



## TRANSIT TIDBITS

Issue 160 August 2025

### THOUGHT FOR AUGUST 2025

**Be happy. Not because everything is good, but because you can see the good in everything.**

### THE 2025 DTA CONFERENCE

**(change of hotel in Jamestown)**

Our 2025 DTA CONFERENCE will be held September 12<sup>th</sup> thru September 17<sup>th</sup>)

Host City – Jamestown, ND

**Host Hotel – Hampton Inn & Suites**

**Phone - 701-952-6500**

Roadeo and Conference will be held at the Jamestown Civic Center

(If the Hampton Inn is full, call the Fairfield Inn. I just secure 10 rooms today—phone # 701-952-6300-they are listed under DTA) We have them until the 20<sup>th</sup> of August)

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### EX-TRANSIT DIRECTOR AND CURRENTLY RETIRED

DALE BERGMAN

I would like to thank all the members of DTA for the many years of fun, education, and comradery. It has come for me to step back from transit and retire after 39 years and 10 months with transit and 18 years as the Director of Grand Forks. It has been a great ride and numerous friends and colleagues over the years. The job you do daily is important for many people in the Dakotas. You may see me from time to

time, as I am not going far. I will be assisting Kristi Slominski, who is taking over Cities Area Transit as needed with help or questions. I know I will be extremely busy for a while with my honey do list, but there will be time to visit with kids and grandkids. I know this will be the first Christmas outside of the cold and snow as we will have it down South with relatives.

Take care and keep up the great work!

## LEADERSHIP TRANSITION AT SOUTHWEST PUBLIC TRANSIT

Jordyn Hofland, Assistant Director



Southwest Public Transit is pleased to announce a recent change in leadership.

After more than six years of dedicated service, Director Tamara Hofland has resigned from her position. We extend our sincere thanks to Tammy for her leadership and commitment throughout the years. We are grateful she will continue to assist the organization on a part-time basis.

Stepping into the role of Director is Stephanie Fuchs, who joined the organization in December 2024. Stephanie brings a fresh perspective and strong enthusiasm to the position. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with a specialization in Management and previously worked in a dental office before beginning her training with Transit. Please join us in thanking Tammy for her years of service and continued support, and in welcoming Stephanie to her new role!



Terry Hoffman

Co-Executive Director

Community Transit of Watertown/Sisseton,  
Inc.

Active Shooter policies are necessary

Community Transit of Watertown/Sisseton, Inc. recently held its annual "Day of Training" at Lake Area Technical College in

Watertown. The theme of the training this year was employee safety.

Among the presenters was Sgt. Matt Hegg of the Watertown Police Department, who spoke mainly about Active Shooters and developing policies to protect employees and our passengers. The session was met with the usual attitude of “it won’t happen here.”

Ironically, less than a week later, our office in Sisseton notified administrators they were under lockdown due to an active shooter situation at a housing development directly north of the Sisseton offices.

Law enforcement from multiple agencies (local, tribal, county and state) were dispatched to the scene and were able to subdue and apprehend the alleged shooter before any serious injuries or fatalities occurred. CTWSI had a bus driver and passenger inside the perimeter of the housing development when law enforcement shut down the area. The driver was not allowed to leave, but she was able to radio dispatch and warn them to lock down the facility.

“It was a scary situation for all, but the employee acted quickly, notified the office the staff locked it down,” said Co-Executive Director Kathy Holman who was not in Sisseton at the time of the event.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security defines an active shooter as an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area. In most cases, active shooters use firearms and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims. From 2000 to 2006, such incidents averaged 6.4 annually but from 2007 to 2013, such incidents jumped to an average of 16.4 a year. Some of these incidents occur in the workplace, which, tragically, result in the death or serious injury

of employees, and many others occur in schools, churches, or public places that we typically deem safe.

This situation was the second of the year in communities served by CTWSI. In January, a disgruntled employee at a Milbank nursing home was upset with her supervisor and shot her. The supervisor suffered non-life-threatening injuries, and the shooter was arrested. Quick action by local law enforcement and staff kept the damage to a minimum.

Our Watertown location has a complete and updated Active Shooter policy, but most locations do not. The crew in Sisseton acted appropriately. In Milbank, we were not at the scene, but we frequent that location regularly. Protecting our employees in our facilities can be done effectively with the proper planning, procedure and practice of policies. Ensuring the safety of our employees and passengers on our buses is more challenging. Several CTWSI locations operate out of their homes. What happens in the event a driver is confronted on the bus? Would they know what to do in the situation? Do you have a policy? Do your employees train in these events? If you can answer yes, kudos to you. CTWSI, unfortunately, cannot say the same.

Active shooter incidents are occurring more often with more casualties, highlighting the importance of proactive measures. Incidents can unfold rapidly, leaving little time for a measured response, making prior planning and training essential.

Having a well-defined policy and training can empower employees to react appropriately, potentially increasing their chances of survival. Trained employees are more likely to respond effectively, reducing the likelihood

of panic and confusion during a stressful situation.

Employees need to understand the run, hide, fight protocol and how to respond to different scenarios. Establishing clear communication channels during an active shooter event is crucial for coordinating a response. Develop a detailed plan that outlines procedures for evacuation, sheltering in place, and lockdown procedures.

Conducting active shooter drills helps employees practice their response and become more familiar with the plan. By implementing and maintaining comprehensive active shooter policies, workplaces can better prepare for and respond to these potentially. Analyzing past incidents and drills to identify areas for improvement helps refine the policy.

The bottom line is do not wait to develop a plan, because it could be too late. Work with local law enforcement; they are happy to participate in the planning process and the drills because, believe it or not, it can happen here.

## **TRAINING UPDATE**

### **Contact Information**

**Rod Graefing 701-845-4300**  
[rod@southcentralseniors.org](mailto:rod@southcentralseniors.org)

**UPCOMING PASS TRAINING:** Classes will be held in Eastern ND. October 2025 and Western ND. December 2025. Exact locations and dates are yet to be determined. If you have drivers in need of training or recertification and one of these classes will work for your agency, please feel free to contact me so I can update you when more info becomes available.

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.



Jacque Senger, Executive Director, DTA

[jacquelinesenger@gondtc.com](mailto:jacquelinesenger@gondtc.com)

Cell number 701-740-8894

### **Tidbit Articles**

Please contact me with articles you would like to place in the Transit Tidbit.

### **Distribute**

Please share your Transit Tidbit with your staff and other individuals interested in the Dakota Transit Association.