



TRANSIT TIDBITS

Issue 155 MARCH 2025

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2025

If you have the power to make
someone happy, do it. The World
needs more of that!

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP FORMS FOR 2025

If you have not sent in your 2025 DTA
General Membership form yet, please do so.
I have received 24 renewals out of 35 agencies.

DTA BOARD MEETING April 10th and 11th Mobridge, SD

TRAINING UPDATE

Contact Information

Rod Graffing 701-845-4300

rod@southcentralseniors.org

PASS training will be held in Aberdeen, SD, the first part of May. The deadline for registration is Friday, May 2nd. PASS training classes will be held in Bowman, ND, June 16th & 17th. The deadline for registration for this class is Monday, June 2nd. For more information or to register for these classes, please contact Rod.

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.

2025 DTA CONFERENCE September 12th through the 17th Jamestown, ND

The Gladstone Inn & Suites is our host hotel – Phone number of the hotel is 701-252-0700. Our room rate is \$135.00 plus \$13.50 tax.

Jamestown Civic Center is our host for the rodeo and all conference activities.

The DTA Registration Form is on the website.

SELLING TRANSIT VEHICLES GOVDEALS

Carol Anderson, Director

West River Transit

Hello Transit providers, as you all have dealt with for the past couple years with waiting to receive your new transit vehicles, we are excited to report we have received all the vehicles that have been on order for the past couple years.

Our job now has been to remove vehicles from our fleet. WRT has had 6 vehicles to sell, and are utilizing GovDeals, as most of you have done the same. Placing these vehicles on auction with GovDeals has been working very well for WRT. We have sold all 6 vehicles since November 2024, with only one vehicle being slightly delayed. The bidder had to pull out due to a personal issue. Luckily we were able to secure the prior bidder, which went smoothly.

WRT has utilized GovDeals for multiple years and we have been very happy with the process. The site is very user friendly and if we have had any problems, they are very helpful.





If any of you would like to know more about GovDeals and how to place your vehicles on the site, I would be happy to assist in walking you through the process.

Have a happy spring and best to all of our transit families throughout North & South Dakota!

2025 DTA AWARDS

An email was sent out on March 10th to the General Membership with the Awards Nomination Forms for the 2025 DTA Conference . These forms are now on the DTA Website.

However, if you did not receive the email, please contact me so I can change your email address.



CTAA Leadership Academy 2025 Amanda Barlow, Jennifer Boehm, Dioane Gates

**Jennifer Boehm, Assistant Director
Community Transit of
Watertown/Sisseton, Inc.**

I just returned from an amazing experience in Washington D.C. as part of the CTAA Leadership Academy. The training itself was enjoyable, which I know is a rarity. There was a mix of just enough humor to keep us going and small group work which made us view problems in different ways.

Before going to DC, all attendees were asked to write up a 'Leadership Challenge' to use during the week that we would discuss and analyze with other attendees. The challenge had to be adaptive, which means that a person should understand both the problem and a solution, engagement of stakeholders and experimentation. I'm sure you are thinking that if I know the solution, why do I need to do anything else? Well, the trick with an adaptive challenge is that it requires buy-in from stakeholders who have a difference of opinion to the point where they aren't willing

to think about it from any other point of view but their own. Your job as the leader is to bridge the gap between stakeholders. This seems like such a commonsense thing and yet it is one of the most difficult tasks to do. People may not trust each other, but if they can trust the process, then issues can be worked on.

There was also an opportunity to meet members of congress though a “Legislative Fly-In” This event involved transit professionals from around the nation. They met and discussed transportation issues that congress can do something about. The South Dakota team included me, Barb Cline (Prairie Hills Transit in Spearfish); Megan Gould-Stabile (Rapid Transit System in Rapid City; Andy Sharp & Shawna Sengelmann (River Cities Public Transit of Pierre. We met with staff of Senators John Thune and Mike Rounds and Representative Dusty Johnson, discussing concerns we hoped these lawmakers would be able to influence their colleagues on.



Networking opportunities are always important and there was no shortage of that. These events afforded me the opportunity to meet other ELA members from Alaska, Utah, Michigan, Maine, Maryland, California, Texas & New Hampshire. We played miniature golf inside a beautiful building in

downtown DC, tried an escape room, ate dinner at independent restaurants featuring local specialties and visited several of the monuments. While uber, taxis and trains were all options to travel around DC were available, we found walking the most beneficial. I know I had over 20,000 steps for two different days because there was so much to see. While there wasn't enough time to tour the museums in their entirety, several members of our group tried. I know that one pair toured the monuments via rickshaw at night and got fabulous photos of the monuments all lit up.

Overall, the first week of March was great. I have learned so much about working through challenges as a team, making friends I can bounce ideas off and touring our nation's capital. I would highly recommend taking this Leadership Academy for anyone looking to improve their skills as a transit leader. Whether you have been in transit for 30 years or six months, everyone can learn new ways to do things.

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!



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**Submitted by Terry Hoffman, Co-Director
CTWSI**

The Watertown Area Community Foundation (WACF) and KXLG Radio have partnered to bring a new nonprofit marketing program, *Local Roots – Growing Awareness & Connecting Community*, to area nonprofits. Community Transit of Watertown/Sisseton, Inc. was recently a beneficiary of this program.

Each month, one area nonprofit is selected by Local Roots. The program is complimentary. To be eligible, area nonprofits must have received funding from the Foundation in 2023 or 2024. The Watertown branch of CTWSI has received numerous grants from the WACF overtime. They have received matching funds for vehicles, funds to purchase protective barriers inside the vehicles during the Covid-19 pandemic, a grant to assist with the purchase of security cameras in vehicles and smaller local grants used to provide transportation to various programs in the community.

“An important part of our mission at the Foundation is to strengthen connections between our nonprofit organizations and our community members,” shared WACF Communications Director Kristen Henderson. “Our goal with Local Roots is to provide more opportunities for our nonprofits to share their story with our community. These organizations do so much to create a safe, healthy, and vibrant Watertown for us all.”

CTWSI was selected as the Local Roots non-profit organization for the month of February. The idea for Local Roots was sparked during a conversation between Henderson and KXLG Radio Station Owner Melissa Herrboldt. A few brainstorming sessions later Local Roots was born. Organizations selected for Local Roots receive 56 radio ads, three live interviews, two social media posts, and a spotlight in the WACF newsletter.

“Being chosen the monthly non-profit has been vey beneficial to Community Transit,” said Co-Executive Director Terry Hoffman. “We have always enjoyed working with the foundation and the radio station.”

Community Transit, KXLG and the WACF were already working together on projects when the Local Roots announcement was made. The foundation had awarded \$23,000 local match for the purchase of a new cutaway bus and transit was working with the radio station on an advertising package at the Watertown Area Winter Farm Show.

“We usually connect with KXLG for the Farm Show and get a couple live interviews and a series of ads to help promote our presence at the event,” said Hoffman. “We received a grant last year from the foundation to pay the required local match on three vehicles. We received one of those in that time frame as well.”

SENATE BILL 195 Submitted by Terry Hoffman, Co-Director CTWSI



Senate Bill 195 was tabled by a 13-4 in the Joint Committee on Appropriations on February 26 following testimony from opponents and proponents on the bill.

Sponsored by Senator Randy Deibert, the bill would have assisted transit providers in the event there is some one-time funding available. The bill, as amended, would allocate \$825,000 from the general fund to the Department of Transportation, for grants and loans for the future ridership demands of public transit. The following is a history of the bill.

- Referred to Senate Transportation (expected to be heard on Wednesday, February 12th). From Senate Transportation it should be referred to appropriations.
- Referred to Joint Committee on Appropriations as amended, with a DO PASS recommendation, passed 5-1. The following testified at the committee hearing:
 - Presented by: Senator Randy Deibert
 - Proponents:
 - Eric Erickson, South Dakota Transit Providers
 - Gayle Kludt, Self, Huron
 - Barb Cline, Self, Spearfish
 - Megan Gould-Stabile, Self, Rapid City
 - Daniel P. Cross, Community Support Providers of South Dakota, Spearfish
 - Erik Nelson, AARP South Dakota, Sioux Falls
 - Sara Rankin, South Dakota Municipal League, Fort Pierre
 - Senator Glen Vilhauer
 - Opponents: Brandy Miesner, Bureau of Finance and Management
- The Joint Appropriations Committee Hearing was held on February 26th with the following testifying:
 - Presented by: Senator Randy Deibert
 - Proponents:
 - Eric Erickson, South Dakota Transit Providers
 - Barb Cline, Self, Spearfish
 - Gayle Kludt, Self, Huron
 - Megan Gould-Stabile, Self, Rapid City
 - Erik Nelson, AARP South Dakota,
 - Samuel J. Nelson, South Dakota Municipal League
 - Daniel P. Cross, Community Support Providers of South Dakota
 - Opponents: Brandy Miesner, Bureau of Finance and Management
- Joint Committee on Appropriations Tabled 13-4

