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## Dakota Transit Association's Fall Rodeo and Conference

### Watertown, SD

September 12 through September 15, 2020

Ramkota Hotel and Watertown Event Center

605-886-8011

## River City Heroes

Ron Baumgart, Transit Director

River Cities Public Transit - Pierre, SD

I'm sure any one of the Directors of public transit in the Dakota Transit Association could share the same observations that I will share. In my life time, I have never experienced anything like the COVID-19 virus that has changed everyone's world.

Through all of this, transits have adapted and, in most cases, kept service available to our many customers that need our services to access their needs.



None of this would have been possible without our dedicated employees who are certainly "Heroes of Public Transit". Their dedication and perseverance through these challenging times has proved to be invaluable to our public transits. So again, thanks so much to our "Heroes of Public Transit"

## **BIS-MAN Transit**

Deidre Hughes, Executive Director

Bis-Man Transit - Bismarck, ND



New Salem, North Dakota native Deidre Hughes has been selected by the Bis-Man Transit Board of Directors to be the agency's new Executive Director.

Hughes currently serves as the Marketing and Administrative Manager for Bis-Man Transit. In her current position, she has played an integral role in Transit's response to COVID-19, as well as community outreach, budgeting, route alterations, customer service, marketing and mobility management.

Prior to her role at Bis-Man Transit, Hughes worked with AT&T Mobility as a Retail Store Manager as well as Precision Roadway Services as a Traffic Safety Controller. Hughes stated, "One of my biggest focuses with public transportation in the community is to reassess the current fixed routes and work with existing riders, operators, and staff to create new routes that will increase ridership." She also will be working to integrate more usable and reliable technology for both paratransit and fixed route riders.

When asked about the selection, Glenn Lauinger, Bis-Man Transit Board Member and acting director stated, "I have had the pleasure of working with Deidre Hughes. I believe she will be an outstanding Transit Director. Under Deidre's leadership, I see a bright future for public transportation in our community."

Hughes has attended public transportation classes with the Community Transportation Association of America and the Federal Transit Administration. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Marketing and an Associate in Applied Science. Hughes is to begin her new position on July 1, 2020.

## **2020 DTA Annual Awards**

Jacque Senger, DTA Executive Director

The Annual Award Nominations Forms for the 2020 DTA Fall Conference are on the website. The due date for the forms is listed as July 1<sup>st</sup>, however due to COVID-19 and all the uncertainty we have all been going through, the due date has been extended. Please get your awards into me by the 15<sup>th</sup> of July.

Remember, you all have some incredible staff to honor.

Thank you.

**DATE EXTENSION**  
**New Deadline - June 18, 2020**  
**Randy Hartman's At-Large Position**  
Jacque Senger, DTA Executive Director

I sent the notice below to all the DTA membership on June 3, 2020. As stated in the original email, I asked for anyone interested in filling Randy Hartman's position to contact me by the 15<sup>th</sup> of June. DTA has extended that deadline to the 18<sup>th</sup> of June enabling us to put this information in the Transit Tidbit.



**DTA ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Randy Hartman is retiring from Sioux Area Metro as of June 30, 2020. Randy is the at-large member whose term expires in 2021. Randy will remain on the board until the conference, at which time, the board of directors will appoint his successor. The at-large position can be filled from either ND or SD.

The By-Laws state, "Any vacancy occurring on the governing board shall be filled by the Board of Directors majority vote. A director appointed to fill a vacancy shall be appointed for the unexpired term of their predecessor in office". This individual will be taking over the at-large position at the 2020 DTA Conference.

If anyone is interested in filling the rest of Randy's term please send your name to Jacque by June 15, 2020. Keep in mind, your agency needs to be a current member of DTA.

Ali Rood's (ND) and Kathy Holman's (SD) terms expire as DTA board members this year (2020). Ali has filled her 2-term commitment and can't run again. Kathy has indicated that she is willing to except another term as a board member if she is nominated and elected.

If you are interested, or if you know who may be interested in either open position, please nominate them at the scheduled annual meeting.

## Training Update - Linda Freeman, PASS Coordinator

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

As you are all aware, we have had to postpone the **Spearfish** and **Valley City** classes because of the Coronavirus. We will be rescheduling these classes when we are able. As of now, the other classes are still on our schedule.

**Spearfish** - Postponed until a later date  
**Valley City** - Postponed until a later date

### **Pierre**

**Tuesday, June 23, 2020-Thursday, June 25, 2020**

Full PASS, PASS Recertification being offered June 23-24

Defensive Driving will be offered on the 25th if needed

Trainers will be Adam Sharkey and Andy Sharp. Hotel information will be on the DTA web site and in the tidbits at a later date.

NOTE: Deadline for registration is June 15 so please register immediately on the web site.

### **Dickinson**

**Thursday, July 23-Saturday, July 25, 2020**

Full PASS, PASS Recertification, Defensive Driving, and Maltreatment Awareness being offered.

PASS—July 23 & 24 from 9 am to 5:00 pm

PASS Recertification—July 24 from 9 am to 5:00 pm

Maltreatment Awareness—July 25 from 8am to 11am.

Defensive Driving—July 25 from 11 am to 3pm

*Hotel Information:* Comfort Inn of Dickinson— 493 Elk Drive. Phone-701-264-7300. You will need to call to make your reservation under the Dakota Transit Association Block to get state rates. Block is set up for nights of July 22, 23 & 24th. Deadline for motel reservation is July 10th.

### **Aberdeen**

**Monday, December 28-Tuesday, December 29, 2020**

Full PASS and PASS Recertification offered

PASS—December 28 & 29 from 9am to 5pm

PASS Recertification—December 29 from 9am to 5pm

Hotel information and class location to be determined at a later date.

***Other Proposed Classes that have not been scheduled for certain yet:***

**Brookings** Late July—PASS & PASS Recertification

**Bismarck** Early October—All 3 classes

Other classes besides those scheduled and proposed can be arranged by contacting Linda by phone or e-mail.

Keep safe and kudos to you for providing your services during this hard time!

# DTA Update

Brian Horinka, DTA President

Minot, ND

I just want to take a few minutes to let all of our DTA membership know what has been going on in preparation for this year's conference in Watertown, SD, amidst what is seeming to become "the new normal".

Your board of directors has been meeting via Zoom on a monthly basis and having many phone and email conversations in regards to the fate of this year's conference. We have spent hours debating all of our options and what is best for our members and our organization.

After sending out a survey monkey to our members and reaching out to our faithful vendor partners, we have decided that we will continue preparations for what should be a great show in Watertown! We are working to make sure that all suggested measures for our member's safety will be in place.

That being said, we are still monitoring the COVID-19 situation closely and will make any future changes to our decision based on the best information available. The tentative agenda is on the website and all of the registration forms will be available on the website very soon.

Please send your registrations in as soon as possible so that we can plan for an accurate number of attendees. I also want to assure you, if due to changes in this situation we decide that the conference will be cancelled, all registration fees will be returned to you.

I am sure through all of this pandemic there has been many of our employees and community members that have really stepped up to keep our systems operational so please get those award nominations submitted for those deserving individuals!

Please stay safe and I hope to see everyone in Watertown!



## *Thought for the Month of June...*

*“When you can’t control what’s happening, challenge yourself to control the way you are responding to what’s happening. That’s where the power is.”*



**Jacque Senger  
DTA Executive Director**

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

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

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


### **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](http://www.dakotatransit.org)