



# PacTrans Seminar Series

Prof. Kari Watkins



**Date:** Monday, May 7, 2018  
**Time:** 1:00pm - 2:20pm, PST  
**Location:** UW Seattle Campus  
Husky Union Building (HUB) 334

## Organized by

PacTrans, the University of Washington Transportation Engineering Faculty

## Presentation Title

*OneBusAway: A Ten Year Retrospective*

## Abstract

OneBusAway is a real-time information system co-developed in 2008 by Dr. Brian Ferris and Dr. Kari Watkins and advised by Dr. Alan Borning while Brian and Kari were Ph.D. students at the University of Washington. Using a data feed from King County Metro, they created one of the first real-time transit information iPhone apps, soon followed by an Android app, as well as a website, short-messaging service (SMS) and an Interactive Voice Recognition (IVR) system to address the needs of riders without smartphones. By their graduations in 2011, OneBusAway served over 50,000 unique weekly users in the region. This talk will tell the story of how OneBusAway has evolved from a student project to a regional information system used in eight metro areas including NYC, DC, Tampa, and San Diego and serving over 500,000 unique weekly users. Dr. Watkins will also address the governance of open source code projects, the transit data standardization movement, and impacts of providing real-time passenger information on transit riders.

## Speaker



Dr. Kari Watkins is the Frederick Law Olmsted Associate Professor in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Georgia Tech. She returned to her undergraduate alma mater Georgia Tech to become a faculty member in 2011 after completing her PhD at the University of Washington. Her teaching and research interests include multi-modal transportation planning, the use of technology in transportation, traveler information, and complete streets design to create a more livable transportation system. Dr. Watkins' is the recipient of the Council of University Transportation Centers (CUTC) 2017 New Faculty Award and was recently named to Engineering Georgia's 100 Influential Women to Know. Prior to her doctoral studies, Dr. Watkins worked for a decade as a senior transportation engineer leading regional transportation, transit, and biking studies.