



## **TRANSIT TIDBITS**

**Issue 21, June 2013**

### **SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT!**

**2013 FALL CONFERENCE**

**BISMARCK, ND**

**RAMADA INN**

**The dates for the Fall Conference are:  
Roadeo September 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>  
Conference September 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>  
Please mark your calendars as this proves  
to be an exciting conference.**

### **CONFERENCE FORMS**

**The following forms have been placed on  
the website:**

- ..2013 DTA Fall Conference Registration**
- ..2013 Roadeo Judges & Volunteers Form**
- ..2013 Roadeo Driver Registration**
- ..2013 Transit Employee Professional Training**

### **UPPER GREAT PLAINS**

### **TRANSPORTATION BOARD POSITION**

Pat Hansen, South Central Adult Services, has been on the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute Board for many years. Pat will be stepping down from that position in September 2013. If any ND DTA member would like to consider sitting on the UGPTI Board, please contact me.

### **CTAA PARATRANSIT ROADEO**

**Darrell Francis  
DTA Board Member**



On Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Annual CTAA Paratransit Roadeo was held at Albuquerque, NM, at the University parking lot. There were 83 drivers from across the country participating in one of the three divisions: Body on Chassis, large vans, or minivans. It was a very nice day, 80 degree temperature and a great opportunity to meet new faces throughout the event. Lance Kuper, the SD DTA Roadeo winner, took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Body on Chassis. Lance is from River Cities Public Transit in Pierre, SD. Congratulations Lance! There were several drivers from SD and one from ND who attended the event. They tested their skills on the wheelchair securement, written exam, obstacle course, and the pre-trip.

The event started about 9:45 and ended by 3:30. The Awards Banquet followed and was very well attended. The banquet provided a great opportunity to thank all the drivers for their time and dedication for the many lives they touch through transit.

I wish to thank RTAP and NDDOT for allowing me to have the opportunity to assist with this event. Hope to see you all at the DTA Roadeo, Sept. 14 in Bismarck, ND.

# DRIVER TRAINING

Linda Freeman, DTA PASS Coordinator

First, I need to send out a BIG “Thank You” to Bill Martin for teaching the Bismarck class while I was in Albuquerque and helping me out with the Grafton session. Also, another BIG “Thanks” to Mike Mullaney who will be doing the class in Vermillion this month.

We had a really nice sized class at Grafton. Big thanks to Pam & Sally for all their help.

We did a 3 day session in Williston in June. We didn’t advertise it as the Williston & Trenton projects filled the class. Below is a photo of the great looking group:



## UPCOMING SESSIONS:

As always, check the web site: [dakotatransit.org](http://dakotatransit.org) for any new planned training sessions.

We are looking at planning a session in Dickinson in early fall so watch for upcoming information on this.

Please e-mail me at [wandm@restel.net](mailto:wandm@restel.net) if your agency would like to sponsor a session.

## North Dakota Legislative Session Great for Transit Providers

Cheryl Jongerius

Dickey County Transportation  
Dickey County Senior Citizens

The 2013 session proved to be a success for transit providers in North Dakota. A couple of sessions ago, transit providers decided to team with counties, cities and townships to become part of the ND Highway Tax Distribution Fund to provide the potential for a growing source of revenue for the State Aid for Public Transit Fund instead of relying solely on a share of license plate fees. This has turned out to be a good decision as transit funding has increased from \$4,700,000 for the 2005-07 biennium to \$8,300,000 for the current 2011-13 biennium. For the 2013-15 biennium our funding goal was a minimum of \$10,000,000 which we were able to achieve by adding an amendment in the amount of \$1.1 million to the DOT budget that will act as a floor for funding each year of the biennium.

As more transit providers have built stronger relationships with their local legislators over the years, the “transit” story has been met with a positive reception in the North Dakota Legislature. Thanks to the transit providers who presented testimony, sat in on hearings and made contacts with key legislators as the session went along. There were also several “technical correction” bills that cleaned up some administrative issues with the State Aid for Public Transportation Fund – all of which passed.

## Leroy Sleeping Bear

Rosebud Sioux Tribe started transit in the early 1980's. We started out with two used vehicles and two drivers. We shared an office with another tribal program as we

did not have a building to house our two vehicles. We even changed oil in the parking lot! Now we have a new building that was constructed in 2006. We have nine vehicles – three with lifts and six drivers. We have one dispatcher/mechanic, one bookkeeper/secretary and one director. Our office is located in Rosebud.

We operate from 6:00am to 2:00am Monday thru Thursday and 8:00am to 5:00pm on Friday. Our office hours are 8:00am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday. We provide transit services to four counties in south central S.D. We operate a demand response system. We also provide transportation for Medicaid clients for medical appointment. For this service we need to be notified as soon as possible since most appointments are in Rapid City and Sioux Falls.

## EXPO 2013 – Albuquerque, NM Linda Freeman

A big thanks to ND DOT for supporting my trip to the Expo. Since our tidbits deadline is very near I'll do a short report on one of the sessions I attended:

### How Commitment and Advocacy Benefit Transit

The session was taught by Sabrena Bartley of Natchez, MS and Wow! What a dynamic and engaging person she is! She managed to add comprehensive, convenient transit options to underserved rural communities in her area on a 24 hour per day basis. Highlights of what I learned follow:

## CTAA Albuquerque, New Mexico June 2013



South Dakota Participants (Not pictured Bruce Lindholm)



North Dakota Participants

**PLEASE SHARE YOUR TRANSIT TIDBIT WITH YOUR STAFF AND ANY INTERESTED PERSON(S).**

**Rosebud Sioux Tribe  
Transportation Department**

Remember – mobility is a right and giving people choices allows for independence.

- 1) If you want it to happen – make a plan looking into the future and follow it to make it happen.
- 2) Support is a must – involve community leaders, businesses, elected officials, other potential providers and potential passengers from the beginning of the planning stages.
- 3) Be honest – look at both strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats and revisit the issues regularly after inception.
- 4) Most important – START! A plan is merely a plan without the hard work it takes to implement it.

### **AWARDS FOR THE 2013 DTA FALL CONFERENCE**

On May 29<sup>th</sup> I e-mailed a list of awards that will be presented to each state. They are: Driver of the Year, Above and Beyond and Support Staff of the Year. As stated in that e-mail, the deadline is July 15, 2013. Please send your nomination forms to Lynette Hansen, [yanktontransit@iw.net](mailto:yanktontransit@iw.net). Transit Agencies – please go the extra mile and nominate a deserving employee.

### **Community Transportation Manager of the Year for 2013**

The 2013 Community Transportation Manager of the Year was described with such terms as integrity, leadership, communicator and even visionary. His agency has won national awards for ridership growth and he represented rural transit in the negotiated

rulemaking on the Charter Bus rule. His agency was one of the first in his state to adopt computerized scheduling and dispatching software. More recently, his agency built an addition onto its facility headquarters. He works tirelessly with a multitude of local partners — everything from the YMCA and local nursing homes to dialysis centers and Boys and Girls clubs. When the inevitable unexpected happens — like flood waters that struck his hometown of Pierre, South Dakota, this manager simply leaned back in his chair and said, “If you don’t laugh, you’d have to cry.” Now that’s someone who, in many ways, sums up what it means to be a community transportation manager.

The 2013 Community Transportation Manager of the Year is Ron Baumgart, Executive Director and Senior Manager at River Cities Public Transit in Pierre, South Dakota.

Congratulations Ron on a job well done! Also, (as Ron stated) congratulations to his entire staff at River Cities Public Transit for their dedicated service to “people”.

### **2013 CTAA EXPO Jacque Senger Executive Director, DTA**

First of all thank you DTA for allowing me to attend the 2013 CTAA Expo. It was a very informative week. One of the sessions I attended was Think Like A Business presented by Joe Seitz. Following is an outline of what was covered.

- 1) Develop a business map of your Organization to include:
  - a) Assess current position of Organization (What are the current Vision, Mission, Goals and Strategies
  - b) Organizational structure
  - c) Products offered

- d) Product delivery method
  - e) Identify customers
  - f) Identify stakeholders
  - g) Inventory of employees skills
- 2) Conduct a P.E.S.T. Analysis
- a) Political
  - b) Economic
  - c) Social
  - d) Technology
- 3) Conduct a S.W.O.T Analysis
- a) Strengths
  - b) Weaknesses
  - c) Opportunities
  - d) Threats
- 4) Develop a Strategic Plan

These are the steps needed for your plan to be successful. “If you build these layers consistently and with focus, you will have a business that will stand the test of time.”

DTA’s mailing address-**PO Box 973, Devils Lake, ND 58301**. E-mail address:

[jacque.senger@hotmail.com](mailto:jacque.senger@hotmail.com)

Phone Number - **701-662-2465**.

PLEASE **CONTACT ME** WITH  
ARTICLES FOR **YOUR** “TRANSIT  
TIDBIT”