



TRANSIT TIDBITS

Issue 154 FEBRUARY 2025

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2025

You will never regret being kind....

**DTA Board Meeting Scheduled
April 10th and 11th
Mobridge, SD**

2025 DTA CONFERENCE

Host City - Jamestown, ND
September 12th through the 17th
Host Hotel – Gladstone Hotel**
****This is a change of the host hotel**
**Rodeo & Conference – Jamestown
Civic Center**

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP FORMS FOR 2025

Your 2025 DTA General Membership dues are due by March 14, 2025. I have received the forms from 20 out of 35 agencies. Please try to meet the deadline.

IN THIS ISSUE

DTA Board Meeting	Page 1
2025 DTA Conference	Page 1
General Membership Forms	Page 1
Transit Day at the Capitol	Page 1-2
Baumgart/Senger	Page 3
Standing Rock	Page 3
First Year Director	Page 3-4
New Arrivals	Page 4
Training Updates	Page 4-5

TRANSIT DAY AT THE CAPITAL

**Terry Hoffman, Co-Executive
Director
Community Transit of
Watertown/Sisseton, Inc.**

Members of the South Dakota Transit Providers Association made their annual trek to the state capital in Pierre in late January. Their mission as always was to tell the story of public transit and lobby the legislators for additional funding.



“Every year, we converge on Pierre and share our stories with the members of the legislature,” said SDTPA president Gayle Kludt. “It provides us with an opportunity to tell our stories to the legislators and friends of transit.”

The event actually lasts much longer than the two days providers spend in Pierre. Letters are drafted and sent by each provider to their local legislators, encouraging them to learn more about transportation in their area and the impact it has on their constituents.

The letters encourage the lawmakers to visit with providers and see displays set up in the halls of the senate and the house on the morning of Jan. 29. Coffee and the always popular “bus cookies” were provided for the legislators. In the afternoon, we were invited back to the capital where we were introduced to both the house and the senate.



The providers hosted a meet-and-greet for all legislators that evening from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the atrium of the Ramkota. The consensus following the event was that the attendance may have been down, but the depth of the conversation and information brought to the table was more beneficial than in past years.

Senator Randy Diebert of District 31 has been working diligently for the providers prior to and during the session. Deibert, chair for the Senate Transportation Committee, spent a great deal of time drumming up support for a bill he intends to introduce to lawmakers.

“Senate Bill 195 would allow for one-time funds which may become available, to be directed to public transit,” said Kludt. “Transit in South Dakota has never had a designated source for funding.”



The proposed bill was slated to be read this week, but was pushed out to Wednesday, Feb. 19. SDPTA lobbyist Eric Erickson, Kludt and fellow transit directors Barb Cline and Megan Gould are scheduled to testify on behalf of the bill.

Transit providers attending the activities in Pierre included Kludt, Cline, Gould, Kathy Holman, Andrea Irwin, Lisa Johnson, Andy Sharp, Terry Hoffman, Rich Krokkel, Jessica Pickett, Janette Kriz, Torin Kalberg and Brenda Schweitzer.



Mesa, Arizona

Ron & Shellie Baumgart (River Cities Public Transit) and Jacque Senger (DTA Executive Director) enjoyed meeting and discussing the beautiful weather.

STANDING ROCK PUBLIC TRANSIT EXPANSION Pam Ternes, Transit Director North and South Dakota

November 2024, Standing Rock Public Transit expanded their services to include Morristown, Watauga and McIntosh, South Dakota. Passengers utilizing the new route can travel directly to and from McLaughlin, South Dakota and Fort Yates, North Dakota. Connecting services are also available to Mobridge, South Dakota and Bismarck/Mandan, North Dakota.

This area of South Dakota has been largely unserved and for the first time, residents from these rural communities will have access to intercity routes

offered by Standing Rock Public Transit, River Cities Public Transit, and Jefferson Lines in North and South Dakota. Passengers are also able to travel to and from Bismarck Municipal Airport.

Standing Rock Public Transit has also updated their fleet with two Dodge Ram vans and one Ford Transit van. The new vans will replace one 2015 14-passenger cutaway bus and two 2015 Dodge Caravan minivans.



FIRST YEAR AS TRANSIT DIRECTOR Cheryl Lyon Senior Meals & Services



Hello, my name is Cheryl Lyon. I began working as the Transit Director for Senior Meals & Services for Ramsey & Eddy County in February of 2024. It's hard to believe that a whole year has already passed. I have learned a great deal about this industry in the

past year. There is a lot involved in running a Transit Agency 😊. Most importantly, I've learned how very important the Transit Agencies are to our communities. Without these agencies, there would be so many people who would not have any means of transportation for so many various reasons, such as work, school, shopping, medical appointments, visiting family and friends, etc. It makes me feel good to know that I am a part of an industry that can assist so many in need of these rides. My first year as the Transit Director has been a rewarding year. I've met so many wonderful people who are passionate and dedicated to their careers. We have compassionate, dedicated and hard-working transit drivers whom I am so grateful to be working side by side with. I look forward to continuing to learn about this amazing industry and continuing to be able to service those within my community.

NEW ARRIVALS
Terry Hoffman, Co-Executive
Director
Community Transit of
Watertown/Sisseton, Inc.



Following a prolonged drought of new vehicles, it seems buses are arriving in South Dakota daily. Of course that's an exaggeration, but four new beauties rolled into up-town Watertown over the course of the past week.

CTWSI received four 12x2 cutaway buses from Foreman Sales last week. They are the first of eight expected buses and a pair of vans.

Community Transit of Watertown/Sisseton, Inc has been limping along with a host of vehicles having outreached the criteria for the State of Good Repair. Three of the aging beasts resided in Watertown and one in Redfield.

"Several cutaways are well beyond their useful life and needed to go," said CTWSI co-Executive Executive Director Terry Hoffman. "The new vehicles will replace those outdated editions, presumably providing our patrons with a smoother, safer ride and eliminating a large chunk of maintenance dollars being used to keep the clunkers on the road."

According to the SDDOT, the influx of vehicles to CTWSI is not over. We are waiting on four Ford Transit buses of varying seating arrangements to arrive. Those vehicles are likely headed to Bowdle, Britton, Milbank and possibly Sisseton. Both types of vehicles are in need across the CTWSI service area as are accessible minivans. Another round of vans is also on the horizon.

The goal is obviously to update our fleet, but also to establish the necessary spare ratio required by the FTA, something CTWSI has not been able to maintain. Continued growth in ridership resulted in vehicles being shared by multiple locations. Ridership increased by 10,000 from FY 23 to FY24.

"We need to update and build that ratio at the same time," said co-Executive Director Kathy Holman. "We have a couple floaters, but they have become part of the regular rotation."

TRAINING UPDATE
Contact Information
Rod Grafig 701-845-4300
rod@southcentralseniors.org

We have two potential upcoming PASS training opportunities. One in NE North Dakota in late

March or early April and the other in SW North Dakota in June of this year. Final locations for these classes have not yet been determined.

Updates will be available on the DTA website as soon as they are available. If you have drivers you'd like to register or questions about either of these classes, please contact me.

Are you or someone from your agency interested in becoming a PASS trainer? CTAA now offers PASS - Train the Trainer certification 100% online. It's never been easier to become a PASS trainer. Please contact Rod for more info.

If you have drivers/staff in need of training or re-certification and would like to inquire about or schedule a class, please contact Rod using the information listed above.

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