JAMES BAKER
VICE PRESIDENT

Jim has worked on a wide-range of transit projects, with an emphasis in transit operations planning (short-range and long-range projects) and O&M cost estimation. Projects have included: FTA Section 5309 New Starts Corridor Planning (AA, DEIS, FEIS, PE; comprehensive operations analysis (COA); transit development plans; and systems planning.

Employment History

Connetics Transportation Group, Inc.
2005-present
Vice President

Manuel Padron & Associates, Inc.
1991-2005
Vice President

Transportation Consulting Group (Orlando, FL)
1986-1991
Project Manager

Education

B.S., Community and Regional Planning, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 1984

M.C.P., Masters of City Planning, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA, 1986

Mr. James Baker has 25 years of transportation planning experience. Mr. Baker has worked on studies and projects in numerous cities including: Atlanta, Denver, Chicago, Minneapolis, Orlando, Norfolk, San Francisco, Columbus, Cleveland, Washington D.C. and Charlotte. Mr. Baker has experience with a wide variety of transit-related projects including Service Plans and O&M Cost Estimates for numerous systems plans and FTA Section 5309 New Starts Corridor level projects (AA, DEIS, FEIS, PE), Short-Range and Long-Range service plans for Comprehensive Operations Analyses (COA), Transit Development Plans and Systems Planning. Representative projects include:

CORRIDOR/NEW STARTS PROJECTS:

Michigan/Grand River Avenue Alternatives Analysis: Lansing, MI

The Michigan/Grand River Avenue Corridor is a heavily traveled corridor in the Lansing region that experiences severe congestion. This 7 ½- mile corridor includes downtown Lansing, the State Capitol, a major hospital, Michigan State University and a large regional mall. Mr. Baker was responsible for development of bus rapid transit, light rail transit and streetcar service plans for the various project alternatives. Background bus changes were also identified. Service plans were crafted to address this corridor's unique travel characteristics associated with Michigan State University travel demands. Annual O&M cost estimates were also developed and used to determine the cost effectiveness index (CEI) for each project alternative.

Denver FasTracks Rail Operations Plans

The FasTracks program is a 12-year comprehensive plan to build and operate 119 miles of high speed rail lines, 18 miles of bus rapid transit service and to expand and improve bus service and park-and-ride lots in the Denver region. Mr. Baker worked closely with RTD Systems Planning staff prior to the November 2004 referendum in the development of system rail operating plans, estimates of rail operating statistics, including fleet requirements, the estimation of annual rail O&M costs, and the allocation of rail O&M costs by corridor. The FasTracks voter referendum passed, and RTD is in the process of implementing the 12-year program. Mr. Baker continues to be involved in operations planning-related tasks for RTD through various work orders as the FasTracks program advances through various planning, engineering and construction activities.

Norfolk (VA) LRT Project

Mr. Baker was involved in light rail planning efforts for Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) in Norfolk from 1994 through 2008. Most recently, he worked on transit operations-related tasks for the LRT project's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), Preliminary Engineering (PE) and Final Design work effort. He was also extensively involved in assisting the agency with its New Starts Submittals to the Federal Transit Administration. Work tasks have included the definition of service plans for project alternatives, the estimation of O&M costs and fleet requirements, the preparation of bus and rail fleet management plans and the completion of various "Before Implementation" work efforts for inclusion in the project's Before-After Implementation Study (a FTA New Starts requirement). The Norfolk LRT project is presently under construction, with an anticipated opening date in late 2010.

Northstar Commuter Rail Project: Minneapolis, MN

The Northstar project is a commuter rail line from Elk River to downtown Minneapolis, MN (the northwest corridor of the Twin Cities). Mr. Baker participated in various operations planning and O&M cost estimation efforts as this project advanced through an initial Major Investment Study, Preliminary Engineering and Final Design. The Northstar commuter rail line received a Full Funding Grant Agreement from the Federal Transit Administration in late 2007, service began in late 2009.

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SYSTEMS PLANS:

Fort Collins/Loveland CO Transit Strategic Plan:

Mr. Baker worked closely with transit agency staff in Fort Collins (Transfort) and Loveland (COLT) in developing a three-phase transit strategic plan. This plan included a detailed assessment of existing Transfort and COLT services, including detailed route profiles. The plan's three phases reflect a steady progression of expanded local and regional transit services in the Fort Collins and Loveland area that can be implemented as funding becomes available in the future. Service plans were refined for the Fort Collins' Mason Street Corridor Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project as part of this study work effort.

Atlanta GA Transit Planning Board Regional Transit Vision Plan

Mr. Baker worked closely with Transit Planning Board (TPB) staff in the evaluation of past and current proposed transit projects, the evaluation of travel demand in regional travel corridors, and the development of alternative regional transit concept plans. Mr. Baker also worked extensively in completing a detailed evaluation of the alternative concept plans, including preparation of initial ridership estimates, capital cost estimates and O&M cost estimates. One of the concepts has been advanced as the region's long-range transit vision

BUS SERVICE STUDIES:

Comprehensive Study Project for:
The Central Midlands RTA (Columbia, SC)

Mr. Baker served as the Project Manager for a consultant team that completed a Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA), a Park-and-Ride Feasibility Study and a Management Performance Review for the Central Midlands RTA (CMRTA). Mr. Baker also served as the Task Leader for the COA portion of the project. COA recommendations were developed for a Near-Term (1-3 year), a Short-Range (4-9 year) and a Long-Range (10-15 year) plan. Work tasks included staff, stakeholder, rider and public input, a 100% ridecheck survey, an on-board survey, a latent demand analysis and preparation of detailed service recommendations for each service plan. A detailed financial plan was also developed for input into a potential countywide sales tax referendum that would fund the Short-Range and Long-Range service plans. Mr. Baker also assisted CMRTA in various implementation plan tasks for the Near-Term Plan.

Comprehensive Operations Analysis for:
The Corpus Christi (TX) RTA

Mr. Baker served as CTG's Project Manager for the preparation of a Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) for the Corpus Christi RTA. Recommendations were defined for a Near-Term (1-2 year) plan and a Short-Range (4-5 year) plan. Work tasks included extensive staff and public input, attitudinal surveys of riders and non-riders, a 100% ridecheck survey, a comprehensive evaluation of existing services, a latent demand analysis and preparation of service concepts that led to the development of specific route recommendations.

Transit Development Plans for Various Virginia Transit Agencies

Connetics Transportation Group has completed Transit Development Plans (TDP's) for numerous Virginia transit agencies under an on-call services contract with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT). Mr. Baker was responsible for completing TDP's for the City of Bristol, Danville Transit, the City of Fairfax CUE and Loudoun County Transit. He has also assisted in TDP efforts for Arlington Transit, Charlottesville Area Transit. Each TDP has a unique scope of work to address each agencies' specific data collection and service planning needs. Each TDP identifies a six year capital improvement and operations plan.

MARTA "MOVE" Study: Atlanta, GA

The MARTA "MOVE" Study consists of an extensive comprehensive evaluation of MARTA's delivery of bus, rail and paratransit services. Mr. Baker participated in this project's evaluation of bus services. Work tasks included the development of detailed route profiles that have documented ridership and service characteristics and schedule and alignment observations. Route strengths and weaknesses were reviewed with MARTA staff in a series of agency workshops. Near-term recommendations were then developed based on those observations.