



TRANSIT TIDBITS

Issue 126
July 2022

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2022

Work Hard in Silence...
Let Your Success be your
Noise

Dakota Transit Association
Jacque Senger, Executive Director

I hope you are all setting aside a little free time to enjoy the wonderful summer weather.

Our September 2022 Conference in Aberdeen, SD is coming together nicely. We have a lot of great topics and speakers.

The registration forms are on the website. Please fill them out as soon as possible. It gives the Board a better handle on the final tweaking process.

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People's Transit's PT Passport
Gayle Kludt, Director
People's Transit
Huron, SD

It was the spring of 2018, and we had learned that some transit agencies in South Dakota had a version of a "one price, unlimited rides" pass for youth in their communities. Aberdeen Rideline, Yankton, Vermillion, and Prairie Hills Transit have their

Summer Pass programs, Community Transit of Watertown/Sisseton has their Dog Tag program, and Brookings Area Transit has their Dog Days program.

Our focus was to increase ridership during the summer months and provide an affordable option for parents to get their kiddos to and from summer programs, Splash Central, or any other destinations of their choosing. Not needing to reinvent the wheel, we piggy backed off the ideas of other transit agencies and the PT Passport was born. For the one-time fee of \$60 for the months of June, July and August parents could purchase an unlimited ride passport for their kids.

The summer of 2018 started out with a contract for 27 PT Passports with the City of Huron Parks & Recreation Department to provide transportation for their campers to and from the lunch program and any other field trips they would schedule. We sold an additional 18 single PT Passports that summer. In 2019 the Parks & Recreation Department purchased 33 PT Passports and 24 singles were sold. One thing we did learn after the first year was there were no consequences for no shows. In 2019, if a child was a no show the parents were required to pay the cost of a single ride, \$2.50. The cancellation calls came in after that!

We all know what happened, or didn't happen, in 2020. Huron Parks & Recreation did not have any programming that summer. However, for some odd reason we squeaked in one single PT Passport that summer. Who da think?

Things ramped up again in 2021. We pushed the PT Passport program on FaceBook and sent flyers home to all elementary school students. We had the information translated into two other languages, Spanish and Karen, because of our diverse population. We also expanded our PT Passport to include the three-mile radius around the City of Huron. That PT Passport was offered for \$100. With 42 PT Passports sold to Huron Parks & Recreation and 18 singles sold, we felt the PT Passport had been revived.

So, 2022 has been "off the charts" for us with the PT Passport. Of course, Huron Parks & Recreation

purchased 36. What has been a pleasant surprise is the 50 single passports we have sold! We are 11 days into the summer and have already provided 925 PT Passport rides.

We all love numbers, ridership, money. But the true success of any summer youth program is being able to provide safe and affordable transportation to kiddos so they can participate in the things they like to do and the parents can know their kiddos are using a dependable transit system.

New Venture **Pat Hejlik** **Devils Lake Transit** **Devils Lake, ND**



RETIREMENT

It is with mixed emotions that I have retired from Devils Lake Transit. I have enjoyed meeting, working and traveling with the wonderful people of transit.

I am working on my new career challenge. I am taking classes for sewing machine repair. I have always enjoyed sewing and creating things. I also work part-time at Cenex in Lakota. If anyone is driving by Lakota, please stop in and say hi.

TRAINING UPDATE

Contact Information

Linda Freeman 701-848-6480

lindaafreeman1@gmail.com

A big thanks to Andy Sharp with assistance from Eric Peterson for doing the classes in Aberdeen! Reports said the classes were great!

We are setting up a set of classes to be held in Dickinson on October 6th and 7th, 2022. Classes will be held as follows:

October 6—PASS 8am to 2pm, (Day 1)

October 6—Defensive Driving 2pm to 5pm

October 7—PASS (Day 2) 8am to 4pm

October 7—PASS Recertification 8am to 4pm

TO REGISTER: Please email Linda Freeman at above email address with names of those attending and which classes each will be attending. Deadline for registration will be September 25, 2022.

If any of you would like to host a class, please contact me.

Keep on doing what you all do so well!

Trolley is a Great Success

Pat Hansen, Director

South Central Adult Services

Valley City, ND

As shown in a previous article, Valley City now has its trolley up and running. The trolley has been a big hit in town. When it was delivered, we had people follow it into town and into our bus parking lot, taking pictures and asking questions. The local newspaper did a front page spread on it and Newsdakota did an interview for the radio and their online program.

Paul Benning from the NDDOT came out on July 7th and went for a ride around town. We took him on the fixed route we started today around Valley City. We will be making stops at many of the housing units in town and running through the downtown area. We have been requested to stop at the museum and the public library as well as local businesses. One of the most frequently asked questions is “Are you going to get another one of these?” It has been very fun and has really drawn attention to public transit in our area.

We plan to bring the trolley to Aberdeen for the DTA Conference so people can take a look at it.



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