

Transit Tidbits



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Dakota Transit 2019 DTA Membership

We are still short of reaching our goal for the 2019 DTA Membership.

The Dakota Transit Association Board of Directors urges all agencies to unite for a great cause.

Jacque Senger,
DTA Executive Director

SD Department of Transportation Updates State Management Plan

Sallie Doty, Transportation Specialist
South Dakota DOT - Pierre, SD

The Greek philosopher Heraclitus is famously known for stating that “the only constant is change.” In the public transit world this cannot be closer to the truth. As soon as we enact the most current federal and state regulations, change happens. At the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SD DOT) our lives are busy with capital applications, program/facility reviews, federal reporting, traveling, and procurements; however, federal and state regulation changes do not work their way conveniently around our busy schedules.

This spring, we updated our State Management Plan (SMP) based on significant changes in regulation to the old plan. For those unaware, the SMP is a document that defines the State’s policies and procedures in administering its grant programs. Think of it like a user’s guide created by the state to inform the public how we manage our grant programs. As far as the development of the document, The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) kindly gives us the maximum discretion in designing and managing our programs to meet our citizen’s needs.

See PLAN, page 2

Plan

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Once completed, subrecipients and the public were encouraged to comment on the document. Let's be honest, this is not an epic novel leaving you on the edge of your seats demanding a sequel, but we did receive useful comments. We are thankful for any input from the public to make our programs successful. After the opportunity for public comment, the document is submitted to the FTA for final review to ensure all required components are incorporated. Thankfully, our updated plan was blessed by the FTA with additional positive vibes sent from the folks in Denver.

The SMP is an important document that we hope our subrecipients view regularly. We reference the SMP during program reviews, transit meetings, and in conversations with providers. The update is available on the SD DOT website under Public Transit in the Forms and Resources section. As of today, our office will temporarily enjoy the update from April 2019 until FTA informs us yet again to additional changes to federal regulations.

15 Invaluable Laws of Growth

Terry Kirchner, Operations Supervisor
Yankton Transit - Yankton, SD

I had the pleasure of meeting Jill Hough, Ph.D. from NDSU to learn about The 15 Invaluable Laws of Growth.

Going into this session I wasn't exactly sure where we were going with the class, but it didn't take long to figure it out. Listening to Jill put into perspective how much we don't know about our own growth. It really makes you stop and think.

Upon completion of our education, we don't always have a plan on what we want down the road. She showed us how



to put a plan together to set up our personal goals and how to get past the barriers that are preventing us from meeting them. It's not an easy thing to do and sometimes you have to make tough decisions to eventually get where you want to be.

Thanks, Jill, for putting on the class and for everyone who help set this up.

Training Update - Linda Freeman, PASS Coordinator

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

Valley City, ND: May 17-18, 2019

Classes will be held at the Grand Stay Inn & Suites meeting room, 271 Winter Show Road, SW Valley City, ND.

PASS Class Day 1—Friday, May 17, 2019 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
 Day 2—Saturday, May 18, 2019 from 8:00am to 5:00 pm

PASS Recertification Class—Saturday, May 18, 2019 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

A block of 10 rooms has been set up at the AmericInn, 280 Winter Show Rd. SW for the 16th & 17th, but you must call asap and ask for Dakota Transit Association block as rooms will be released on April 16th. Phone number is 701-845-5551. Rooms may still be available there after that, but are not guaranteed. The Grand Stay has a few rooms available but no block is set up. You should receive state rates there if you ask for that. The hotels are across the street from each other.

A big thanks to Rod in Valley City for doing this class.

Deadline for Registration: May 10, 2019

*The class is not full so if you call, we may be able to get you in.

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 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
 Day 2—Tuesday, June 4, 2019 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

PASS Recertification Class—Tuesday, June 4 from 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.

I know those of you in South Dakota had s tough winter weather-wise, so hope all is going well now. Please let me know if you are interested in any classes.

Triple “D” Marketing Scholarship

Brenda Schweitzer, Director

Brookings Area Transit Authority - Brookings, SD

You may recall the past two DTA conferences we have promoted a first-ever scholarship opportunity that has been provided by Denny Hebner, owner of Triple “D” Marketing out of Sioux Falls, SD. Denny wanted to try something different in promoting transportation through his part of the trade-show, as he was unable to attend.

The first year of this opportunity applicants from North Dakota and South Dakota completed the required application for the \$500 scholarship. This was won by Tim Leach, representing Palace Transit in Mitchell, SD.

Denny thought this over and suggested we split the \$500 and allow \$250 for applicants in North Dakota, and \$250 for the winning South Dakota applicant. A new spin on this great opportunity!

Applications were available at the DTA Trade-Show table, as well as provided by Executive Director Jacque Senger through e-mail communication. If this opportunity continues, please consider your agency’s students (relative or employees who are students) to apply!

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.



North Dakota – Halley Bartlett – Kenmare Meals & Wheels, Kenmare, ND

Halley is attending NDSU for Landscape Architecture. She has excellent ideas on how NDSU’s transit program could be enhanced. Halley’s mother, Lisa Bartlett, is an employee of Kenmare Meals & Wheels.

South Dakota – Gaven Schweitzer – Brookings Area Transit Authority, Brookings, SD

Gaven is attending SDSU for Advertising/Marketing & Global Studies. He uses public transit daily to get to class and home is happy to hear SDSU has finally approved a campus transit plan. Gaven’s mother, Brenda Schweitzer, is an employee of Brookings Area Transit Authority.



A very sincere thank you to Denny Hebner for this fantastic opportunity. Also, thank you to Lisa Johnson, Prairie Hills Transit and Gayle Kludt, People’s Transit, for judging.

AWARDS REMINDER

The 2019 Award Letter and Nomination Forms were sent out in March. I hope each of you are working diligently on finalizing your forms.

We have a multitude of wonderful transit employees out there to pick from. I am anxiously awaiting to read what you have written.

*Thought for the
Month of May...*

"I am enough."

DTA
Dakota Transit
Association

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Thanks to all!

- Jacque

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