

# Transit Tidbits

## Attention All Transit Agencies

I am always looking for articles for the Tidbits. I would so appreciate anyone and everyone stepping up to the plate. I am SURE you all have new procedures, worthy articles from your communities that touch on transportation, new vehicles, training ideas we could all benefit from, etc. REMEMBER all articles are important to someone and I would love to hear them. It helps me, as your Director, get to know you and your communities better. Thank You!!

- Jacque



### this issue

- Website **P.1**
- Driver Appreciation **P.2**
- SWTA Conference **P.3-4**
- PASS Contact **P.7**

## Web Design Update

Jacque Senger, Executive Director  
Dakota Transit Association

Greg Dias, IT Solutions Professional, Spearfish, SD, has been contracted by DTA to update the DTA's Website. Greg has furnished us with our first layout. I find this is so exciting. Dakota Transit Association Board of Director's will be reviewing this first segment on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at our Board Meeting. We are hopeful that the completed project will be seen by early fall.

The screenshot shows the website's navigation menu on the left with links for Home, About Us, Events Calendar, Newsletters, Legislative Issues, Members, Associate Members, Join DTA, and Contact Us. A 'Members Only Login' button is also present. The main content area features a 'Home' section with a welcome message and a 'News & Updates' section listing events like 'PASS Training' and 'CTAA Expo'. The footer includes the DTA logo, contact information, and logos for PayPal, Visa, Discover, and Bank.

# Palace Transit Celebrates “Transit Driver Appreciation Day”

Jessica Pickett, Director  
Palace Transit & Sanborn County Transit  
Mitchell, SD



Consider this: For hours on end, transit drivers manage to keep a schedule, check fares, safely transport passengers all while safely maneuvering an extra-large vehicle through unpredictable traffic, adverse weather conditions and some really tight spaces! The fact is, transit drivers don't have an easy job, they just make it look that way!

On March 18th, join Palace Transit in celebrating the contributions of your hard working bus drivers. That could be as simple as a smile and a wave when you board the bus and a “thank-you” when you leave.

## Dakota Transit Association By-Laws Updated

Jacque Senger, Executive Director  
Dakota Transit Association

The Dakota Transit Association By-laws have been updated as voted on at our Fall Conference in Sioux Falls, SD, last September. The By-laws have been updated on our website – [dakotatransit.org](http://dakotatransit.org).

Please take the time to review and familiarize yourself with our governing document. This could spark more interest in sitting on the DTA Board of Directors!

# SWTA Conference Attended FREEDOM THROUGHOUT TRANSIT Southwest Transit Association

Brenda Schweitzer, Executive Director  
BATA, Brookings, SD

Understanding that South Dakota is nowhere in the realm of SOUTHWEST, several transit projects from South Dakota (possibly North Dakota as well?) have become familiar with the Southwest Transit Association's exceptional conference. Barb Cline from Prairie Hills Transit as well as myself attended the 2015 conference held in Santa Fe, NM.

SWTA was formed in 1979 to serve transit agencies and others interested in public transportation issues, just like DTA. Their mission is to assist members in maintaining and improving their ability to provide quality services. This association includes the states of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas.

SWTA is led by a board of directors and Executive Director, Kristen Joyner. Kristen's a master at keeping the show on schedule as well as engaging the members in every aspect of the conference.

There were three days of presentations, Expo, breakout sessions and awards dinner. I'm going to highlight just a few of those we attended.

*Monday – Freedom to Live Life  
Speaker – Carol Wright, Assistant VP,  
Transportation and Mobility  
Easter Seals Project Action*

Yes, 'our own' Carol Wright opened the conference with a very moving history of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ADA. Twenty-five years! It was interesting to me that the ADA movement was not initiated by those with disabilities, but others that saw the unjust treatment of those with limitations. Carol stepped us through the process, reminding us of how very limited and unreasonable many living and mobility conditions were for those with disabilities. This was an exceptional presentation.

*Speaker – Troyce Crucchiola  
Kidney dialysis patient for 25 years*

Troyce has been a kidney patient in Portland, OR, for 25 years, experiencing all forms of treatment in that time. Years of in-center hemodialysis, six years plus of peritoneal dialysis, two years of home hemodialysis and transplants have given him great perspective on the "patient experience."

**See SWTA, Page 4**

# SWTA

## Continued from Page 3

Troyce has traveled to 23 cities around the U.S. while on dialysis, speaking on empowering patients, self-empowerment and organ donation. He is now in the transportation industry driving a program to improve transportation for dialysis patients. His story is remarkable. Troyce’s passion for those that work with dialysis (Angels, he calls them), and the transportation challenges patients experience was very enlightening and humbling. *This truly is a MUST SEE presentation for every driver we have.* There wasn’t a dry eye in the audience by the time Mr. Crucchiola finished his presentation. Barb personally visited with him and has entertained the concept of including him in our 2016 conference.

*Therese McMillan – Acting  
Administrator of the Federal Transit  
Administrator*

*Linda Gehrke – Region VIII FTA  
Administrator*

What an honor to have Therese McMillan and three FTA Regional Administrators in attendance, including our own, Linda Gehrke. We were able to spend some time with Linda, which is always a great experience. Linda is looking forward to the 2015 DTA convention, choosing this over Colorado’s conference to be held at the same time.

“We asked her first”, was her comment. Her plan is to sponsor a break, bringing her own personal baked goods! We are fortunate to have leadership that makes you feel appreciated and very easy to associate with.

Ms. McMillan’s message included her key role in guiding FTA’s implementation of transit related provision in the law and overseeing the development of critical guidance in MAP-21. During her tenure, McMillan has played an integral leadership role in advancing several critical FTA priorities to improve the quality and delivery of transit services to the American public. Her comment about how ‘slow’ the process really is at the Federal level resonated with all of us.

Between Barb Cline and myself, we’ve attended a few of the SWTA conferences. We’ve been able to enhance our own conference through picking up on the progressive and informative platform that SWTA offers. It’s great to be able to have the opportunity to positively impact the transportation we do by committing ourselves by participating beyond our ‘normal’ routine.



## DTA PASS Training

The following is Linda Freeman's contact information for PASS Training:

Linda Freeman  
PO Box 691  
Kenmare, ND 58764 701-848-6480  
Lindaf1@att.blackberry.net

Please keep this information available for your use with PASS Training.

## 2015 CTAA Expo

Community Transportation Expo 2015 will be located in the beautiful city of Tampa, Florida. Dates are May 31-June 5, 2015. Please mark your calendars for this great conference.



**DTA**  
Dakota Transit  
Association

**Jacque Senger**  
DTA Executive Director

**Mailing Address:**  
PO Box 973  
Devil's Lake, ND 58301

**E-Mail Address:**  
jacque.senger@hotmail.com

**Phone Number:**  
701-662-2465

### 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](http://www.dakotatransit.org)