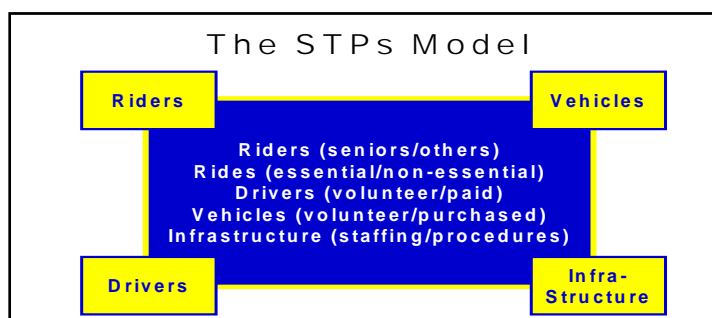


## THE STPs MODEL & CONTINUUM

### *The Model*

The STPs includes four core components. They are: the riders, the vehicles, the drivers, and the infrastructure. The components of the STPs are illustrated below.

When these components are organized within a model, they are illustrated in the following way.



As is the case in looking at the STPs continuum, it is important to ask several functional questions. The answers will impact on the internal composition of each of the components of the model.

**Who needs rides (seniors, others, seniors and others)**

**What type of rides will be provided (essentials or non-essentials)**

**When service will be provided (daytime, evenings, weekends)**

**Where the transportation will go (community, county, other)**

**How much rides will cost (free, fee, donation)**

**How the STPs will be supported (taxes, fees, other)**

**What kinds of vehicles will be used (cars, vans, buses)**

**What kinds of drivers will be used (paid, volunteer)**

**How much staff will be needed (paid, volunteer)**

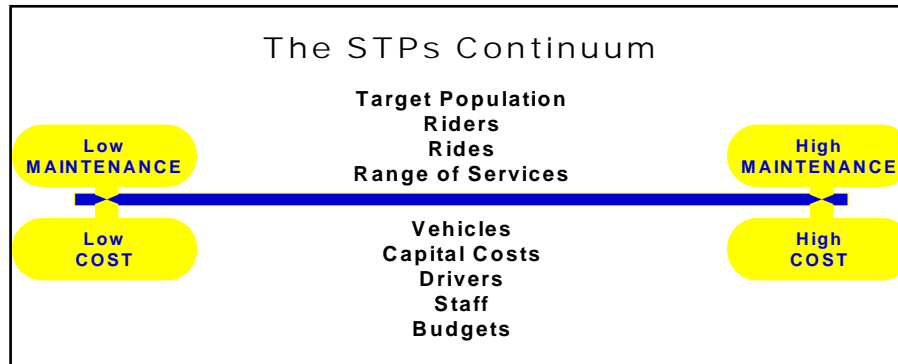
The answers to these questions will determine the complexity of the ridership, the recruitment and support requirements for drivers, the capital requirements necessary for securing vehicles, and the infrastructure necessary for staffing and operations. Understanding each of the elements of the model and their interrelationships can be of value in planning and implementing an STPs.

# THE STPs CONTINUUM

## *Low Maintenance/Low Cost – High Maintenance/High Cost*

STPs are located in communities throughout the country. They are sponsored by a variety of groups, serve a variety of populations, meet a variety of needs, are funded with a variety of resources, provide a variety of services, and are organized in a variety of ways.

This variability in their design results in some STPs that might be considered low maintenance - low cost and others that could be considered high maintenance - high cost. The STPs continuum is illustrated below.



In planning an STPs, several functional questions (and related variables) will determine where along the continuum the STPs will be located.

**Who needs rides (the target population)**

**What type of rides will be provided (essentials or non-essentials)**

**When service will be provided (daytime, evenings, weekends)**

**Where the transportation will go (community, county)**

**How much rides will cost (free, fee, or donation)**

**How the STPs will be supported (taxes, fees, other)**

**What kinds of vehicles will be used (cars, vans, busses)**

**What kinds of drivers will be used (paid, volunteer)**

**Whether escorts will be used (paid, volunteer)**

The decisions which are made relative to each of these questions will determine the requirements for riders, drivers, vehicles, and infrastructure the STPs. This in turn will determine whether the STPs will require high or low capital costs for start up and high or low costs for on-going maintenance.

Additional information about STPs is available through the STPs Mobilizer Project.

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