

Small Urban & Rural Transit Center

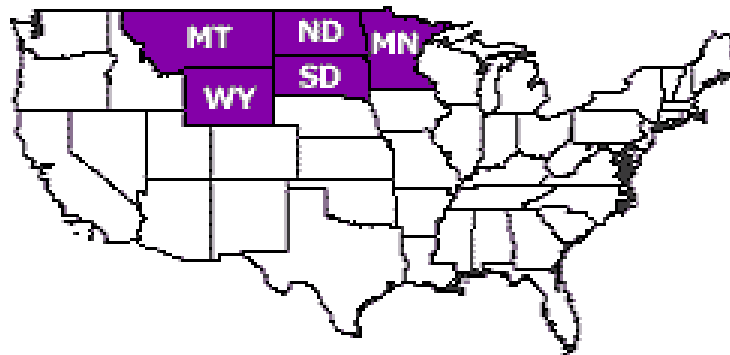
A Review and Preview

Dakota Transit Association Annual Meeting
Sept. 22, 2004



Vision

- Develop a Center of Excellence that addresses the transportation needs of the public in small urban and rural locations.



Mission

- Assist small urban and rural transit systems and other transit entities by conducting relevant research and offering outreach and training.
- Provide for and facilitate the exchange of information on planning, operating, and technologies.



Goals

1. Enhance public transportation systems in small urban and rural communities.
2. Improve accessibility and mobility in small urban and rural communities.



Goals

3. Foster and facilitate information exchange among transit stakeholders and decision-makers in public transportation.
4. Contribute to the body of knowledge in transit.



New Faces at SURTC

Associate Research Fellows



Jon Mielke
March 2004



David Ripplinger
June 2004

Graduate Student Research Assistants



Dustin Ulmer
May 2003



Susmit Sarker
Sept. 2004



Research Completed

- North Dakota Coordination Study (one report)
- James River Fixed Route Analysis (one report)
- Small Urban Campus Transit Study Year 1 and 2
 - 10 staff papers
 - 2 reports
- Non-profit Public Transportation (book chapter)



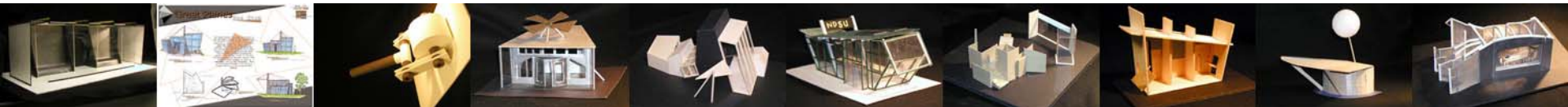
Research in Progress

- Statewide Passenger Mobility Plan
- Comprehensive Uses of ITS Technology
- Changing Demographics of SURTC States
- Commuter Van Pool Study
- Commuter Express Bus Service
- Insurance Pool and Underwriting
- Transportation of the Rural Elderly
- School Bus Routing Program



Education

- Offered Graduate/Undergraduate Introduction to Public Transportation (will offer again)
 - Instructor – Dr. Jim Miller
 - Guest Lecturers
 - Barbara Sisson
 - Bill Millar
- Sponsored State-of-the-Art Bus Shelter Design Competition for Third Year Architecture Students



Training & Outreach

■ Training Sessions:

- Managing by the Numbers: An Introduction to Performance Evaluation and Costing for Small Transit Systems – Apr. 23, 2004
- Marketing on a Shoestring Budget – Sept. 16, 2004
- Web Page Development (2005)
- How to Develop a Business Plan (2005)
- Survey Development (2005)



Training & Outreach Cont.

- Maintain SURTC Web site
- Publish two SURTC “Transit Lane” Newsletters per year
- Developed and maintain Dakota Transit Association Web site, and Montana Transit Association Web site.
- Edit and Publish Quarterly DTA Newsletter



Training & Outreach Cont.

- Developing training program with Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) (Tailoring CTAA training materials)
- Redesigning Certified Community Transit Manager (CCTM) Manual for CTAA – SURTC is asking for volunteers to assist
- Discussion board



Training & Outreach Cont.

■ Presentations:

- Rural ITS – Del & Dave
- Transportation Research Forum – Gary & Jill
- Montana Transit Association – Gary
- Dakota Transit Association – Gary & Jill
- APTA University & Community Transit – Jill
- BusCon – Jill
- Rural & Intercity Bus Conference -- Jim



A Quick Look Forward

- Review vision, mission, & goals
- Identify additional research and training needs
- Additional steering committee members?
- Subgroups?
- Solicit suggestions for ways to improve SURTC

