



Schedule
optimization
achieves
much more
than just cost reduction

About Metropoline

Bus operator Metropoline, established in 2000 following the privatization of the public transportation sector in Israel, currently operates lines in the central and southern districts of the country, employing more than 800 drivers on 500 buses.

Challenges

Metropoline, like many other public bus companies, operates in a highly dynamic environment that requires almost daily schedule adaptations. With a country-wide shortage of bus drivers, Metropoline has two sometimes contradicting business objectives: Reduce operating cost to improve profitability, while retaining well-trained quality drivers despite the competitive market. This requires Metropoline's schedulers to create schedules with shift arrangements that meet drivers' expectations of convenience and flexibility, while simultaneously ensuring that driver and vehicle schedules are cost-effective and maintain quality of service. With such contrasting optimization criteria, schedulers have to compare and evaluate various scenarios and determine the best compromise before implementing any change to the schedule.

Solution

In 2014 Metropoline came to the conclusion that modern scheduling software was needed to optimize their complex operations, instead of existing Excel spreadsheets. They began an evaluation process of Optibus OnSchedule™, comparing it to a solution from another vendor. While both solutions achieved comparable optimization results, it was Optibus OnSchedule's optimization speed, which enables interactive schedule optimization, that convinced Metropoline. "Working with a system that creates optimized schedules in no time helps me evaluate and compare multiple schedule alternatives, while understanding the implications on our business goals of cost reduction and convenient shift arrangements, or on any other optimization parameter", says Roei Fried, Transport Optimization Planner at Metropoline. "A system that could provide results only days later was not an option. Now that we use Optibus OnSchedule™, optimization has become an interactive process that provides us full transparency of a very complex and dynamic environment."

Results

Although Optibus OnSchedule™ has been used by Metropoline for only a few months, the bus company reports a positive impact on operational expenditure, due, amongst other factors, to the elimination of deadhead trips. Optimized vehicle schedules enabled Metropoline to reduce their fleet size, while improving quality of service, and avoiding penalties from the Ministry of Transport for delayed or cancelled trips.

Most importantly, drivers enjoy better working conditions and convenient working hours with regular breaks in accordance with labor regulations, which assures their loyalty to Metropoline.



“Optibus OnSchedule™ allows us to optimize our schedules not only for improved savings, but also to create shifts that are convenient for our drivers. With Optibus OnSchedule™ we can find the golden mean and optimize our operations to meet our business goals.”

Roei Fried, Transport Optimization Planner, Metropoline

About Optibus OnSchedule™

Optibus OnSchedule™ is an innovative real-time scheduling solution enabling public transportation operators to interactively optimize their driver and vehicle schedules, while taking into consideration each operator's specific operational environment. The solution's real-time capability enables interactive evaluation of diverse scenarios and predicting the efficiency of parameters such as depot locations, fleet composition, shift arrangements, etc. Granting an unprecedented level of efficiency and insight, Optibus OnSchedule™ enables transportation companies to reduce OPEX by as much as 15%.