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DTA Board of Directors Positions Open for September 2017

At our Fall Conference in Grand Forks, ND, we will be voting on Board Members.

We have two positions for South Dakota and one for North Dakota.

Please consider these positions and bring your names to the General Membership Meeting.

Burgum Appoints Former MNDOT Commissioner Sorel to Lead NDDOT

BISMARCK, N.D. – Gov. Doug Burgum announced today he has appointed Thomas Sorel, a former Minnesota Department of Transportation commissioner with extensive experience in both the public and private sectors, to lead the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) starting Aug. 7.

Sorel served as Minnesota’s transportation commissioner from 2008-2012, overseeing a workforce of 5,000 employees with a \$4.3 billion annual budget and a \$1.4 billion annual transportation program. Prior to that, he had a 30-year career with the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Highway Administration, serving as administrator of its St. Paul Division from 2005 to 2008 and receiving a presidential honor for his leadership related to the I-35W bridge collapse response, recovery and rebuilding.

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Sorel

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Sorel is currently the chief operating officer of the Minnesota Trucking Association. He previously ran his own transportation consulting firm in Woodbury, Minn., and served as vice president of surface transportation for Serco North America, working on intelligent transportation systems and other areas.

“Tom Sorel has the leadership skills, strategic planning experience and innovative problem-solving skills we need to excel in a 21st-century transportation environment that is undergoing rapid change, from autonomous vehicle testing to the proliferation of ridesharing services,” Burgum said. “His leadership will ensure the North Dakota Department of Transportation continues to deliver safe, modern services and smart, efficient infrastructure as part of a multi-modal network that supports driving, public transit, biking and walking.”

Sorel earned a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the State University of New York in Buffalo and holds a master’s in business administration from Thomas College in Waterville, Maine. Previously, he was vice president of the Twin Cities operations of North Dakota-based engineering firm KLJ and president and CEO of AAA Minneapolis.

“I’m deeply grateful for the opportunity Gov. Burgum has given me to serve the citizens of North Dakota,” Sorel said. “I’m excited to apply my experience in the public and private sectors, taking advantage of best practices and current and emerging technologies to provide the most robust and most reliable multi-modal transportation system possible.”

Sorel succeeds former NDDOT Director Grant Levi, who retired in May after more than 37 years with the department. Ron Henke, who has served as interim NDDOT director since May, will return to his role as deputy director for engineering. The governor is grateful to both for their leadership and service.

The NDDOT has more than 1,000 employees, a two-year budget of \$1.2 billion and a \$465 million construction program for this season.

BATA Training

Brenda Schweitzer, Executive Director
Brooking Area Transit Authority - Brookings, SD

Training and communication are a continuous priority to BATA. Today we're taking the time to train in First Aid and Defensive Driving as well as round table discussions.

Photos reflect practicing the Heimlich method, learning more about allergies, asthma, and other medical conditions. BATA is continually keeping in compliance with Medicaid. Thanks to Jacque Stegeman and Mike Mullaney for your expertise.



People's Transit

Rose M. Lee, Executive Director
People's Transit - Huron, SD



As Transit Managers look forward to retirement, we are always looking for bright, energetic, reliable, and hardworking candidates to take their place in their Transit system. As the Executive Director for People's Transit, I knew that I would only be in Huron, SD for three years, and would work towards finding a qualified candidate to take my position when I was ready to retire again.

People's Transit is looking for a Full-time Assistant Director, to work with the current Executive Director for a period of one year. This is part of a long term succession plan for People's Transit. During this one year period, the candidate will attend training session at CTAA, DTA, and NTI to provide a background in Transit Management, along with working side by side with the Executive Director.

Qualification for the position include: a Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience in fiscal management, personnel management and grant writing. Previous employment in rural transit is a plus, if interested, email a cover letter and resume to Rose M. Lee, Executive Director, at executivedirector.peoplestransit@midconetwork.com or call 605-354-0284 for more information. EOE

2017 Dakota Transit Association Fall Conference

Jacque Senger, DTA Executive Director

Your Board of Directors have been working diligently to put together another great conference.

We are getting all the loose ends finalized as this Tidbit goes out.

Please bring your smiles, your excitement to meet new people, your determination to learn, your views to share, and your willingness to become a part of the Dakota Transit Association Board of Directors to the 2017 Fall Conference.

See you all soon!

Training Update - Linda Freeman, PASS Coordinator

Phone: 701-848-6480 E-mail: lindaafreeman1@gmail.com
(please note the change of email address)

Registration information is on our web site. Please go to the Dakota Transit Association web site to register drivers and for map information, etc.

AUGUST 24-26: DICKINSON, ND

PASS Class: August 24 & 25—8am to 5pm local time each day.

PASS Recertification Class: August 25—8am to 5pm local time.

Maltreatment Awareness Class: August 26—8am to noon local time

Defensive Driving Class: August 26—1pm to 5pm local time.

All classes will be held at Public Transit/Elder Care in Dickinson--361 26th Street East. Registration deadline for all classes is August 19th. A block of rooms under the name of Dakota Transit Association has been set aside at Dickinson Comfort Inn 493 Elks Drive. You will need to make your own reservations under the block by August 19.

I've had some inquiries about a class on the east side of North Dakota, so if you're willing to sponsor a class, please give me a call.

Hope to see all of you in Grand Forks.

*Thought for the
Month of August...*

*"You are never too important to be
nice to people."*



Jacque Senger
DTA Executive Director

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Tidbit Articles

Please contact me with articles for your Transit Tidbit.

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Please share your Transit Tidbit with your staff and any interested person(s).

Address

Directors, please check with your bookkeepers as well as the rest of your staff  to assure they have the correct DTA mailing address.

Thanks to all!

- Jacque

www.dakotatransit.org