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## DTA Fall Conference

Your Board of Directors are working diligently to offer you another great DTA Fall Conference.

Please put the dates on your calendar, September 14 – 18, 2019, Ramada Grand Dakota Hotel, Dickinson, ND.

Our tentative agenda will be placed on the website in April.

Jacque Senger,  
DTA Executive  
Director

## Award of Excellence

Barb Cline, Executive Director  
Prairie Hills Transit - Spearfish, SD

Prairie Hills Transit was recognized during the Spearfish Economic Development Annual meeting of the Membership.

The Spearfish Economic Development Corporation awards the annual 2019 Award of Excellence to standout businesses or organizations in the Spearfish Community.

The Award of Excellence recipient exemplifies dedication and commitment in business development, capital investment, job creation and leadership in the community. Nearly 400 people attended the meeting.

Please go to the website to see a full video that was shown prior to the award. <https://www.spearfishdevelopment.com/annual-awards/>

Although this video is about Prairie Hills Transit I believe if you watch it you would find that it could be a great interview tool or during the training period.

Prairie Hills Transit was very honored to receive this prestigious award.

# Building for the Future of Transportation

Darrell Francis, Executive Director

Souris Basin Public Transportation - Minot, ND

Souris Basin Transportation (Organized 3-1979) covers 8 counties: Pierce, Burke, Bottineau, McHenry, Mountrail, Divide, Renville, and Ward. We started our intrastate route from Minot to Bismarck three times a week in Feb. 2018. Approximately 90,000 rides per year, 79% elderly and disabled with the remaining 21% general public. We have 13 accessible buses and 12 vans. Our main office, maintenance shop and storage are located in Minot, at 805 31<sup>st</sup> St SE. At this time, we have 15 full time and 20 part-time employees.



July of 2011, view from our front door of our flooded shop after a 5' water level drop.

Our biggest threat was the 2011 flood of the Souris River. On June 22, 2011 our downtown original main office, 309 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NE, was under 5 feet of water. July 12, 2011 we were able to enter our building and surveyed the damages. Using local contractors, we cleaned, remove the damaged walls and equipment, restore electrical power, repair the garage doors and park our buses once more in the shop on August 1, 2011. A giant step for our Transit system.

Fortunately for us, we were also in the middle of construction at 805 31<sup>st</sup> St SE facility (out of the flood plain) using Federal ARRA dollars. This project started construction in March of 2011 and we moved in December 13, 2011. During the next year we managed to renovate our flooded facility at 309, which includes a new training center and updated maintenance shop.

So with all that said and done, moving in to the future, we are building again. We are adding onto the facility at 805, due to the fact our old shop (309) will be removed for the new flood protection dikes that will be built in the next two years. The process for acquisition started December 2016 with a formal letter of purchase from the City of Minot. Fast forward to September 2018, we accepted bids and awarded the project to ROLAC Construction. We are adding 12,000 square feet for storage, offices, large training room and shop area.

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# Future

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This has been an interesting winter. The extreme cold pretty much stopped any chance of dirt and foundation work. Of course the steel was another 12 weeks away. The larger facility will help us meet our future growth or energy boom that may follow in the next 10 years. I never expected a project of this magnitude. I am truly grateful for the assistance from the NDDOT Transit Division, FTA and transit personnel who have assisted us in developing rural transit in North Dakota.

We are proud to be celebrating 40 years of public transit service in North Dakota this year. We are planning for a fall open house at the new facility with our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Hope it warms up soon and the snow melts, we have building to finish.

Y'all drive safe, or take the bus!



### Training Update - Linda Freeman, PASS Coordinator

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

#### **Bismarck, ND: June 3-5, 2019.**

Classes will be held at West River Transit - 3750 East Rosser Ave, Bismarck, ND.

PASS Class            Day 1—Monday, June 3, 2019: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.  
                              Day 2—Tuesday, June 4, 2019: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

PASS Recertification Class—Tuesday, June 4: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

MALTREATMENT AWARENESS CLASS—Wednesday, June 5: 8:00 am to Noon.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING CLASS—Wednesday, June 5: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

#### **Deadline for Registration: May 15, 2019**

A room block has been set up at the Quality Inn in Bismarck (formerly Comfort Inn) for the nights of May 2-4, 2019. Motel address is 1030 Interstate Ave. in Bismarck. Phone number is 701-223-1911. You will need to call and make your own reservation and ask for the Dakota Transit Association block. Registration deadline is May 23, 2019.



*Thought for the  
Month of March...*

*“Life is NOT a dress rehearsal.  
Enjoy each moment.”*

**DTA**  
Dakota Transit  
Association

**Jacque Senger**  
DTA Executive Director

**Mailing Address:**  
PO Box 973  
Devils Lake, ND 58301

**E-Mail Address:**  
jacquelinesenger@gondtc.com

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


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Thanks to all!

- Jacque

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