



## TRANSIT TIDBITS

Issue 163 December 2025

**THOUGHT for December 2025**  
**-A Month to Reflect and Grow-**

### **SOUTH DAKOTA TRANSIT PROJECTS AWARDED COMPETITIVE FEDERAL GRANTS**

**Terry Hoffman, Co-Director CTWSI**

Several South Dakota transit providers have been awarded funding through the Federal Transit Administration's highly competitive Low Emission–No Emission (Low-No) discretionary grant program, state officials announced in late November.

The grants, awarded in coordination with the South Dakota Department of Transportation, will support transit improvements in Sioux Falls, Rapid City and several rural communities. Discretionary grants are among the most competitive federal transportation funding programs, and officials say the awards reflect both the quality of South Dakota's proposals and a strong statewide commitment to improving public transit.



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According to Jess Marlow of SDDOT, the funding was awarded in three categories.

The City of Sioux Falls will receive \$1,993,408 to construct new bus shelters and renovate existing bus stops to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The City of Rapid City was awarded \$1,190,000 to purchase replacement buses for vehicles that have reached the end of their useful life.

Three rural transit agencies — Prairie Hills Transit of Spearfish, Aberdeen Ride Line of Aberdeen, and Community Transit of Watertown/Sisseton, Inc. (CTWSI) — will share a combined total of \$1,101,750 to purchase low- or no-emission buses.

CTWSI plans to use its funding to purchase three gas-electric hybrid cutaway buses. The new vehicles are expected to reduce emissions, lower fuel consumption and improve service reliability for rural passengers.

Prairie Hills Transit will expand its fleet of propane-powered, lift-equipped cutaway buses. The agency currently operates five propane vehicles, which have helped reduce operating costs and environmental impact while maintaining performance and accessibility. Additional vehicles will allow the agency to expand service into underserved rural areas.

Aberdeen Ride Line will add one propane-powered bus to increase capacity and better meet growing transportation demand within the City of Aberdeen.

Marlow said the successful grant awards demonstrate the strength of South Dakota's transit proposals and the collaboration among agencies statewide.

In his statement, Marlow indicated that the awarding of these discretionary grants reflects the strength of South Dakota's proposals and their commitment to improving transit statewide.



“These awards are the result of hard work by transit agencies across the state in identifying community needs and developing strong applications,” said Marlow.

He also credited SDDOT Procurement Specialist Brenda Sharkey for her role in securing the funding.

“This outcome shows what can be accomplished when agencies across the state work together toward a shared vision of improving transit access and sustainability,” Sharkey said. “I’m proud of the collaboration and excited to see the positive impact these projects will have for riders.”

## **DTA BOARD MEETING SCHEDULED**

### **Jacque Senger, Executive Director**

We will be having a virtual Board Meeting on February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Director's would like to hear any ideas you may have for the upcoming conference. Please send me ideas by the first of February. I will add your thoughts to the agenda.

## THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR (According to the Church of Fantasy Baseball)

**Terry Hoffman, Co-Director CTWSI**

For most people, the most wonderful time of the year is Christmas. It's a season built around faith, family, tradition, and reflection. There are trees to decorate, cookies to bake, carols to sing, and relatives to tolerate.

For my oldest son Matt and me, it's also the most sacred time on the fantasy baseball calendar. Yes, Christmas is important. We acknowledge it. We observe it. We even participated in it. But make no mistake—December is not just a holiday season. It is **draft season**.

While others gather around the Christmas tree, we gather around spreadsheets. While carols fill the air, we quietly chant batting averages, minor-league scouting reports, and the holy trinity of fantasy baseball - on-base percentage, innings pitched, and salary cap flexibility.

Fantasy baseball isn't a hobby in our house. It's a belief system.

I've been a member of the faith since 1990, long before analytics were cool and long before Matt was old enough to know what ERA stood for. About 15 years ago, I officially inducted him into the congregation. There was no turning back. He learned early that Sundays are for box scores, late nights are for trade negotiations, and imaginary money is far more valuable than real money, at least in December.

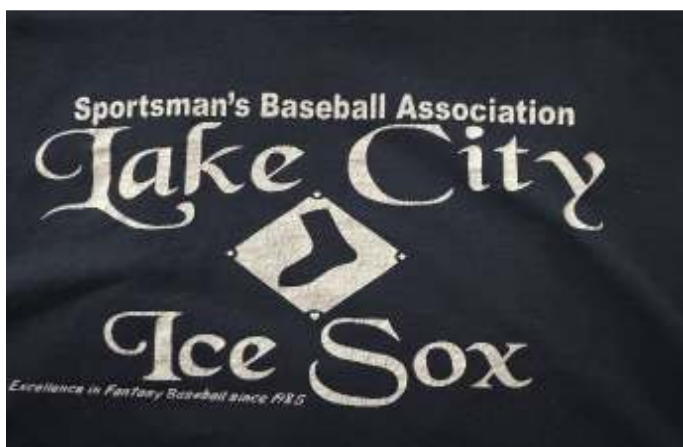
Our preferred scripture is **Strat-O-Matic Baseball**, a game played by thousands worldwide, many of whom I'm convinced need far less explanation than we do when we excuse ourselves from family activities. We participate in summer and winter leagues comprised of 18 to 28 teams. This is not casual worship. This is high-level devotion.

Family gatherings present challenges to our faith.

Christmas Eve at my sister's house is filled with food, games, laughter, and spirited sports debates. Meanwhile, Matt and I are joined by two more fellow fantasy fanatics, and of course, we sit off to the side, whispering about pitching phenoms, draft picks, and long-term roster strategy. This is rarely appreciated.

We are shunned. "Can you guys talk about something else?" someone will ask. We cannot.

While others engage in cut-throat Monopoly or laugh uncontrollably during Meanie Marbles, we remain focused, unmoved by the chaos. Let them fight over Boardwalk. We are trying to determine whether a 19-year-old shortstop in Double-A is worth three future draft picks and six million imaginary dollars.



Christmas Day itself is devoted to the grandkids opening presents. This year, there's a "silly slipper" theme, introduced by my wife and several daughters-in-law. I am unsure whether silly slippers are endorsed by our faith, but I will comply.

Because of the size of our family, seven kids, spouses, significant others, grandkids, and occasionally grand-dogs—we now gather in a hotel community room. This has been a blessing. No one must clean before. No one must clean up after. More importantly, there are corners where trade talks can occur without interruption.

I'll admit, I've been called a Scrooge at holiday time. That's unfair. I've mellowed with age. Proof came recently while preparing for an interview at a local radio station. Christmas music played softly in the background while I studied fantasy baseball updates on my phone.

**As *"It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year"* played over the speakers, enlightenment struck. It is!**

Not because of the music. Not because of the decorations. But because hope is reborn in December. Every team is undefeated. Every roster is perfect. Every bad decision from last season has been forgiven, absolved by the promise of a better draft.

In fantasy baseball, December is a season of faith. So yes, we celebrate Christmas. We give thanks. We gather with family. But when the draft clock starts ticking, we bow our heads, roll the dice, and place our faith where it belongs. In the numbers.

Amen and Merry Christmas!

## DTA 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**Jacque Senger, ED**

Your 2026 DTA Conference will be held in Huron, SD, September 19<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026. The conference will be held at the Huron Event Center and the Rodeo at the SD State Fairgrounds. We have secured rooms at the Crossroads Hotel. More information will be placed in the Tidbit as we finalize the conference.



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### **Tidbit Articles**

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