

# Open Transit Data What and Why



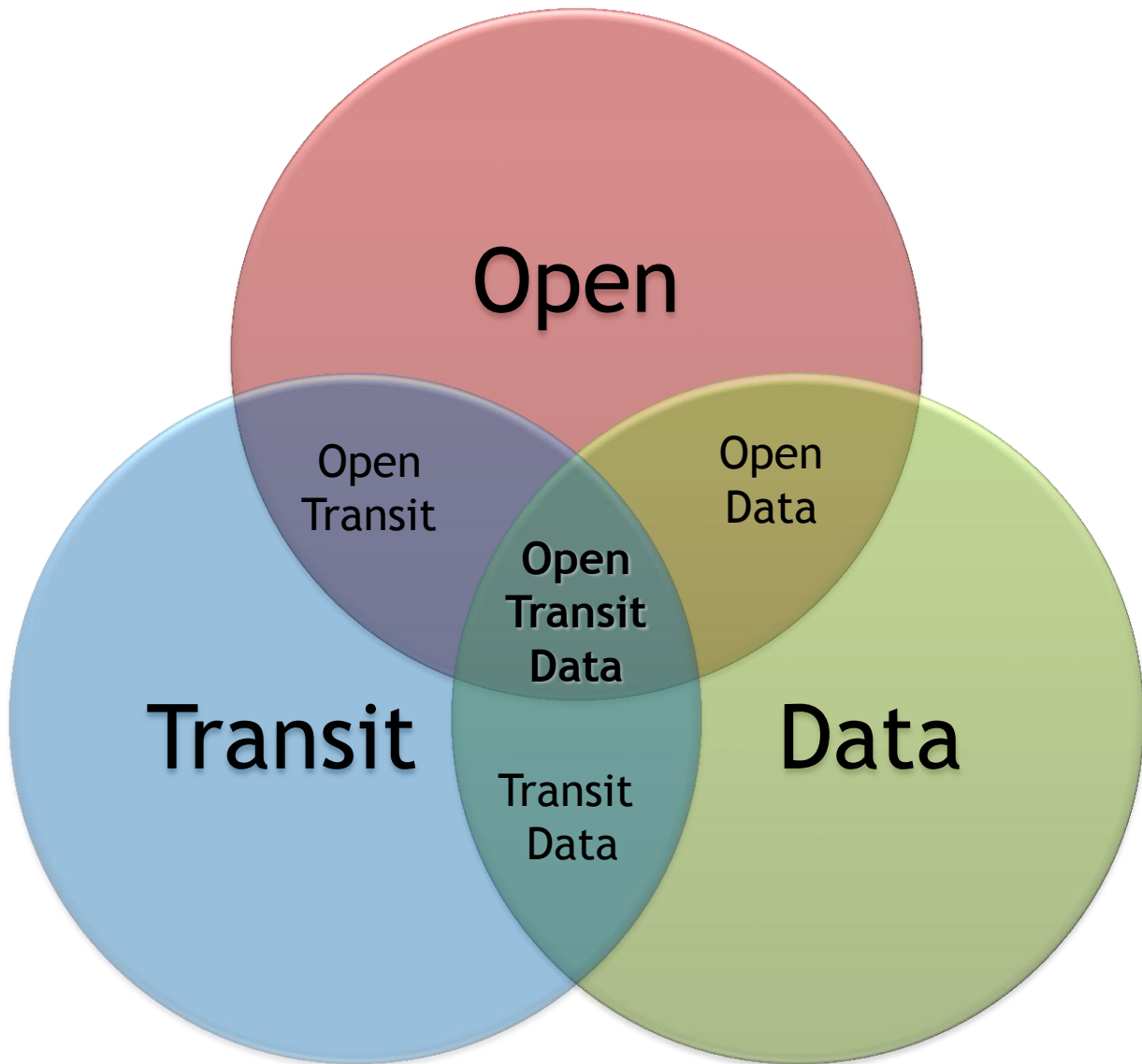
David Alpert

[GreaterGreaterWashington.org](http://GreaterGreaterWashington.org)



Lat. Capitol 38. 55. N.

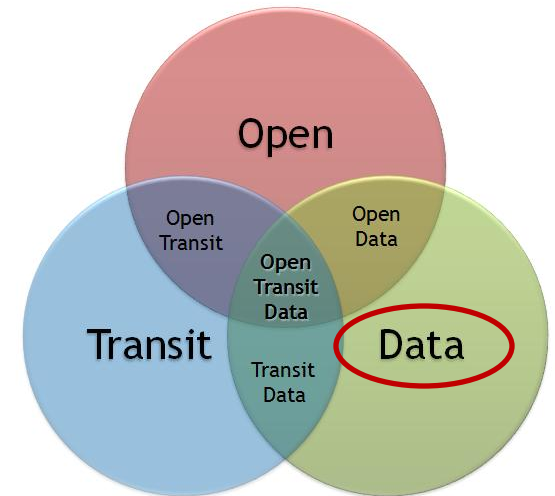
Long. \_\_\_\_\_ 0. 0.





# Data

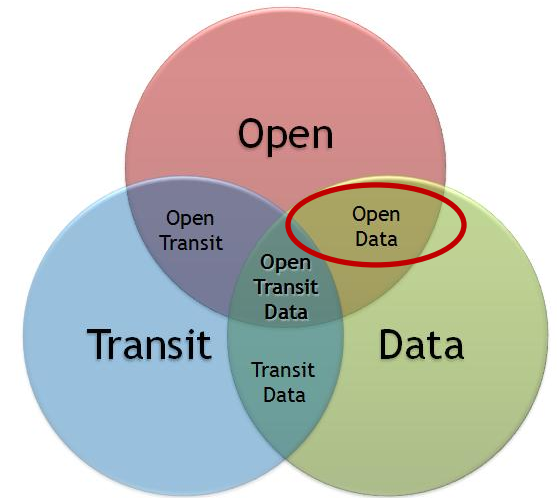
- Structured
- Computer-readable
  - XML, JSON





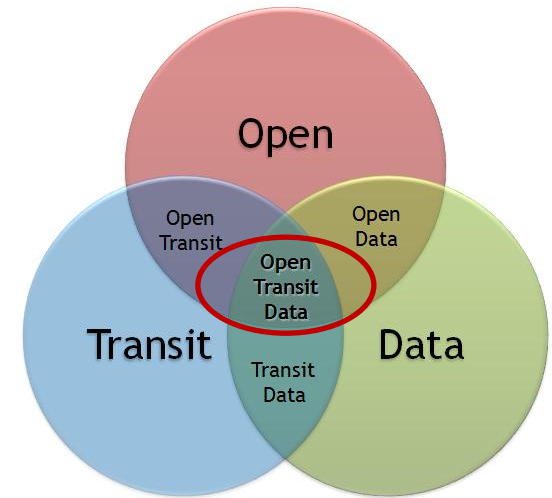
# Open Data

- Available to all
- Without payment
- Permission not necessary





# Open Transit Data



- About a transit service
- Structured, computer-readable
- Available freely to all



# Why release open data?

- Mission
- More developers
- More applications
- More platforms



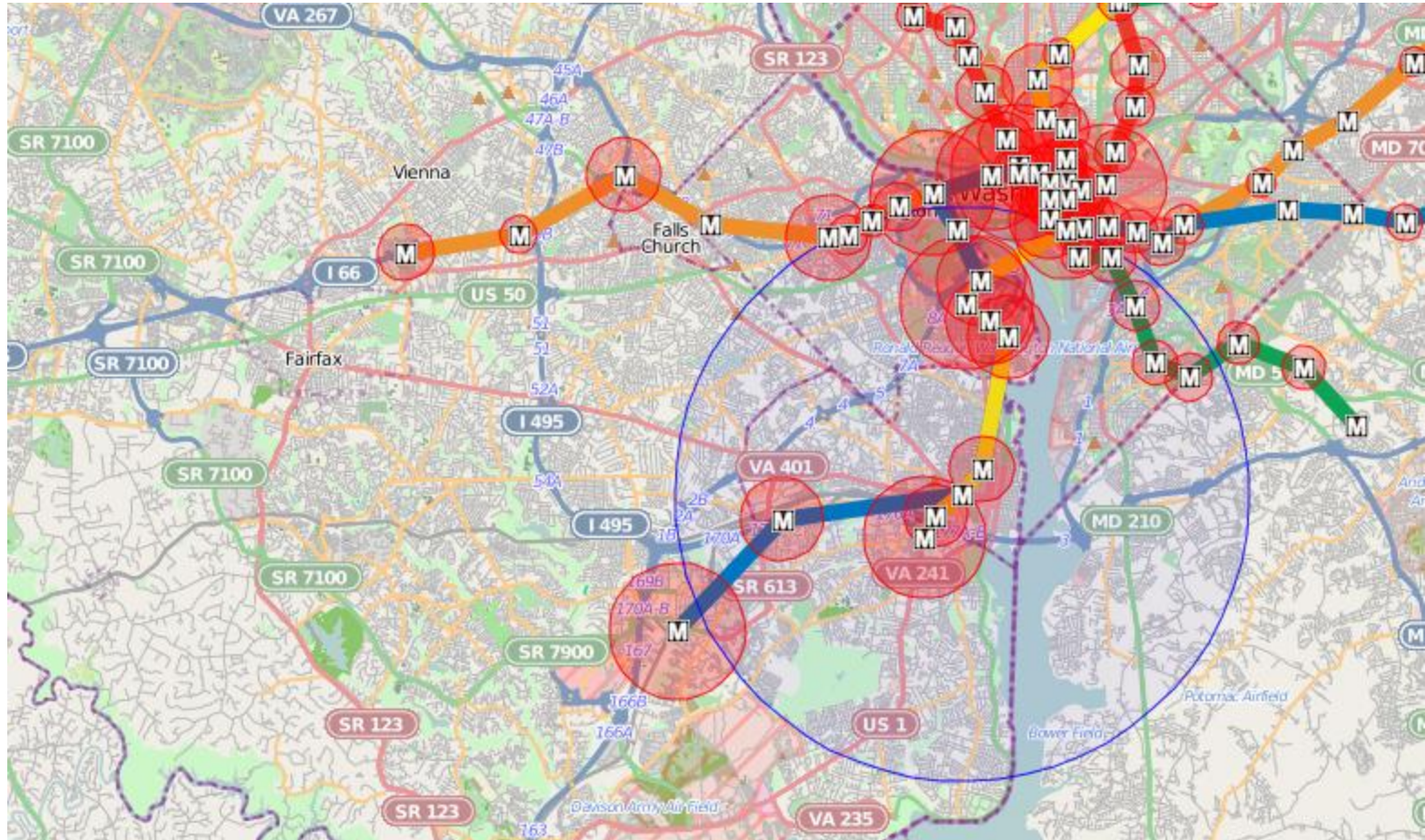


# Mobile apps





# Visualizations





# Trip planners

The screenshot displays the TriMet Regional Trip Planner interface. The browser address bar shows the URL `rtp.trimet.org`. The main map area shows a route in Portland, Oregon, starting at NW 10th & Couch and ending at NE Sandy & 18th. The route is highlighted in blue and includes a green marker for Everett Street. The map also shows major roads like 99W, 99E, and 26, and landmarks like Lloyd District and East Portland. The sidebar on the left contains the following information:

- TRI MET** logo and navigation icons.
- Trip Planner** section with a "Plan a Trip" button.
- Origin: NW 10th & Couch - Stop ID 10770
- Destination: NE Sandy & 18th - Stop ID 5062
- When: Depart 11/04/2011 at 11:30 am
- Travel by: Transit & Bicycle
- Show me the: Custom trip...
- Maximum bike: 3 miles
- Plan Your Trip button
- Navigation and location search icons: TriMet Routes, Location Search, Transit Center Locations, Park & Ride Locations, Carshare Locations.



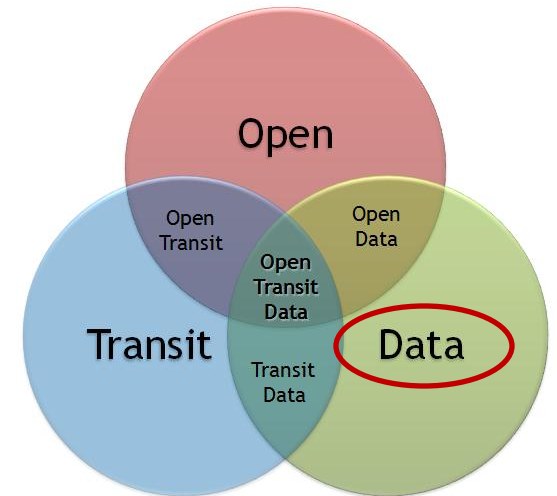
# Why NOT release open data?

- |             |                   |
|-------------|-------------------|
| • Control?  | Why?              |
| • Accuracy? | Not necessary     |
| • Revenue?  | Not worthwhile    |
| • Effort?   | Help is available |



# Standard

- Common format
- Open = no royalties







 **AC Transit**  
Bay Area, California

 **Allegheny College**  
Meadville, Pennsylvania

 **Arlington Transit**  
Arlington, Virginia

 **Arlington Trolley**  
Arlington, Texas

 **Banff Roam**  
Banff, Canada


 **Bay Area Rapid Transit**  
San Francisco Bay Area, California


 **Bay State Cruise Company**  
Massachusetts Coast,  
Massachusetts

 **Bee-Line Bus**  
Westchester County, New York

 **Berkshire Regional  
Transportation Authority**  
Berkshire County, Massachusetts

 **Black Hawk Transportation  
Authority**  
Black Hawk, Colorado

 **Blacksburg Transit**  
Blacksburg, Virginia

 **Boulder Transit**  
Boulder, Colorado





# GTFS

- General
  - Transit
  - Feed
  - Specification
- Open  
Transit  
Data  
Standard



Google™

Google Transit  $\neq$  GTFS



# “Ecosystem”

- Individual developers
  - App contests
- Open source platforms
- Commercial vendors
  - Portability