



# TRANSIT TIDBITS

Issue 8 - May, 2012

TRANSIT TIDBITS  
DISTRIBUTION



BRENDA SCHWEITZER WAS AWARDED THE BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR MAY 2012 IN BROOKINGS, SD

Please pass your "Transit Tidbits" on to anyone involved with transit work. Also, if you know of someone in particular who would like to receive their own issue, please send me their e-mail address.

## DRIVER TRAINING CLASS SCHEDULES

We have several training classes scheduled for the summer months:

June 4-6 at Huron: PASS, PASS Recertification, Defensive Driving and Maltreatment Awareness.

July 13 & 14 and August 17 & 18 at Groton: PASS, PASS Recertification, and Defensive Driving. (Two separate sessions to make it easier for part-time drivers)

July 18 at Yankton: PASS Recertification only.

Please go to the DTA website for information and registration.

Training in planning stages: PASS, PASS Recert, Defensive Driving & Maltreatment Awareness in Minot late summer.

## MEMBER'S HIGHLIGHTS

Kayla Clark was recently promoted from dispatcher to Northwest Dakota Public Transit Coordinator. She has been working with transit since August 2011, and finds her job both challenging and exciting, especially with the increased demand for transportation in Williston. Kayla is looking forward to utilizing the route-match software and doubling the number of rides in the next year. Customer service is a priority. Kayla enjoys her job! (Submitted by Coreen Nehring, Director)  
**Welcome to Transit Kayla!**

FALL CONVENTION HINT:  
UNITE

Brenda has been involved with "Women in Leadership & Learning (WILL)" for many years. She has been an active participant and has encouraged her employees to become involved. Brenda feels strongly in providing opportunities for women to grow and learn through collaboration and involvement. Through these opportunities, we are able to enhance our business community, as well as, improve the way of life for ourselves and others.

CONGRATULATIONS BRENDA!!!

"SNEAK PREVIEW"  
DTA REBRANDING

## Dickinson Public Transit

Public Transit in Dickinson, ND has a new home! Public Transit staff moved into its own facility in February 2012. The building was constructed with stimulus money and is owned by the City of Dickinson. Colleen Rodakowski, Executive Director of Public Transit states, "The staff are very appreciative to have such a wonderful facility for offices and vehicle storage. Not a day goes by that I'm not appreciative of our new home and beautiful landscaping."

On May 1, 2012, Public Transit hosted the Dickinson Area Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours and held an Open House for the community. A ribbon cutting ceremony took place as well with City of Dickinson's Commissioner Carson Steiner, Local

Government Engineer Paul Benning, North Dakota Department of Transportation, and Senator Rich Wardner, Majority Leader. Recently retired Elder Care Management Board member Howard Freed cut the ribbon.

"It's all about partnerships and team work that made this new facility possible", says Rodakowski. "We are grateful for our employees who make a difference in the lives of our riders and the partners that made our new home a reality: North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT), City of Dickinson, Tooz Construction, Inc., Denny's Electric & Motor Repair, Inc., Central Mechanical, Inc., EAPC Architects Engineers, and SRF Consulting Group, Inc."



## SDDOT TRANSIT PROGRAM PONDERINGS

### **WELCOME STEPHANIE!**

Bruce, Melissa and Nancy are ecstatic to introduce Stephanie Holm as the SDDOT Transit Program's summer intern. A Pierre native, Stephanie joined us just three days after wrapping up her freshman year at the University of South Dakota where she is majoring in business. Undaunted by Melissa and Nancy's list of 'fun' projects, Stephanie has jumped feet first into her first task and is already busily tabulating numbers for the annual statistical report. Throughout the summer, she will also be assisting with vehicle inventory and records, form modernization, regulatory updates and a myriad of other items that Melissa and Nancy have been meaning to get to 'when things slow down'. South Dakota DTA members can also look forward to meeting Stephanie

when she travels along to project visits this summer. Welcome Stephanie!

### **New Additions to the South Dakota Fleet**

The first of 26 new additions to the South Dakota transit fleet will hit the pavement on May 15<sup>th</sup>, with more to follow over the next several months. Much anticipated vans, cut-aways, buses and one lone trolley are being built across the Midwest in preparation to serve riders throughout the state. Rural transit projects from Vermillion to Sisseton to Spearfish and specialized transportation providers from Sioux Fall to Sturgis will be able to provide more dependable and comfortable service to their clients thanks to these new vehicles.

### **Public Transit in South Dakota – It's more than Transportation**

How many times have we all talked about the benefits of public transit -- when talking to councils, legislators, senior groups or service organizations? We all have innately known the benefits and our riders can attest to them, but we've never really had the hard data to prove it. Well, now we do!

Over the last year, the SDDOT has been working with a consultant and a technical panel of public providers to complete a research study on the Costs and Benefits of Public Transit in South Dakota. The research study and final report present the results of a comprehensive analysis of the costs and benefits of providing public transit in South Dakota. With more than 3 million trips made annually on public transit in South Dakota, we know that transit satisfies the mobility needs of many households throughout the state. However, this study demonstrates how the benefits of transit extend well beyond transportation. In short, the study proves that in addition to benefiting riders, transit not only benefits road users and the community at large, but also is a major contributor to the state's economy and is critical to the well-being and independence of its residents.

Some of the key findings in the study include:

- Every dollar spent on public transit in South Dakota in 2010 generated \$1.90 in economic activity.

- Transit contributed \$46.1 million to the South Dakota economy in 2010.
- Every 10 jobs in the public transit sector created 3 additional jobs in supporting industries.
- Public transit sustained 530 jobs in South Dakota in 2010.

There is a significant amount of additional valuable information in the full study, as well as in a brochure that was produced for distribution. The full report and brochure is posted on the SDDOT website at [www.sddot.com/transportation/transit/forms/Default.aspx](http://www.sddot.com/transportation/transit/forms/Default.aspx) and is called the SDDOT Public Transit Research Project Brochure and Full Report.

The new DTA Mailing Address is: PO Box 973, Devils Lake, ND 58301. My e-mail address is [jacque.senger@hotmail.com](mailto:jacque.senger@hotmail.com) and my phone number is 701-662-2465.

PLEASE contact me with articles that you would like to share about your projects, ie new staff, retirement, growth, etc. Deadline is the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. Thanks for getting involved.