

ISSUE

78

May
2018

DTA
Dakota Transit
Association

Transit Tidbits



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2018 DTA Fall Conference

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.

Jacque Senger,
DTA Executive
Director

Transit Funding Awarded

Pat Hansen, Director

South Central Adult Services - Valley City, ND

South Central Adult Services was awarded \$20,000 for public transit from the City of Valley City at their City Commission meeting on April 3rd. We are very excited about it because we have never received any financial support from the City.

They also stated that they would include our agency in their budgeting process in future years. I reported in a prior newsletter that we were trying to raise \$80,000 to support transit this year. With this \$20,000 award we have reached \$61,000 towards our goal.



New Faces of Transit

Gayle Kludt, Executive Director
People's Transit - Huron. SD



Gayle Kludt is the new Executive Director at People's Transit in Huron, SD. She is new to public transit having only been with PT since October 2017. Gayle is retired from law enforcement having served 25 years as a Patrol Sergeant, Deputy Sheriff, and Chief of Police.

She spent 3 1/2 years as the Projects Manager at the Center for Independence in Huron before making the move to PT. She received her undergraduate degree in Health, Physical Education and Recreation from South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD and her Master's Degree in Management from Colorado Technical Institute.

While at People's Transit she has implemented the PT Passport program, an unlimited ride program for youth for the months of June, July and August. She has been selected to co-chair the Heartland United Way campaign in Huron for 2018-2019. People's Transit is a major recipient of Heartland United Way support.

Having grown up in Huron, Gayle intends to foster partnerships with community organizations, businesses and individuals to help get the message out that PT is a necessity in the community. By doing that she hopes to increase ridership and revenue. Gayle has a personal interest in PT, as well. Her father uses People's Transit to take him to and from life-saving dialysis three times a week. So not only is PT a necessity for the community, it is a necessity for her family.

2018 Roadeo Guidelines

Jacque Senger, DTA Executive Director

The 2018 Roadeo Guidelines are on the Dakota Transits Association's website.

Go to the Home Page, DTA Annual Conference and click on Roadeo Guideline.

2018 Fall Conference

The 2018 Fall Conference and Roadeo will be held a 2018.

- September 14th Check in
- September 15th Roadeo and Roadeo Banquet
- September 16th Roadeo Breakfast and Awards
- September 17th thru 19th DTA Conference

[Roadeo Guidelines \(PDF\)](#)



[Awards Information & Nominations](#)

The Hampton Inn and Suites is our host hotel. A block 14th through the 18th will be at the rate of \$96.00 5232. Our alternate hotel is the Fairfield Inn and Su



And the Winner Is...

Ali Rood, Mobility Manager
Cities Area Transit - Grand Forks. ND

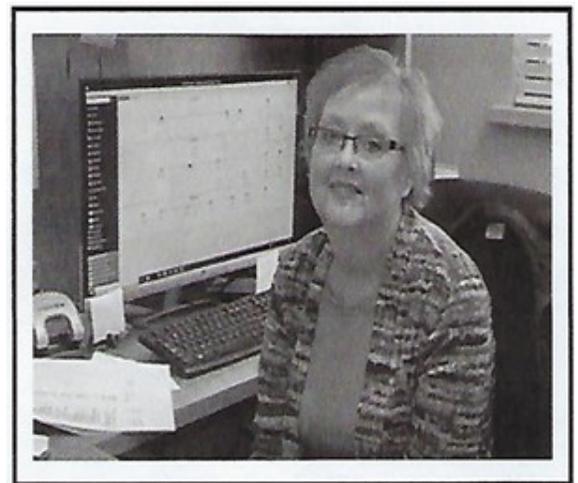
DTA recognizes Driver of the Year, Above & Beyond, Support Staff of the Year, Innovative Agency, and Friend of Transit award winners at the fall conference. Nominations are due by July 13, 2018. Please take the time to honor those deserving of an award by nominating them for an award. Nomination forms and instructions are available at www.dakotatransit.org.

There's a twist! This year we are introducing some friendly (but fierce) competition to the DTA Awards arena: **Which state's members will submit more award nominations – North Dakota or South Dakota?** What's at stake? You'll find out at the fall conference in Brookings!

Welcome Back Ellen Lang!

Carol Anderson, Director
West River Transit - Bismarck, ND

Words can't explain how happy I am to be back at West River Transit! I'd like to thank West River Transit for all the support shown to me through my journey. On January 3, 2017 I was admitted to Mayo-St. Mary's Hospital to wait for a heart and kidney transplant.



On April 19th, after a 106 long days in the hospital, I received my gifts of life. On May 17th I was released from the hospital and went to the Gift of Life House until I was able to go home.

July 13th I was officially discharged and allowed to go home. I was nervous and scared, but very excited to say the least. In August I developed a fever and was flown back to Mayo after finding a fungal infection in my lungs, which is common in transplant patients due to the anti-rejection meds depressing my immune system.

It has been a roller coaster ride, but well worth it. I will be returning to Mayo in April for my ONE YEAR checkup. I am so grateful for my donor and their family, and they will forever be in my heart. April is National Donate Life month. Please consider being a donor.

Training Update - Linda Freeman, PASS Coordinator

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

The following classes have been set up. Please go to dakotatransit.org to register or call Linda if you have any questions:

Spearfish, SD: May 29-30 and May 31-June 1, 2018 **Prairie Hills Transit—2015 Tumble Weed Trail, Spearfish, SD**

Session 1—PASS Class: May 29-30 from 8:00am to 4:00pm both days.

PASS Recertification: May 30 from 8:00am to 4:00pm.

Session 2—Maltreatment Awareness Class: May 31 from 8:00am to 12 noon.

Session 3—PASS Class: May 31 from 1:00pm to 5:00 pm &

June 1 from 8:00am to 5:00pm

PASS Recertification: June 1—8:00am to 5:00pm.

Williston, ND: June 1, 2, and 3, 2018 **Northwest Public Transit Bus Garage—204 1st Street East, Williston, ND**

PASS Class Day 1—Friday, June 1 from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Day 2—Saturday, June 2 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

PASS Recertification Class—Saturday, June 2 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Maltreatment Awareness Class—Sunday, June 3 from 8am to noon.

Defensive Driving Class—Sunday, June 3 from 1pm to about 4:00 pm.

Deadline for Registration: May 25, 2018.

We will be holding a class in Dickinson at the end of August. Dates will be on the DTA website as soon as I get a block of rooms set up at a motel.

A big “thanks” to Rod Grafin in Valley City for helping set up and do the classes at Maryvale!

We had a great facility and a great group.

This class said they are the BEST CLASS EVER!



Transit Shuttle System

Kathy Holman, Director

Community Transit, Inc. - Sisseton, SD

May Day 2018 was an historic day for Sisseton-based Community Transit and the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe.

After four years of research, planning and coordination between the Tribe and the local public transportation entity, a shuttle system featuring a combination of designated stops and demand response reservations began operation. The service had been a vision of Community Transit Director Kathy Holman for years.

"We have been serving the Tribe to the best of our ability on the budget they had, but studies showed many unmet needs due to those constraints." Long time Tribal member Bruce Renville got involved with the project when he returned to the area. Holman cited his involvement as a key component in establishing the service.

"Bruce was looking for ways to improve the quality of life on the reservation including transportation," said Holman. "His research led him to Community Transit as a successful and viable company to do business with."

Community Transit, Inc.



Mission Statement: Community Transit Inc. will exist to provide mobility, access, opportunity, and independence to the people of eastern South Dakota through the medium of Transportation

Once Holman and Renville met and plans were discussed, the lengthy process of securing funds, purchasing vehicles, establishing service guidelines and hiring drivers began in earnest.

Consultant Gary Hegland was hired to research available grants and secure the necessary funding to move the project from dream status to reality.

"The process was tedious and sometimes frustrating because of all the red tape and hoops we had to jump through, but it's now reality and we are all excited," said Holman.

Eventually, the funding was secured (\$300,000 plus a 10 percent local match), two buses were purchased, routes were established and drivers hired.

Similar to any new program, education of the public and marketing of the problem will play a vital role in its success.

"We know there will be tweaks to the service as it evolves, we just need to stay abreast of the needs of our riders and make necessary changes," said Holman.

The long-term goal for the project is have one bus and a garage in each of the seven districts across the reservation. The Tribe will continue to search for additional funding sources with which to enhance service to its members.

Rural Transit Services

Renee Price, Director

Kidder Emmons Senior Services - Steele, ND

Kidder County Public Transit has provided transportation in Kidder County since the early 1980's. They currently provide regular service days to Bismarck and Jamestown on a weekly basis using a 14-passenger handicapped accessible bus. This bus is also available for groups in Kidder County. Golden Manor, a basic care facility in Kidder County and the Active Senior Club utilize the bus once a month for activities and outings.

Jan Hetletved, our transit bus driver, lives in Robinson and has over 30 years' experience driving the bus. She and her husband, Gene, own and operate Hetletved Registered Quarter Horse Ranch.

Jan is a bubbly, outgoing individual who always places rider comfort at the top of her priority list. She is prompt to assist riders with every consideration and has earned the trust of these same individuals to provide them a safe trip to appointments or for shopping. Assisting with the stairs into the bus and securing both riders and any assistive devices they may use is just the beginning of her duties. Locating addresses for appointments and delivering and picking up her riders from these same appointments is reassuring to both riders and their families. Jan has also been known to take packages to the bus and locking them in to provide an easier shopping experience for her riders. A true treasure for Kidder County Public Transit.



A five passenger handicapped van is also available for transit to outlying areas out of the normal service areas. Scheduled to provided service to Carrington, Harvey and Jamestown the van assures that medical appointments to these communities is possible.

Paul Geringer lives in Lake Williams in northern Kidder County with his wife Audrey. Paul is primary van driver and provides exemplary service to his riders. The van is also available for small groups for social outings or shopping. Very familiar with wheel chair transportation, Paul provides the reassurance of a safe trip with the transit system to those with assistive devices.

Multiple groups use transportation for attending social activities and for once a month outing to local area restaurants, shopping, civic events, movies and so on. This is a very affordable way for groups to be able to attend events that are available outside of their local communities.

Kidder County sits in the middle of the state between Sutsman and Burleigh Counties. It covers 1351.19 sq. miles with a population of 1.8 people per sq. mile.

See KIDDER, page 7

KIDDER

Continued from Page 6

According to the US Census of 2010, Kidder County's average age was 49.5. It has one Public School, grades Pre-School through 12, located in Steele. It has two full service grocery stores, Tuttle in the north part of the county and Steele in the southern part.



The eastern side has a gas station that provides basic grocery needs such as milk, bread and some common grocery items. A medical clinic is located in Steele and open four days a week. The next closest medical facility is then either in Bismarck, Jamestown or Carrington. Depending on your location in the county this is a distance of 40 to 85 miles. The Kidder County Ambulance, with advanced life support capabilities, services the county and some of the surrounding areas.

As with most rural transit services, it is a challenge for us to convince the general population to utilize public transit. Individual independence is vital to living in a remote rural area and most of the population take much pride in achieving and maintaining this independence. Through education, scheduled activities by groups and advertising, we are working to change the concept that the bus is "for old people", as well as removing the stigma of "needing help" to navigate city streets and traffic.

The  stops here!

Kidder County Public Transit
Handicap Accessible 12 Passenger Bus
\$8.00 Fare

Pick-up Locations:
Pettibone T&V Grocery, Robinson, Tuttle Senior Center,
Tappen Standard Oil, Dawson Cafe, Steele Senior
Center, Apartment Complexes & Coffee Cup

Bismarck:
Tuesdays and Thursdays arrives at 10:30am

Jamestown:
Third Wednesday of each Month arrives at 10:30

For Reservations call Jan Hetletved @ 701-392-8351
and leave a message.

**Bus or Van is available for use within ND.
Call Renee @ 475-2708 for details.**

*Thought for the
Month of May...*

*“Great expectations leads to big
disappointment.”*

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Jacque Senger
DTA Executive Director

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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