

Transit Tidbits



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Greetings to All!!!

This issue will contain FLASHBACKS of the 2013 Fall Conference "Safety is No Accident!" in Bismarck, ND this past September. I hope you all enjoy a little reminiscing!

- Jacque

Let it Rain!

One day a year, I get the chance to trade in my civil engineering hat and become a transit rodeo judge at the Dakota Transit Association (DTA) Conference. This opportunity came last month at the DTA Rodeo that was held in Bismarck. Being a judge meant that I had to change my vocabulary from saying engineering words like environmental documents, project designs, and bid openings to learning the transit words: left hand reverse, passenger pick-up, and wheel chair securement.

Paul Benning, NDDOT

opportunity the witness PRIDE that day in the following ways:

Professionalism – Both drivers and judges attended the DTA Conference to improve themselves and the transit services they deliver.

Respect – Everyone treated others with courtesy whether they were with their own staff, other transit agencies, or staff from both the NDDOT and SDDOT.

Integrity – Drivers and judges both gave it their best shot, whether they were navigating an obstacle course, driving in the rain or judging the contestants outside in the rain soaked elements.

See BENNING, Page 7



However, there is one word that the NDDOT uses to define the values in the department, whether it's building roads or running a transit program. That word is PRIDE, which reflects that values of Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dedication, and Excellence. I had the

Roadeo

Darrell Francis
Course Marshall
DTA Board Member

On Saturday, 14th of September, we held the wettest Annual DTA Paratransit Roadeo on the North Dakota Capital grounds in Bismarck, ND. The 30 ND drivers, 14 SD drivers and over 30 volunteer judges provided a very successful event which was very wet to watch. The drivers attended either a Friday evening or Saturday early morning training session on wheelchair securement by Lisa from Q-Straint, followed by a written exam. After the Saturday morning training, the group took a quick and wet walk through of the obstacle course as well as the pre-trip and securement stations.



ND Winners: 1st Den Kuehnemund (Souris Basin Transit), 2nd Rodney Weigum (West River Transit), 3rd Terry Comeau (not pictured), 4th Terry Condon (Standing Rock Transportation) and 5th Brian Lenzmeier (Souris Basin Transit).

The event started at about 9:35 a.m. and ended by 1:50 p.m., so everyone could take advantage of the Customer Service training at the Ramada Inn. After spending more than half a day in weather not fit for ducks, then a stimulating classroom session, we managed to have a more pleasant awards banquet that evening. The awards banquet provided a great meal and a chance to tell stories on how to keep a stiff upper lip in the rain. By the way, I have done many roadeos in the past 20+ years, but this was the wettest one ever with 1.48 inches of rain. Look at the bright side of things, at least it was not snowing!

I wish to thank everyone who participated and sponsored the event; we could not have done it without your help. I am sure you have heard this before, but the success and continuation of the yearly roadeo will only depend on those who support it and participate in the event. Did I tell you how wet it was? Hope to see you all next year in Sioux Falls, SD.



SD Winners: 1st Eric Peterson (River Cities Public Transit), 2nd Max Voller (River Cities Public Transit), 3rd Dave McFarling (River Cities Public Transit), 4th Dave Chapman (Prairie Hills Transit) and 5th Ken Graves (Palace Transit).

So, Let's Write A New Law



Cheryl Jongerius
Project Director
Dickey County Transit
Ellendale, ND

The current Federal Surface Transportation Law, MAP 21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century), will expire in September of 2014. This current law, where Federal Transit funding comes from, replaces the last surface transportation law SAFETEA-LU. One of our sessions at the 2013 DTA conference in Bismarck had Scott Bogren, CTAA Director of Communications in Washington, DC, take the conference participants through an exercise to give us an opportunity to help write the next Surface Transportation Law with elements that are important to transit providers and State DOT officials.

Scott asked us to “suspend disbelief” in order to write a perfect bill and had us put our desires for the new law into 3 categories:

1. Would like to have
2. MUST HAVE
3. “In a Perfect World”

The vast majority of ideas from the group went into the MUST HAVE category. Of particular concern is the gap in the Highway Trust Fund between what money is projected to be available and current/future funding needs. Scott intends to conduct this exercise in all 50 states in order to help CTAA convey the transit providers' wishes to decision makers on Capitol Hill as the law making process progresses. Thank you to Scott and CTAA for all your efforts on transit providers' behalf!

Pre-Employment/ Hiring Drivers/ Training New Drivers



Kathy Holman
Assistant Director
Community Transit, Inc.

Hello, I am the Assistant Director of Community Transit which serves 6 counties in the northeast corner of South Dakota as well as the cities of Lennox, SD and Milbank, SD.

I felt the presentation by Randy Hartman (Pre-employment/Hiring Drivers/Training New Drivers) was very informative. What I took away from the presentation especially was the interviewing process. There are things that I was asking in interviews that didn't necessarily need to be asked and some questions that I should be asking and wasn't. He also shared some forms with the group that we can implement here at Community Transit.

I felt another highlight of the presentation was the open dialog between the North Dakota and South Dakota Directors sharing what works in their agencies. I obtained some good information from that part of the presentation as well.

Distracted & Impaired Driving, Fleet Safety, Driver Training & Employee Personal Safety

Have you ever found yourself contemplating whether or not to attend a conference? We probably could all answer yes to the above question but, hopefully you didn't miss the recent DTA Annual Conference in Bismarck, N.D. It was outstanding!

One of many dynamic speakers was Don Moseman. He held a captive audience while sharing information on the following topics: **Distracted & Impaired Driving, Fleet Safety & Driver Training and Employee Personal Safety.** Don is a S.D. native who is the Traffic Safety Director for the N.D. Safety Council. His background has included volunteered duty in the United States Air Force. He has worked as a State Trooper from 1991-2011 and has worked for the National Safety Council. In total, Don has taught more than 1,000 Law Enforcement courses and has instructed over 20,000 students in different safety courses.

We learned that there are many substances that can impair someone's ability to drive; alcohol, over the counter medications and prescription medications are a few of them. Intoxication is the level you're impaired at. Each

Teresa Kuntz
Program Coordinator
Public Transit, Dickinson, ND

person has a different intoxication level. On average a drunk driver has driven 206 times before they get caught. **If you know you're going to drive the next morning, it's your responsibility to stop drinking early enough the night before to allow the alcohol to disperse out of your system. Time is the only thing that gets rid of alcohol. It's simple. Just don't do it!**

Accidents and near misses are one in the same. Write these up every time and use them as a training tool. A larger amount of money can be lost due to smaller accidents happening multiple times versus a totaled vehicle; watch this closely. A collision is defined as a motor vehicle that is in motion and sustains damage. Do not call them an accident, they are a collision. The driver should always call 911 first, and then call your employer! **If you can't make one action through an intersection, don't do it, wait! When you go through or turn on a yellow or red light, you are breaking a law. It is called, Interfering in an Intersection. 98.2% of all collisions are preventable!**

The driver represents the company. We train to maintain



our skills, so train periodically. Take a proactive approach and send all drivers to a Traffic Offender Program. This is an eight hour class room course, offered on a monthly basis, in Bismarck, N.D. **The most bang for your buck is when you combine classroom training with behind the wheel training. The N.D. Safety Council will soon be offering a Safety class to include a Bus Simulator.**

There are three P's to Personal Safety: Preparation, Planning and Practice. Each work place needs to have an Emergency Response Plan (ERP), for each of the following: Active Shooter, Weather Emergency, Bomb and Terrorist. You need to involve your local Law Enforcement and they need blue prints of your building. All staff must be trained in First Aid, CPR and AED. Three targets of mass shootings are Work, School and Church.

See Kuntz, Page 5

TCRP—Transit Cooperative Research Program

Laurie McGuire

James River Senior Citizen's Inc.

Jamestown, ND



Dale Marsico (pictured above), Executive Director of Community Transportation Association of America and Scott Bogren, Communication Director and Editor of Community Transportation and Rail magazine.

Dale and Scott spoke on the TCRP Veteran's Study, which is targeting the needs of Veterans and seeking funding for these needs. There was discussion on improving options and a community Tool Box which will contain tools for Transit Operators and optional networks. Dale and Scott stated that the Tool Box has great value and will provide basics for local community partnerships to meet the needs of your local Veterans. It will help you prepare at a local level and assist you in learning about your customers and how to deal with your customers. Our own success will depend on how we use the Tool Box.

Dale stated that there are currently 1.4 million active duty military members and 22 million Veterans in our country. There is currently ongoing debate about Veteran Transportation services. Scott stated currently 8.3 million Veterans are enrolled in health programs and of that 8.3 million, a large percentage are living in the rural areas. Scott also stated that 68,000 Veterans are homeless. Dale stated

that up to 4 years ago, not a dollar was spent on homeless Veterans housing or the hiring of coordinators to deal with the homeless situation for our Veterans. He stated that isolation for our Vets and suicide rates are on the rise. They talked about the VTCLI, a Veteran Grant with \$64 million dollars worth of funding, in which they described it as a one call-one click type of service. They stated that it is a capital type of funding, describing it as a purchasing program. If you wish to have more information regarding the TCRP panel discussion or any information regarding the VTCLI Grant, you may contact Chris Zeilinger @ CTAA.org.

KUNTZ

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In 82% of all mass shootings someone knew about it before it happened, but chose not to say anything. To view a sample ERP template go to www.ndsc.org/activeshooter.

An excellent training for all employees is Self-Protection and Predator Awareness. This is not self-defense, this is self-protection! They teach you how to get away. This is a 6 hour course, to include 1.5 hours of Observation Tactic training. *Pay attention to what's going on around you – ALWAYS! No Texting and No Cell Phone, BE AWARE!*

Avoid contemplating whether or not to attend the next DTA Annual Conference. Mark your calendars now for September 14 – 17, 2014, Sioux Falls, S.D. It might just prove to be one of the most valuable investments for you, your employees and your agency. See you all there!

For further information, please contact the N.D. Safety Council at www.ndsc.org or you may reach Don Moseman at donm@ndsc.org or (800) 932-8890.



Retirement

Myrna Peterson
Former Driver/Director
Sanborn County Transit

To the DTA Board, DTA Members and Transit Drivers,

It was a wonderful SURPRISE and a HONOR to be named 2013 South Dakota Driver of the Year. I wish to thank Jessica Pickett for nominating me, everyone who had a hand in selecting me and to Bruce Lindholm for presenting this awesome award to me.

It has really been a great 30 years that I have spent with Transit. I will miss coming to the conferences, as I always learned something new and over the years have made so many friends.

Again THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart for this great honor.

The “Hard Hat” Crew

Participants of the DTA Annual Conference had the opportunity to visit and have a “behind the scenes” tour of the newly renovated and expanded Heritage Center located on the ND State Capitol grounds in Bismarck, ND.



BENNING

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Dedication – All the participants dedicated themselves for the entire day. The rodeo schedule of the events read more like a Marine boot camp agenda: Breakfast 6:00 a.m., Rodeo Written Test 7:30 a.m. Rodeo Circuit Completion 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and the Drivers Appreciation/Rodeo Awards Banquet and Dance 6:30 p.m. just to name a few. This was a long day, but the participants were glad to complete all these activities.

Excellence – Whether driving the course, being a judge, or attending the training, it was apparent to me that transit providers want to continually exceed and raise the high standards that they set for themselves.

I would like to thank all the participants in this year's transit rodeo. This truly is an event for the transit providers and their staff to showcase their PRIDE in the ways they serve the people of both North Dakota and South Dakota.



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DTA Executive Director

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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).

New Address

I am still being notified from projects that they have sent information to me (Dakota Transit Association); however, it is being sent to the old address in Fargo, ND. Directors, please check with your bookkeepers as well as the rest of your staff to assure they have the correct address. Thanks to all!
- Jacque

