



IN THIS ISSUE:

Kidder Emmons Seniors	Page: 1
Dakota Transit Association	Page: 1 & 2
West River Transit	Page: 2
Goodbye to a Driver	Pages: 2 & 3
Services Offered (ROCS)	Page: 4

TRANSIT TIDBITS

Issue 125

June 2022

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2022

**“The Most Wasted of Days Is One
Without Laughter”**

Kidder Emmons Senior Services/Kidder County

Renee Price, Director
Steele, ND



It is finally Spring!!!

The farmers are in the fields sowing seeds where its dry (love all the moisture) and

livestock are being moved to greener pastures (green and lush compared to last year).

And its construction season!

Our transit services are running a bit earlier and returning a little later on their scheduled routes due to construction on the major highways that we utilize to transport clients. I must admit the drive is much smoother and quieter with the completion of each mile and is cosmetically fresh with a new coat.

The best news is that the 2022 Ford E450 Super Duty Cutaway we ordered in February of 2022 was delivered in November. We weren't expecting it that early. What a surprise!!

Ridership is picking up some and with higher gas prices, I hope more citizens hop the bus.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Dakota Transit Association

Jacque Senger, Executive Director

Your Dakota Transit Board of Directors will be meeting in Aberdeen, SD, June 20-21 preparing for our upcoming DTA

Conference. Remember the dates are September 16th through September 20th.

We have a great line-up of speakers you won't want to miss. Hopefully each of the transit agencies in both North Dakota and South Dakota will have the opportunity to participate this year.

We have 11 SD transit agencies, 25 ND transit agencies and 6 associate members who have renewed their 2022 DTA Memberships. Thank you all for your continued support.

To date, I have not received any applications for the 5 award categories that are presented at the DTA Conference. I am hoping that you are all going to send in your nominations at the same time and load my desk. Please remember that your support staff are very valuable individuals. Now is the time to recognize them.

**WEST RIVER TRANSIT
RECEIVES 3 NEW 2022
CHRYSLER VOYAGERS LX!!!**

Carol Anderson, Director
West River Transit
Bismarck, ND

Through all the delays of transit vehicles, we are thrilled to have delivery of all 3 of our new vans. The delays of our transit vehicles and parts is a difficult wait for many agencies, currently WRT is still waiting on several buses. We all know that

continued maintenance on older vehicles and breakdowns is part of our world, but we usually plan when to replace vehicles and have a good handle on arrival. And doing the costly repairs on vehicles which were to be sold or taken out of service, is hard to deal with, not just the time and waiting, but the financial side is the most frustrating!! So, when WRT received the news, "your vans are on their way", it was such a relief!

Thank you, Harlow's.



**GOODBYE TO A DRIVER WHO
WAS AND IS ONE OF A KIND**

Terry Hoffman, Co-Director
Community Transit of Watertown-Sisseton,
Inc.
Watertown, SD

When the calendar flips from June to July in a few weeks, public transit riders in Watertown, SD will say goodbye to one of their favorite drivers. Dave Hoas, a life-long resident of the city and an 11-year veteran of public transit, will essentially step down from his duties, leaving a sea of fans and memories in his wake. The "Magic Man" will remain available for spot duty and some training opportunities, but his daily duties will come to an end.

"I loved my time here and I will miss the people, especially the seniors and the kids, they made this job

what it is,” said Hoas. “Meeting people and building relationships is what makes transit so special.”

Following his retirement from the Watertown Police Department as its’ Animal Control Officer, Hoas joined Watertown Area Transit in 2011 as a part-time driver, which quickly led to him being elevated to full-time status. He has always been known for his friendly, happy demeanor, willingness to go above and beyond what the job dictated and the endless string of magic tricks with which he entertained young and old who rode his bus. “The magic was always fun and it didn’t really matter if it was kids or not, but they loved it,” said Hoas. “It was a way to break the ice and make people relax if they were nervous about riding.”

Training new employees, providing safety tips at company meetings, educating passengers on the ways of public transit were also part of his duties during his time at the transit office. Most of the drivers in Watertown received some or all of their tutelage from Hoas before performing driver duties on their own.

“We’re just at a point in our lives where we want to relax, enjoy life and each other a bit more,” said Hoas. “I’ll be available if they get in a bind, if a veteran needs a ride or maybe for training purposes.” Prior to CTWSI’s consolidation in 2019, drivers and vehicles in Watertown were not as readily available. Drivers put in longer hours and the workload was higher than it should have been, but the demand dictated the numbers. Efficiencies in routing, adding more drivers at key time slots and having more vehicles to work with are positive changes he has seen.

“When I started, we had maybe six buses and were averaging about double the trips we individually are today,” he said. “Today we move a lot more people, but more resources have made the service more efficient and easier for everyone.”

Another duty Hoas was saddled with in the early days was driving the Trolley – a duty he enjoyed for a variety of reasons. While the novelty of the Trolley was in theory a selling point for those locations operating the vehicles, the lack of ridership doomed it from the beginning in Watertown.

“I enjoyed it simply for meeting people from other communities and educating them about our city,” said Hoas. “I loved telling riders about the Mellette House or other unique facts about the city. If I didn’t know the answer, I would try to research it and get them the answer. I learned a lot about the history here.”

Hoas will be missed by the riders of the transit and by his peers. He was a source of information for fellow transit workers, no matter the subject. During his time with WATI and now CTWSI he was named the 2015 Dakota Transit Association’s Driver of the Year for South Dakota.



SERVICES OFFERED

Rural Office of Community Services, Inc.
 Scott Finck, Director
 Wagner, SD

ROCS PARKSTON TRANSIT
 Providing affordable & accessible public transportation services to Hutchinson County.

Call 24hrs ahead to schedule a ride!
(605) 481-8829

Service operating from
**8A - 4:30P
 MON-FRI**

\$2 One-way in town trip
Call for rates of longer trips

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE | MEDICAID ACCEPTED | BRIDGES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

www.rocsinc.org | 1-800-545-5329

GENERAL INFO

Call your local ROCS Transit 24 hrs. in advance to schedule a ride.
 Rates listed are for one-way in town trips, give us a call for out of town rates.
 Ages 60+ ride at no cost, however free will donations are accepted.
 Children ages 4 and under must be accompanied by an adult.



ROCS TRANSIT LOCATIONS

AURORA COUNTY TRANSIT	\$2 - (605) 770-6026
BERESFORD - ALCESTER TRANSIT	\$2 - (605) 366-7360
BRANDON CITY TRANSIT (managed by ROCS)	\$2 - (605) 582-3553
CANTON TRANSIT	\$2 - (605) 764-0760
BRULE - LYMAN COUNTY TRANSIT	\$2 - (605) 730-1436
KINGSBURY COUNTY TRANSIT	\$1 - (605) 830-1676
EAST DAKOTA TRANSIT (managed by ROCS)	\$2 - (605) 256-5810
GREGORY TRANSIT	\$2 - (605) 830-7216
HARTFORD AREA TRANSIT	\$2 - (605) 906-1483
MINER COUNTY TRANSIT	\$2 - (605) 480-4194
MOODY COUNTY TRANSIT	\$2 - (605) 864-1499
PARKER TRANSIT	\$2 - (605) 360-4974
PARKSTON TRANSIT	\$2 - (605) 481-8829
UNION COUNTY TRANSIT	\$2 - (605) 481-0017
VIBORG-CENTERVILLE TRANSIT	\$2 - (605) 366-7361
WAGNER TRANSIT	\$2 - (605) 481-8548
WESSINGTON SPRINGS TRANSIT	\$2 - (605) 539-1945
WINNER TRANSIT	\$2.50 - (605) 842-5633

ROCS TRANSIT

Whatever the riding, we'll take you there!

ROCS Transit provides affordable & accessible transportation services for communities in South Dakota. From medical, educational and professional to social, shopping and personal - we have you covered.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE
 SENIORS (60+) RIDE FREE
 MEDICAID ACCEPTED
 CURB TO CURB TRIPS

ANYONE CAN RIDE!

WWW.ROCSINC.ORG / 1-800-545-5329

Tidbit Articles:

Please contact me with articles for your agency.

Recycle:

Please share your Transit Tidbit with your staff and any interested persons.

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!



Jacquie Senger, Executive Director, DTA

WWW.dakotatransit.org

jacquelinesenger@gondtc.com

cell number 701-740-8894