



2013 DTA Memberships

We have a total of 53 memberships-11 are associate memberships.

TRANSIT TIDBITS

Issue 20, May 2013

SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT!

2013 FALL CONFERENCE
BISMARCK, NORTH
DAKOTA
RAMADA INN

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

CONFERENCE FORMS

We have placed the “Vendor Participation & Sponsorship Opportunities” form on the website. This form has been sent out to many of our former vendors.

The following forms will be placed on the website prior to June 1, 2013.

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

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

Robert Fode
Office of Project Development
NDDOT
work phone: 701-328-1937
cell phone: 701-202-5399
email: bfode@nd.gov

**** To all North Dakota Transit Agencies – Robert Fode would like to ask the transit providers in the State of North Dakota for assistance with a survey to help with the development of training needs and opportunities in North Dakota. Mr. Fode has extended the survey deadline to May 23, 2013. Following is Mr. Fode’s letter.**

Dear Transportation Partners,

Workforce training is an important step to assuring we are successful in our missions. Training our employees helps assure they are as knowledgeable and proficient as possible, and develops them as future leaders in our industry. Training has never been as important as it is today with rapidly changing technology, dwindling resources, and ever-changing local, state, and national priorities.

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) has implemented a strategic business plan objective to develop partnerships with

stakeholders on specific transportation training topics. Our intent is to work with you, and all our partners involved in providing transportation services and policy, to identify training needs and opportunities, and the means in which they are delivered. We then hope to identify common training needs, training that is currently being conducted, and shortcomings in needed training. We would then work with our partners to identify areas where we can share training opportunities to realize cost savings and efficiencies. We would also look to identify shortcomings in training and work with our partners to identify or create training to offset these shortcomings.

To be successful in our objective we need your help. **Please complete the survey** linked below and **share the link with your membership** encouraging them to complete the survey to provide information on the training priorities for their agencies. You will find the survey asks you to prioritize training needs, describe the training courses you currently participate in, and who conducts your training. If possible, we would like everyone to complete the survey before **May 15, 2013**.

We thank you in advance for your help and support.

Here is a direct link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PartnersTrainingSurvey>

The direct link above only allows one response per computer. If you wish to make personal contacts with your members and record their responses into the survey for them, you can use this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PersonalCallsPartnersTrainingSurvey>. If you or your members have any questions about the survey, please feel free to contact Rebecca Geyer in our Planning/Asset Management Division at 701-328-2675 or by email at rgeyer@nd.gov.

Brookings Area Transit Authority submitted this heart-warming article. Congratulations Tyler and Lindsey!



When Tyler Keller thought about the way that he wanted to “pop the question,” he knew he needed the element of surprise. He wanted to catch his girlfriend Lindsey completely off guard, and that’s exactly what he did!

Tyler did a little research on Lindsey’s schedule and realized from some co-workers that Lindsey regularly walks the children out to the BATA bus at the preschool where she is employed. He contacted Brookings Area Transit Authority and some of Lindsey’s friends and co-workers and before long the day had come to put his plan to surprise Lindsey into action.

Tyler knew Lindsey would never expect to see him in the middle of her work day and he even pretended to go off to work himself earlier that morning. He scheduled a ride with Brookings Area Transit Authority on April 2nd and made sure he would be on the same bus that was picking up passengers at Lindsey’s job. When the bus pulled up to the preschool, Tyler stared at the ring he was about to present to Lindsey. He was definitely nervous, but his excitement was just as apparent.

Before long, the clock hit 2:00 and Tyler stared at the door waiting in anticipation. Lindsey’s friends were

hiding by the windows of the upper floor of the building to capture the moment. Everyone was in place when the door of the building opened and Lindsey began walking the children to the bus just like any other day. She had almost reached the door of the bus when Tyler stepped off, lowered to one knee, and presented Lindsey with a beautiful diamond ring and the offer of a lifetime. Lindsey's face was priceless as she happily accepted!

Everyone at BATA is happy Tyler got his element of surprise and we are honored he let us be a part of this day! Congratulations to the happy couple and best wishes to you two in your future together!!

DRIVER TRAINING

The DTA "Driver Training World" is hopping. We just finished a class in Grafton with 27 people taking PASS or PASS Recertification classes from Benson County Transportation, Cavalier County Transit, Devils Lake Transit, Eddy County Transit, Pembina County Transportation, South Central Transit and Walsh County Transit. Twenty four people attended the Maltreatment Awareness Class with all agencies listed above and Spirit Lake Nation joined us for this class. We also had 23 people who took the Defensive Driving Class so it was three busy and informative days for all!

UPCOMING SESSIONS:

Bismarck, ND: June 5, 2013 8am to 5pm PASS Recertification Class We have 14 registered for this class.

Vermillion, SD: PASS Certification Class—Saturday, June 22nd 8am to 5pm AND Sunday, June 23rd, 2013 10am to 5pm. PASS Recert Class—Sunday, June 23, 2013 10am to 5pm. NOTE: We are starting at 10am on Sunday to allow some time for those who wish to attend church before class. Registration Deadline is June 12, 2013. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Best Western Vermillion Inn: 605-624-8333. You must call for your own room and specify that you want a room under the SD DOT Transit Office block.

Rooms will be direct billed to SD DOT. Hotel Registration Deadline is June 3. Please register on the DTA website.

Williston, ND: June 13, 14, and 15. Maltreatment Awareness, Defensive Driving, PASS and PASS Recert. These classes will be limited to the Williston and Trenton Transit Agencies as we have no motel rooms and only one trainer available. Williston and Trenton are asked to please send names of drivers with classes needed to Linda Freeman at wandm@restel.net.

Peter M. Rogoff
Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
U.S. Department of
Transportation
(202) 366-4040

(I received the following e-mail from Mr. Peter M. Rogoff. I felt this was the appropriate way to share this information with all the transit providers in North and South Dakota. Jacque)

Dear Colleague:

The Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) new safety authority marks a significant change in how FTA does business to keep transit safe. Building on legislation first proposed by the Administration in 2009, the FTA now has long-sought authority under the new surface transportation authorization, MAP-21, to establish common-sense safety performance criteria for all modes of public transportation.

The FTA is working diligently to put initial policies and procedures in place as we begin to implement this important expansion of our mission. Every transit provider or State Safety Oversight Agency (SSOA) should know, first and foremost, that FTA understands that a one-size-fits-all approach will not work for public transit. The safety risks for a large

urban rail system in the Northeast are not the same as for a bus-only transit provider in the Midwest, so our approach to implementing safety oversight will reflect that understanding. (See our [Federal Register Notice](#) providing \$21.9 million to SSOAs to improve oversight of transit safety.)

With that in mind, an important early step is our intention to adopt Safety Management Systems (SMS) as the basis for the initiatives FTA will undertake to improve the safety of public transportation. SMS is a collaborative approach that will help management and labor work together to build on the industry's existing safety foundation to control risk better, detect and correct safety problems earlier, share and analyze safety data more effectively, and measure safety performance more accurately.

Although many public transportation agencies are familiar with SMS, others are not. **A detailed set of frequently asked questions (FAQs) explaining this concept and its applications in depth is available on FTA's website [here](#), along with other related information.**

I would emphasize the following characteristics of an SMS framework, which includes many activities that may already be part of your existing safety regime:

- SMS encourages managers and transit employees to work together to identify hazards and act in concert before system failures occur. Everyone is held accountable: managers for allocating the right resources and employees for making sure that those investments deliver positive safety results.
- SMS is about making the system safer for everyone. That includes passengers and transit system employees.
- SMS is scalable and flexible, based on the size of the transit agency and

complexity of the services they deliver.

- SMS empowers transit operators to assess their own safety risks and prioritize the application of resources to those risks, which in turn supports a cost-effective allocation of safety resources.
- SMS supplements the system safety principles and practices already in place in the transit industry, integrating human factors and human performance management into existing engineering, training, and hazard management processes.
- SMS is an inclusive approach— involving shared knowledge among public transportation agencies, State agencies, and the FTA.
- Done right, SMS can help transit agencies improve their bottom line. The hazards that put our people at risk are the same hazards that disrupt our operations. Strong safety management is simply good business.

SMS has worked well around the world at both large and small agencies alike, and has also been successful throughout other transportation industries facing challenges similar to our own, including aviation, maritime, and freight railroads. SMS is now the safety policy of the U.S. Department of Transportation, and it is endorsed by the Transit Rail Advisory Committee on Safety (TRACS) and major public transportation industry associations.

Over the next few months, in partnership with the States, oversight agencies, and public transportation stakeholders, FTA will work to support, coordinate, and carry out SMS concepts and principles in the forthcoming National Public Transportation Safety Plan, the Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program, the Public Transportation

Agency Safety Plans, and the State Safety Oversight Program under MAP-21.

I look forward to working with you on this important safety initiative, and I urge you to review the in-depth FAQs posted online and participate actively in FTA's upcoming rulemaking activities. The passengers, employees, and general public who come into contact with our Nation's public transportation systems depend on all of us—the States, oversight agencies, public transportation operators, and the FTA—to do everything possible to ensure their continued safety.

**ARE YOU THINKING OF AWARDS
FOR YOUR UPCOMING
CONFERENCE? DEADLINE IS
JULY 15, 2013!**

**Forms will be e-mailed to you the
last week of May**

**CAROL WRIGHT
FORMALLY WITH SURTC**

Carol Wright has been named Senior Director of Easter Seals Accessible Transportation in Washington, D.C. In that position, she will serve as national director of Easter Seals Project ACTION and co-director of the National Center on Senior Transportation. Her new email is cwright@easterseals.com, and her mailing address is 1425 K Street, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20005. Her office number is 202-347-8365. Feel free to give her a call any time.

Easter Seals has a great FREE webinar training event coming up on June 5th. Carol won't be teaching it, but she said it has great material. It is *Local Policy Development: Ensuring Your Transportation Service is Open and Accessible to All*. To register for the webinar, just send your name, phone number, email address, organization name and job title to:

registration@easterseals.com. In the subject line put Local Policy. The deadline for registration is June 3rd. If you don't already get the *Extra*, Easter Seals' monthly electronic newsletter, you can subscribe to it at www.projectaction.org. It has lots of information on programs, e-learning opportunities, new ESPA resources, and accessible transportation news.

Carol sends her greetings to everyone and encourages you to stay in touch. She will be at CTAA and will see some of you there. She sent a reminder that if you need any training information from SURTC to get in touch with Keven Anderson. He is at Carol's old number, 701-231-8231. He'll be glad to help you!

**Brenda Schweitzer
Brookings Area Transit
Authority**

BATA's National RTAP Website Construction Experience

Through coordination of the SDDOT- Melissa Hull, and Frank Condon, Director of Technology, National RTAP and CEO/Founder of Devobal Technologies, Inc., BATA is proud to roll out our updated website. This process involved weekly (or more) conference calls with behind the scenes work to implement what we wanted to include on our website. We are still in the process of developing a few of our pages, but have been excited about the results. Thank you to the SD DOT, National RTAP and a very special thank you to Jenny Jasper, Marketing/Statistical Rep for BATA in this effort! Now go to www.BrookingsAreaTransit.com!

DTA's mailing address-**PO Box 973, Devils Lake, ND 58301**. E-mail address: jacque.senger@hotmail.com
Phone Number - 701-662-2465.

**PLEASE CONTACT ME WITH ARTICLES FOR
YOUR "TRANSIT TIDBIT"**