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DTA Fall Conference Articles

Please look in your upcoming November Transit Tidbit for additional articles on your Fall Conference held in Grand Forks, ND.

Grant Levi Honored with Agrey Award

Pat Hansen, Director

South Central Adult Service Council - Valley City, ND

Grant Levi, recently retired Director of the ND Department of Transportation, was honored with the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute's John M. Agrey Award on October 5th in Fargo.

Under his direction, the NDDOT, along with its transportation partners, advanced improvements to increase traffic safety and enhance the quality of life for North Dakota residents.

The Award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the state of North Dakota, its citizens, and its business community through involvement in transportation.

Having spent many hours during the past several legislative sessions testifying for public transit and listening to others testify, I very much appreciated Grant's ongoing commitment to public transit in our state.

He was greatly respected by legislators and those who attended the sessions. He will be greatly missed. I want to wish him the best in his retirement and thank him for his many years of service to North Dakota!

DTA Roadeo

Darrell Francis, Executive Director and Roadeo Coordinator

Souris Basin Transportation - Minot, ND

On Saturday, 9th of September, the Annual DTA Paratransit Roadeo was held at Grand Forks, ND. I have done over 50 roadeos and this had to be one of the best roadeo ever. There were 39 Bus drivers and 35+ judges/volunteers to run a smooth operation which was completed by 1 p.m. This was a great opportunity to meet new faces and renew the camaraderie with friends throughout the event. The course was a definite obstacle course with tight turns, a lot of backing up, and many new first time roadeo drivers.

Congratulations to the DTA winners!

South Dakota Division:

- #1 Dave Chipman, Prairie Hills Transit, Spearfish, SD
- #2 Ryan DeRouchey, Aberdeen Ride Line, Aberdeen SD
- #3 Eric Peterson, River Cities Public Transit, Pierre, SD.
- #4 Keith Light, River Cities Public Transit, Pierre, SD.
- #5 Lance Bianas, River Cities Public Transit, Pierre, SD

North Dakota Division:

- #1 Bob Dennis, Souris Basin Transit, Minot, ND
- #2 Wesley Denn, CAT, Grand Forks, ND
- #3 Terry Holland, West River Transit, Bismarck, ND
- #4 Terry Condon , Standing Rock Public Transit, Ft. Yates, ND.
- #5 Verdell Bobtail Bear, Standing Rock Public Transit, Ft. Yates, ND.

Special Congratulations to Dave Chipman for the Surlock/Qstraint Driver Award on the top Score for Wheelchair Securement.

The Awards banquet that followed was very well attended and provided a great opportunity to thank all the drivers, volunteers and support staff for their time and dedication to transit. Thank you to everyone from North and South Dakota who helped with the roadeo. Thank you Harlow's Bus Sales for the T-shirts and Lisa from QStraints for the Friday night securement training, pizza, and helping with the judging of the roadeo.

My deepest thanks to the City of Grand Forks, Dale Bergman and Ali Rood for providing DTA with a great parking lot, offices, training room space and resources to make this event a total success.

Hope to see as many drivers as possible for DTA Roadeo Sept. 2018 in Brookings, SD.

Bis-Man Transit RFP 17-004 Award

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A new operations contractor will begin providing fixed route and paratransit service for the Bis-Man Transit Board on November 1, 2017. This change has come about as a result of a federally required competitive bidding process where companies offer proposals on how they intend to operate the service, and how they can aid in improving the customer experience while also increasing efficiency and safety. Out of four proposed bids, National Express received the highest overall score.

Executive Director Roy Rickert explained “The competitive process ensures that funds are being spent in a way that the community receives the most value for the dollar.” National Express will bring additional technical resources and training which will be beneficial to the operation while also retaining current employees. It is expected that with everyone’s cooperation, the transition will happen smoothly.

Bis-Man Transit would like to thank Schumacher Transportation for the work they have done over the years to help build the public transportation system in the Bismarck/Mandan community.

Serving Passengers

Karrie Mikkelsen, Director
Cavalier County Transit - Langdon, ND

Rebecca Daigneault is a Research Associate and Case Manager at the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities at Minot State University, Minot, ND. At NDCPD, it is their mission to “provide service, education, and research to communities so that they can welcome, value, and support the well-being and quality of life for people of all ages and disabilities.”

For persons with disabilities, our transit programs are often the only means for individuals to get to work, meetings, social and community gatherings, errands, medical appointments, and etc.

Rebecca provided us with a website; <http://adadrivers.org>. In this website are several training modules for transit drivers, dispatchers, and supervisors. Modules that may be of interest are: “Importance of Disability Awareness”, “Importance of Good Communication”, “Assisting the Right and Wrong Way”, “Customer’s Perspective”, “Customer’s who need Priority Seating”, and “Bus Inspections”.

Ralph Englestad Arena Tour

Karrie Mikkelsen, Director

Cavalier County Transit - Langdon, ND

At the close of Tuesday's meetings and Trade Show, eighteen of us had the opportunity to tour Ralph Englestad Arena and the Betty Englestad Sioux Center.

Ralph Englestad's dream was to build the finest hockey arena in the nation for his team at the University of North Dakota. His favorite saying was "The harder I work, the luckier I get."

Ralph Englestad donated \$100 million to the University of North Dakota. To learn more about Ralph Englestad Arena and the Betty Englestad Sioux Center log onto theralph.com.

Thank you to our tour guide Grace Bergman (Dale's mom) for all of her knowledge and humor. What an enjoyable time we all had!



Celebrating 80 Years

Jessica Pickett, Director

Palace Transit - Mitchell, SD

Palace Transit celebrated its office aid, Marjorie Novak's 80th Birthday in August. An open house was held in her honor with a little presentation and recognition from Mayor Jerry Toomey followed by cake.

Marjorie goes above and beyond her duties and always does it with a smile! She is the pearl to our operation and keeps us on our toes.

Jane Williams Appointed Deputy FTA Administrator

K. Jane Williams has been appointed Deputy Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Williams will help lead the agency within the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) that funds public transportation systems across the country and oversees their safety.

Prior to joining FTA, Williams was the Director of the Washington Area Transit Office in the Maryland Department of Transportation. In that role, she worked closely with the leadership of the Maryland Transit Administration and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). She previously served in the Executive Branch at the Department of Energy and Department of Labor under President Reagan and the Department of Interior under President George H.W. Bush. She also served as a Senior Legislative Advisor in the office of U.S. House member Andy Harris.



The Federal Transit Administration is one of the U.S. Department of Transportation's nine operating administrations and provides financial and technical assistance to local public transit systems, including buses, subways, light rail, commuter rail, trolleys and ferries. FTA is headquartered in Washington, D.C. with 10 regional offices that assist over 3,000 transit providers in all states and U.S. territories.

Training Update - Linda Freeman, PASS Coordinator

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(please note the change of email address)

Please go to the Dakota Transit Association web site to watch for upcoming trainings.

Again, a big thank you to Mike Mullaney and BATA for holding the Defensive Driving class on October 13th in Brookings.

No dates have been set yet for classes we hope to hold at Valley City or the PASS class sessions we plan to hold at Aberdeen and Groton. We will continue to work on getting these set up so watch the web for any updates.

It was great seeing everyone at the annual conference in Grand Forks!

*Thought for the
Month of October...*

*Things turn out best for people who
make the best out of the way things
turn out.*



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Thanks to all!

- Jacque

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