



## TRANSIT TIDBITS

Issue 138 August 2023

### THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH AUGUST 202

Nothing will work unless you do!

**FYI: Remember your 2023 DTA  
Registration Forms are due August  
15<sup>th</sup> ....**

### **A \$584,600.00 TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Developed by River Cities Public  
Transit

Gary Hegland  
Grant writer for RCPT

River Cities Public Transit (RCPT) has been awarded \$527,000 to create a transit development plan for federally recognized Areas of Persistent Poverty (AoPP) in South Dakota. With a 10% local match, this grant will pay for River Cities Public Transit to

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conduct the research necessary to create a transit development plan for Areas of Persistent Poverty in South Dakota. The focus will be the nine Native American Reservations plus other areas of persistent poverty in South Dakota. This project intends to assist the medical, social, employment, and housing transportation needs of all nine Native American Reservations in South Dakota. In addition to the tribal lands, the project will cover areas adjacent to the reservations and elsewhere in the state identified as Areas of Persistent Poverty (AoPP) or historically disadvantaged as identified by the Federal Government.

RCPT will contract with Dr. Jill Hough, Ph.D., Program Director of the Small Urban and Rural Center on Mobility (SURCOM), to assist with the technical aspect of developing a transit development plan appropriate for the nine Native American reservations in SD. The

reservations include Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Crow Creek, Flandreau, Lake Travers, Lower Brule, Pine Ridge, Rosebud, Standing Rock, and Yankton Reservations. The research project will include other areas in the state identified as AoPP.

RCPT is coordinating with Community Transit of Watertown/Sisseton, Inc., Prairie Hills Transit, and Rural Office of Community Services (ROCS) to help with the logistics, identify local services, and serve as a source of ideas and concepts. It will be a great team effort that will benefit many areas in South Dakota.

The statement of work for the project as stated in the grant application:

*“A project to perform research, commingle the data, and develop a Transit Development Plan to serve all Native American Reservations in South Dakota. This may be accomplished with a non-profit entity and/or one-call center to serve the area via a scheduling dispatch software package accessible anywhere in South Dakota.”*

RCPT is excited that the Federal Transit Administration has decided to fund this application/project to conduct this study. RCPT looks forward to coordinating efforts and working with the other agencies involved with this much-needed transit development plan.

## **DAKOTA TRANSIT ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE**

Jacque Senger, Executive Director

The Sleep Inn and Suites in Minot, ND, will be hosting our DTA Conference from September 15<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Their phone number is 701-837-3100---when phoning in to make your reservations, let them know you are a part of DTA. Remember, the hotel is holding our rooms until August 18<sup>th</sup>. Don't miss out.....

### **TRAINING UPDATE**

Contact Information

Rod Grafing 701-840-1405  
[rod@southcentralseniors.org](mailto:rod@southcentralseniors.org)

"Even if you are on the right track, you will get run over if you just sit there." Will Rogers

PASS training classes were held in Watertown, SD, July 26-27 and Aberdeen, SD, August 7-8. Thanks to Andy Sharp, Eric Peterson and everyone at Community Transit of Watertown/Sisseton and Aberdeen Ride Line for making these classes possible.

PASS classes will be held in Dickinson, ND, the first full week of September. Check the DTA website for actual dates and location. The deadline for registration is Wednesday, August 30. For more information or to register staff/drivers, please contact Rod at the email above.

North Dakota is in need of PASS trainers. If you or someone from your agency is

interested in becoming a certified PASS trainer, please contact Rod at 701-840-1405.

## TWO SEASONS

### WINTER & CONSTRUCTION

Dale Bergman, Division Director  
Cities Area Transit

In North Dakota we always say we have two seasons, winter and construction. Grand Forks is no exception with the numerous roads being redone. At Cities Area Transit construction on the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the building addition remodel has begun. We have holes in the wall and more concrete torn up in the building for new footings and walls. Also we have the new fuel island going together. So, if you think the roads are bad, try working around with construction crews, equipment and new concrete. Another deterrent is finding secure parking at night. Oh well, we live with it, and it should all be enclosed by the end of September. We have been told significant completion will be end of July 2024.



## BUS INSPECTIONS

Stephany Weed, Deputy Director  
People's Transit

Each year we have the South Dakota Highway Patrol (SDHP) perform our annual bus inspections. The process for inspection is strict. This is to ensure the buses remain safe to operate. These inspections are vital to ensuring safe transportation and operation.

Our driver, Andy Cuff, became certified in May 2023 to perform the annual nonprofit inspections for our fleet as well as our local Head Start buses. Andy is originally from Colorado and has background experience from driving a semi-truck for 20 years, being an instructor for CDL drivers, as well as being a transportation driver for seniors & disabled adults. Aside from being a part-time driver for almost a year, he also does our in-house fleet maintenance which helps keep our vehicles in good repair and in line with State DOT requirements.

Our experienced Driver, Doris Mudge, assisted Andy in these inspections. Doris has assisted the SDPH with the bus inspections for the past 4 years. Doris is very thorough and detailed in her inspections. She has been part of our team for almost 6 years and is

responsible for training our new drivers in their daily bus inspections. Doris says she truly enjoys her job here at People's Transit. Doris said, "working with people and establishing relationships while also providing a much-needed service is what she loves most."

We are lucky to have Doris and Andy on our team!

Pictured below is Andy Cuff doing the inspections along with Doris Mudge assisting the process.



**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**

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