, subsidiary of the Bouygues group, is the new global leader in the energy and services industry. In France, particularly through Ineo, Axima and Bouygues Energies & Services, it has a high territorial density synonymous with proximity. Its 35,000 employees in France support their customers in improving and optimizing their equipment, systems and technical processes so as to meet the challenges of a triple transition, energy, industrial and digital. Equans provides a high level of expertise and technology with the ambition of making a significant contribution to a low carbon and resilient world. Electrical engineering, HVAC, refrigeration, fire safety, Facility Management, IT and telecommunications, digital solutions: Equans' complementary expertise is deployed in France through a unique combination of multi-technical skills for design, construction and installation projects as well as for operation and maintenance services.

Operating in 20 countries, with 90,000 employees working on 5 continents and an annual turnover of €18.8 billion in 2023, the Equans Group connects, powers and protects energy and data to territories, cities, buildings, factories and infrastructures. Following a similar dynamic, its subsidiary Equans France achieved a turnover of 7.1 billion euros in 2023 and operates in nearly 30 different countries. Equans is a Bouygues group company.

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