



TRANSIT TIDBITS

Issue 114

June 2021

Souris Basin Has A New Building

Darrell Francis, Executive Director
Souris Basin Transit - Minot, ND

Hallelujah! We have finally set a date for our open house and 41 plus years of transit service in our region. We are hoping that we can share with everyone, far and near, on our mission to provide a much-needed service to the public. Let us review how this bus ride developed.

1. 2009-ARRA funding was approved for the new building.
2. 2011-Start of construction after a long process of bidding (twice).
3. 2011-Flood hit us, 5 feet of water on the original downtown center and the new building started construction in March. The flood in June, which was a great distance of 4 blocks from the new site, was high and dry.
4. 2011-December 13 we moved into the new facility.

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Building

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5. 2016-December the City of Minot informed us they needed the old downtown facility for dike work. Beginning of the process began of adding on to the 2011 building which we planned to do eventually in 10 years, not 5.
6. 2017-Started the long process of government approval, appraisal, engineering/architect interviews, bidding, material delays which brings us to October of 2018 of bid approval and start of construction. This doubled the original building of 2011 to 20,200 square feet.
7. 2019-October we were still not totally completed but tried to do an open house however it was too wet to finish up the lot. We plan for a 2020 open house.
8. 2020-March Mr. Covid showed up and we had to cancel everything.
9. 2021-April we started planning for another open house and anniversary celebration which brings us to June 24, 2021. Here we are!!! Everyone is welcomed. My last open house. (Ha Ha)



I want to thank the DOT and FTA for all their assistance, funding and guidance in making this possible. Also, a big thank you to EAPC, Rolac Construction, our employees and board members in making this project a successful step forward in the efforts to increase transportation in our state and region.

As for the 42nd Anniversary date next month and being part of Souris Basin Transportation 41 of the 42 years, I want to thank all the board members, volunteers and employees who have



served, riders who made our system bigger and better, and all the federal, state, local government, transit agencies, special interest groups, donors and local agencies who have made transportation throughout our state a safe and reliable service for everyone.

Dakota Transit Association Fall Conference

Jacque Senger, DTA Executive Director

94 days and counting.....

We will all be reunited at the Marriott Delta Hotel in Fargo, ND for our annual conference. Your Board of Directors have picked some interesting topics/speakers for the event. The agenda is online along with the registration forms.

We just have a few more items to tweak and then the word Tentative can be removed.

Remember our dates are September 18th through the 21st.

I need to stress that you can phone in your reservations at 701-277-9000, however, the Marriott has asked me to strongly encourage you to use the link which is found on the bottom of all the registration forms. This will take you directly to the Marriott Delta.



DTA Award Nominations for Fall Conference

Jacque Senger, DTA Executive Director

The DTA Award Nomination forms are on the website. Remember they are due on July 1, 2021. I am sure each office has someone deserving of an award.

Old And New Faces In The Fargo Office

Julie Bommelman
City of Fargo MATBUS - Fargo, ND



Matt Peterson

Recently, Matt Peterson, Fargo's Assistant Transit Director left our organization to move on with a new career path. Many of you knew Matt and I am sure you wish him well in his next endeavor.

We have a new Assistant Transit Director in Fargo, Cole Swingen. Cole has been with us for about three years and will no doubt do a wonderful job taking over the role of the Assistant Transit Director. Join us in welcoming Cole to our administrative staff.



Cole Swingen

SAM General Manager Sioux Area Metro - Sioux Falls, SD

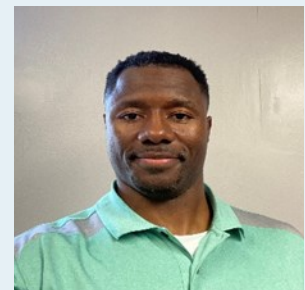
Education: University of Sioux Falls Graduate
Major: Bachelor of Arts/Business Administration/Management/
General

My position in the Transit industry started year 2015. The ultimate goal was to become part of Transit Management at Sioux Area Metro. Living in the community for 25 years, coaching youth sports for 13- years, create a curiosity vision for public work.

Starting out in Management at Sioux Area Metro as an Operations Manager, my goals for potential advancement with the company expanded, as I was able to learn this position without an active trainer. This generated high level confidence to train new employees for Commercial Driver's License pre-trip inspection/ road testing, as a substitute for the former Assistant General Manager Randy Hartman. Having success with training new SAM drivers, presented more confidence for me to pursue the AGM position opening.



I was hired for this position in 2017. I remained in this position for three years prior to the General Manager position opening, which I decided to apply for. At the time, I believed in my abilities to manage and lead affectively, based on my previous success with the SAM management team. It is with great pleasure, that I can respectfully claim happy and proud to be General Manager for Sioux Area Metro.



Robert Speeks

Training Update

Linda Freeman (701) 848-6480

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We have rescheduled the classes at **Bowman** for July 26 and July 27, 2021.

Day 1 of PASS will be held from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm on July 26. Defensive Driving will begin at 2:00 pm on July 26th until 5:30 pm.

Day 2 of PASS along with PASS Recertification will run from 8:00am to about 4:30 pm on July 27th.

Registration deadline is July 10, 2021. Please make your own room reservations at one of the hotels in Bowman.

We have also set up training at the college campus in **Ft. Yates** for August 26-27, 2021.

Day 1 of PASS will be held from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm on August 26. Defensive Driving will begin at 2:00 pm on August 26th until 5:30 pm.

Day 2 of PASS along with PASS Recertification will run from 8:00am to about 4:30 pm on August 27th.

Registration deadline is August 10, 2021. Prairie Knights Casino is available for rooms, but we are asking you to make your own reservations. Phone number is 701-854-7777.

We have classes set up in **Dickinson** for October 8th and 9th as follows:

PASS: Friday, October 8 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm and Saturday, October 9 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING: October 8 from 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm.

PASS RECERTIFICATION: October 9th from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Registration deadline for all classes is September 27th. All classes to be held at Dickinson Public Transit-361 26th St. East in Dickinson. A block of rooms at state rates has been set up under the name Dakota Transit Association for the nights of October 7 & 8, 2021 at the Dickinson Comfort Inn. Call 701-264-7300 by September 20th to make reservations under the block.

Please register for these classes by sending an email to Linda with names of attendees and which classes they will be taking.

IMPORTANT: Please contact me via phone or email if you would like to host a class during 2021. Thank You!

Keep in mind that your PASS certifications are now only good for two years rather than three years. Thanks to all for all you do for others!

Wishing for Water!

Maureen Wegenke
James River Transit - Jamestown, ND

Here at James River Public Transit, we have a very nice “Bus Barn” where we have been storing our vehicles since 2003. Unfortunately, we do not have any plumbing. No water to wash buses, no water to clean interiors...but most importantly...NO BATHROOMS!



We have decided that we would rather not rely on grant funding, nor do we want to take out a loan. So, the alternative is to roll up our sleeves and get to work fund raising. And that is just what we have started to do. The response from the staff, businesses and the public has been wonderful!



Our first venture was a raffle that we coordinated with our local “Club 1883’s” (formally the K.C.’s) Bingo Night. Local businesses donated many prizes for the raffles and others donated money for meat bundles to be raffled off. There was a wonderful turnout and fun was had by all.

We are also selling, like many of you, advertising on our vehicles for this project. With our staffing shortage, all of this has been a challenge but with the wonderful employees & community that we do have, I believe we will achieve our goal. Just wanted to give those of you that have challenges out there hope that it can be done. We may not be there yet, but we will make it!



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

Thought for the month of June 2021

Today Only Happens Once

Make it Amazing



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DTA Executive Director

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