



Transit Tidbits



2018 DTA Memberships Renewed

I have received a total of 39 membership forms; 23 from North Dakota, 15 from South Dakota and 1 from Seattle, Washington.

Our due date is February 28, 2018.

Remember, if you need to be invoiced, send in your form and indicate your billing preference.

Jacque Senger,
DTA Executive
Director

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Triple “D” Marketing, Inc. Denny Hibner Scholarship Award

Brenda Schweitzer, Executive Director

Brookings Area Transit Authority - Brookings, SD

During this past DTA conference, we had the generous offer of a \$500 scholarship opportunity provided by Denny Hibner.

Denny is with Triple “D” Marketing, Inc. His company represents various markets that support vehicle cleaning and protection. Brookings Area Transit worked with Denny in purchasing the Bitimec wash system in 2016. Plan to come to the 2018 DTA conference in Brookings and see this self-contained system in action.



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Scholarship

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The scholarship application included inquiring into local community involvement, volunteer activity, understanding of the role of public transit plays in a community and any opportunities that the applicant may see for the future of public transportation in North Dakota and South Dakota. In order to qualify for this award, there needed to be a transit connection in the family.

Six applicants completed the scholarship application. Roy Rickert, Bis-Man / Capital Area Transit (CAT), Barb Cline, Prairie Hills Transit, and Brenda Schweitzer, Brookings Area Transit rated the criteria and the winning application was submitted by Tim Leach. Tim is a 4th year nursing student at Dakota Wesleyan University. His father, Pat Leach, works for Palace Transit in Mitchell, SD. Congratulations to Tim!

A very special thank you to Denny Hibner for this unique opportunity. Dakota Transit Association would be excited to welcome any other like opportunities if there are other affiliates of DTA that would be interested in investing in the future of public transportation in North Dakota and South Dakota.

ROCS Transit

Jackie Scott, Director

Rural Office of Community Services Transit
Lake Andes, SD

ROCS Transit has been staying quite busy. One of our main goals is to boost ridership by letting everyone know that anyone can ride. People still seem to think that it is only for the elderly.

Fund raisers are a big priority right now to raise matching funds for some new vehicles, which are greatly needed. Our goal for this program year is to have committees for all our projects so we are trying to recruit committee members. We need to revamp two of our committees and start two new ones, we have five good active ones in place right now. Now if it just warms up we can continue on with a great year.

Veterans Ride Program

Pat Hejlik, Director

Devils Lake Transit/Eddy County Transit
Devils Lake, ND

Since starting the Veteran Ride Program, Devils Lake Transit has seen a steady increase in ridership by veterans since July 2017.

Currently we have 17 veterans participating in the program, with over 185 rides.

Thanks to the generous donations from CHI St Alexius Devils Lake Hospital, VFW, DAV, AmVets, American Legion and the City of Devils Lake we are able to provide a much-needed service.

New Vehicles

Susan Fossen, Director

Benson County Transportation - Maddock, ND

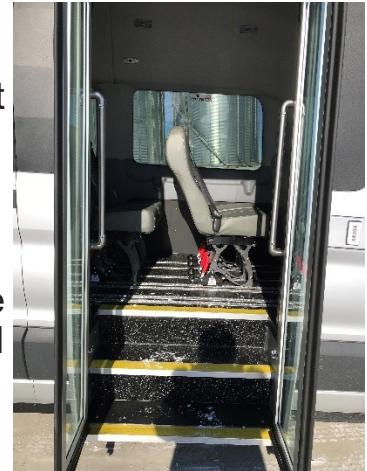


We have added new vehicles to our fleet!



It's a 10 passenger Ford Transit with smart floor technology, enabling us to remove, or space seats as we desire.

It has a wheelchair lift in the back. If all seats were removed it's a possibility to fit three wheelchairs.



This vehicle will enable us to do trips that include shopping more easily as it has room for packages! We are also entertaining the scheduling of special social events like Frost Fire Theatre, ND State Fair, Hostfest and Salute to Seniors as some fun events to attend.



We also replaced an aging minivan.

To complete our fleet we have a regular 7 passenger minivan that passengers find very comfortable for our long trips.

We continue to offer weekly trips to Rugby, Devils Lake and Harvey, and twice a month to Bismarck, once a month to Minot and Grand Forks.

With continued generous donations, we continue to offer free rides to medical appointments to those 65 and older within a 60 mile radius from our base location.

We offer free transportation to Veterans to medical appointments anywhere in ND. We just ask they reserve these trips as far in advance as possible to make sure we can accommodate their request.

Greetings to everyone in Transit. As I'm writing this it was -15 degrees again this morning, so I'm sure you, as well as us, are looking forward to an early Spring !!



New Technology

Brett Tschetter, Operations Supervisor
River Cities Public Transit - Pierre, SD



New technology has led the way for River Cities Public Transit to provide better service for our passengers. A mapping system that enables dispatchers to locate buses, tablets that allow drivers to see their upcoming rides and are used to scan the new fare cards passengers use to identify who they are and store money are just a few new technological upgrades RCPT has used to become more efficient.



River Cities Public Transit has recently added 46 camera systems to buses. The cameras can provide live feed from inside the bus and video can be stored for up to two months. The camera systems have provided excellent insight to many situations that have occurred on the buses.

Soon, passengers will be able to use the “My Ride” application on their cell phones. The new app will allow passengers to see where their bus is at, look at their fare card balances, duplicate and cancel rides. Android phone users can try the app now, with Apple phones to be added soon.

RCPT has created a new full-time Safety and Training Coordinator position. Adam Sharkey has been working hard at getting all required training accomplished and has recently put on First Aid, AED, Defensive Driving, Customer Service, PASS training and continues to train all new employees with the required hands on tablet, wheelchair, and RCPT policy training.

A planning grant will allow RCPT staff to go out to several other out of state transit systems to learn about best practices. The first trip will be to Kearney, Nebraska to partner with R.Y.D.E. to learn about their transit operation.

RCPT has two new projects that have become very successful. Partnering with the City of Sioux Falls, Dakotabilities and Lifescapes to provide paratransit rides in Sioux Falls, and a grant from the Veteran’s Administration to provide free medical and benefits rides for veterans from highly rural counties have added to RCPT services.



From Then Till Now

Cheryl Jongerius, Director

Dickey County Transportation

Dickey County Senior Citizens - Ellendale, ND

In October of this year, our agency will celebrate being in the public transit business for 40 years. Transit was the very first service our multi-service non-profit agency provided.

Back in October of 1978 we would pick up a transit customer at point A and take them to point B and maybe points C, D, and E. When I began work at this agency in the fall of 1982, we would pick up a transit customer at point A and take them to point B and maybe points C, D, and E.

Now 40 years into the public transit business we pick up a transit customer at point A and take them to point B and maybe points C, D, and E.

So the moving people part of transit is still the basis for what we do. Back in the beginning a large number of our passengers were widows who had never driven in their entire lives.

Now I can't remember the last time we have had a passenger that would fit that profile. In the present the transit industry is talking about autonomous or self-driving vehicles. I hear there might be one of those vehicles on a fixed route in Bismarck in 2019.

I wonder what those widowed ladies of the past would think about riding on a driverless vehicle? I do know that some of our fellow transit providers in the Dakotas are saying they would NEVER step foot on one of those vehicles. What about you?

As all of you know, even though we still pick up a transit customer at point A and take them to point B and maybe points C, D, and E - the administrative requirements we now must fulfill to accomplish that have increased dramatically.

Remember when computers were first coming into the workplace and the talk was of streamlined work, efficiencies and all sorts of businesses would be going to a 4 day work week? That did not quite seem to work out as advertised.

As for me, I do think I could at least "try" a ride on a driverless vehicle. What I really think would be "cool" is if we got to the place where the Star Trek "Beam me up Scotty" transporter would be a reality. I just would not be volunteering to be the first person that tried to use it.

So in the meantime, for public transit, I guess it will be pick up a transit customer at point A and take them to point B and maybe points C, D, and E.

2018 DTA Fall Conference

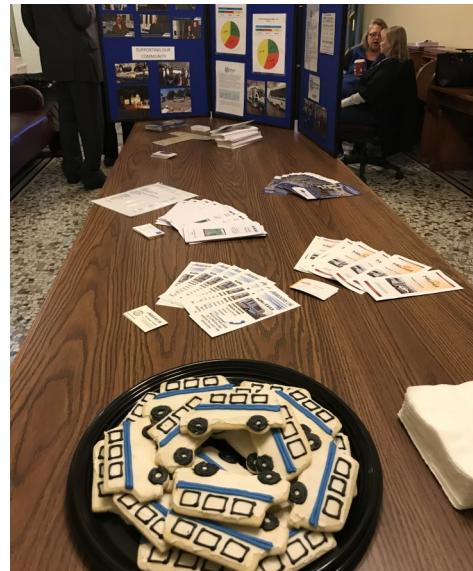
Jacque Senger, DTA Executive Director

Just a friendly reminder that our 2018 Conference is in the planning stages. Our host hotel is the Hampton Inn and Suites, 605-697-5232 and our alternate hotel is the Fairfield Inn and Suites, 605-692-3500.

Please go ahead and make your reservations early. Our intent is to have our conference forms and TENTATIVE conference agenda on the web by June 1st.

SD Public Transportation Day

Jessica Pickett, Director
Palace Transit - Mitchell, SD



South Dakota Public Transportation Providers and supporters gathered at the State Capitol building distributing bus cookies and information about the public transit agencies in our state.

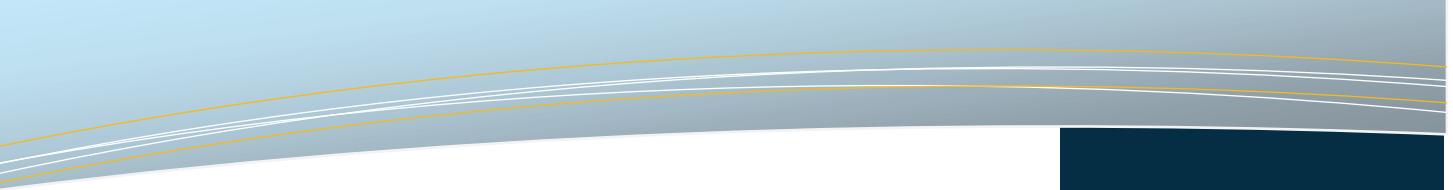
South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard declared February 14, 2018 at South Dakota Public Transportation Day with a Executive Proclamation. The public was also encouraged to participate by riding Public Transit and/or posting their favorite Transit picture on Facebook using #LoveMyBus.

Training Update - Linda Freeman, PASS Coordinator
Phone: 701-848-6480 E-mail: lindaafreeman1@gmail.com

Registration information is on our web site. Please go to the Dakota Transit Association web site to register drivers and for map information, etc.

We are in the planning process of setting up a PASS and PASS Recertification class in Groton in March. More details will be on the web site when arrangements have been made.

We are also working on setting up a set of PASS, PASS Recertification, Defensive Driving and Maltreatment Awareness classes in Valley City. Please watch the web site for additional information when we finish with the arrangements.



Thought for the Month of February...

“Never regret anything because at one time it was exactly what you wanted.”



Jacque Senger
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).

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