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2019 DTA Membership

Membership forms for the 2019 Dakota Transit Association were sent out January 25, 2019.

To date I have received 7 forms.
Thank you!

I encourage you all to fill out your form, send in your check or pay on line under dakotatransit.org.

Jacque Senger,
DTA Executive
Director

Nelson County Transit

Carol Joy Brandvold

Nelson County Transit - McVille, ND

Nelson County Transit is a rural transit agency serving Nelson and Grand Forks counties. Weekly trips are made to Devils Lake, Grand Forks, and surrounding towns. Trips to Fargo are made once a month.

We make special trips to events such as plays, local craft/ vendor fairs and are open to suggestions. We have purchased a new bus capable of having 3 wheelchairs on board which should be arriving any day.

Several younger families and the general public are now utilizing the bus services for medical appointments, shopping and more.

This past year has been full of changes and we have several new drivers from different areas of Nelson County. They are Russell Pollack, Steve Smaage, Darlene Forde, and Don Oye.

We hope to have another successful year!

Walsh County Public Transportation

Pam Landsem, Director

Walsh County Public Transportation Program - Park River, ND

I was asked to tell you a little bit about our transportation program in Walsh County, ND. Here goes---

We have been in operation since 1975 and a lot has changed since then! I have been with the program since 1986 and director since 1999. I have been around to see many of the changes.

We currently operate 4 vehicles; a Dodge minivan, a new 7 passenger/1 wheelchair Ford transit van, a 16 passenger/2 wheelchair Ford vehicle with a lift and a 12 passenger/2 wheelchair Chevy Arboc with electric ramp, one of the first 2 bought in the State of North Dakota. All my drivers love the ease in loading passengers, not just wheelchair passengers. We have received funding to replace our Ford vehicle as both of our larger vehicles have almost 200,000 miles on them.

We serve all of Walsh County with in town transportation. We are in Grafton 2 days a week, Park River 5 days a week, Grand Forks 3 times a week (Tuesdays, Thursday and Saturdays) and Fargo once a month. We started our Saturday route to Grand Forks years ago to accommodate dialysis clients who need transportation 3 times a week. Just recently we have cut back from 3 days a week in Grafton to 2 days because the number of people riding has decreased. We have increased our service to Grand Forks with 2 buses on Tuesdays and possibly 2 buses on Thursdays.

We have many people from our rural areas such as Lankin, Fordville, Hoople, Pisek and Minto that doctor in Grand Forks. To accommodate everyone is impossible with one vehicle. Currently we have 5 dialysis people riding 3 times a week and their appointment times are 9:30 am and 10:00 am. We have always had many clients riding to Grand Forks for dialysis as that is the closest place for their treatment. We have changed our services over the years, expanded or decreased to meet the demands of the people riding.

I have 3 drivers; one has been with the program 22 years, one 9 years and one 5 years plus a sub driver who has a dual position. This dual position is mainly an office dispatch and backup driver. I feel very fortunate to have such good/safe/reliable drivers. Their job is transporting people who are elderly, ill and wheelchair bound. The job carries with it a lot of stressful situations which requires a LOT of patience and driving skills. It is not a job that everyone is cut out for, me included!

Our fares vary depending on where you live in the county. The further west you live we charge more to ride to Grand Forks, Fargo or Grafton. In Grafton we charge \$3 and you can ride all day if you want or need to.

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Walsh

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Starting March 1, 2019, we are increasing our fares to Grafton, Grand Forks and Fargo by \$1-\$2, the first increase since 2012.

We did not increase our fares for in town transportation. We have always kept our fares reasonable as we realize a majority of the people riding are on a fixed income and we want to make our service affordable for them.

Our office is located on Highway 17 East of Park River in the Farmers Union Office Building. Our hours are Monday-Friday 8:00 am 4:30 pm. We request people call by 3:00 pm the day before a ride so we can schedule drivers and vehicles. We try to accommodate same day riders if the schedule permits.

Training Update - Linda Freeman, PASS Coordinator

Phone: 701-848-6480 E-mail: lindaafreeman1@gmail.com

Happy New Year to everyone.

The Huron class had to be postponed due to weather. It will be posted on the DTA website as soon as it can be rescheduled.

Bismarck, ND: June 3-5, 2019.

Classes will be held at West River Transit - 3750 East Rosser Ave, Bismarck, ND.

PASS Class Day 1—Monday, June 3, 2019: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.
 Day 2—Tuesday, June 4, 2019: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

PASS Recertification Class—Tuesday, June 4: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

MALTREATMENT AWARENESS CLASS—Wednesday, June 5: 8:00 am to Noon.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING CLASS—Wednesday, June 5: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Deadline for Registration: May 15, 2019

Motel block will be set up later so watch the web site and future tidbits for that information.

Hello From The West Coast

Cody Roggatz, Former Director

Aberdeen Ride Line - Aberdeen, SD

I hope this letter finds you warm and well. I had promised Jacque a letter for a Tidbit as I was departing South Dakota, last September. For those of you that know me, I am sure you are extremely shocked by my tardiness in getting this letter out for the Tidbit. Also, please offer a warm welcome to Rich Krokkel, the new Transportation Director for the City of Aberdeen. Make sure to ask Rich about which 'Boats' he served on during his Navy Career.

As I write this letter to you, I believe most of you have recently experienced temperatures 100° below (or more) than what we are experiencing out in Humboldt County, California. We have had highs around 60° F and sunshine over the past few days. I have a wonderful view of the Pacific Ocean to the West outside of my office (the closest beach is a 5-minute drive from my office) and mountains (similar to the Black Hills of South Dakota) to the East. At this point you are probably saying to yourself, "Thanks for rubbing it in Cody. You're warm, we're freezing. You have nice views, I don't out of my office." While that may be true, I wanted to use that thought to bring up a much, much more important thought. In fact, I would like to utilize that to start to tie-in the MOST IMPORTANT aspect of any organization.

THE PEOPLE

I was blessed to be a part of the Aberdeen Regional Airport, Ride Line Transit Agency and DTA for nearly 4.5 years. At both departments, we went through seemingly constant staffing struggles. At the Airport, we struggled to maintain proper staffing in the evening or we could always use one more person to help with snow removal. At Ride Line, we were constantly trying to find enough drivers to fill our operational needs. I know many of your agencies are working to address similar staffing challenges. I also know that many of you reading this serve as the Transit Director/ Manager, Head Mechanic, Driver, Scheduler, Dispatcher, Finance Director, Senior Center Director, and the list of responsibilities goes on, and on, and on...Some of you have family members or volunteer drivers that assist with your operation. Oh and by the way, you are also in charge of running numerous fundraising efforts to support your Transit Operations. The list of responsibilities and tasks is seemingly endless. But, none of you make your transit operation run completely on your own.

In Humboldt County, I have the same staffing level, minus an Administrative Assistant (we're working on addressing that), for my Department of Aviation that we had at the Aberdeen Regional Airport. For comparison, our commercial service airport, ACV, is between the size of the Aberdeen Regional Airport (ABR) and Minot International Airport (MOT).

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In addition to ACV, we also have 5 General Aviation (GA) Airports to operate and maintain throughout the County of Humboldt. With our current staffing levels, I only have three desk phones, my cell phone and e-mails to try to keep up with answering every day.

I bring all of this to light, not looking for any sympathy, as I knew what I was walking into. I bring it up to you as I know all of you can relate to my current situation. Long story short, we are EXTREMELY understaffed. BUT I want to bring something more important to your attention. I want to discuss something that, too often, I forget to do myself.

I challenge you tomorrow, to interact with each one of your drivers, mechanics, office staff, board members, volunteers or family members that are helping you run your operation. Ask them how their day is going, sincerely listen to their thoughts and concerns and tell them before you walk away, "THANK YOU!". As we all go through our challenges of improving our Transit Agency or Airports tomorrow, we CAN'T do it ourselves. It takes a team, an army, a community to support us in doing what we do. Make sure you take the time to recognize AND THANK those around you. That team, army and community, helping you safely deliver the next passenger that uses your Transit Service. Thank the PEOPLE that help make your community go, every day.

THANK YOU!

Transit Day at the Legislature

Jessica Pickett, Director

Palace Transit - Mitchell, SD

South Dakota Transit Providers hosted Transit Day at the State Capitol. The transit providers had the opportunity to meet with the legislators, talk about funding shortfalls, tell our transit stories and interact with others around the state.



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY ♡

*Thought for the
Month of February...*

*"Expect nothing and you will never
be disappointed."*

DTA
Dakota Transit
Association

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Tidbit Articles

Please contact me with articles for your Transit Tidbit.

Recycle

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