

# Nebraska Transit Trends

## LEGISLATIVE EVENT

Registration for the 2016 Legislative Event is available on the NATP website, [www.neatp.org](http://www.neatp.org). This event consists of an afternoon of training for transit managers on March 8. This will take place at the Courtyard by Marriott in downtown Lincoln.

The training will begin with two panels. The first panel will help identify best practices and ways to improve transportation for our passengers. Current panelists include Amber Hansen (Community Action), Judy Vohland (Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation), Michael Stuhr (Immanuel Services) and Richard Schmeling (Citizens for Improved Transit).

The second panel will feature current and former elected officials who will speak on best practices for approaching elected officials, best communication practices and more. Panelists include Bill Avery (current Lancaster County Commissioner, former Senator), Dave Landis (City of Lincoln Urban Development Director and former Senator), and Russ Karpisek (Legislative Liaison for State Auditor, former Senator). Both panels will allow time for question and answer.



*Visit with Senators during the breakfast.*

Attendees are then invited to celebrate NATP's 35th Anniversary at Lazlo's restaurant in the Haymarket. Meal and cake will be provided free of charge for members. Guests can also attend for a fee. Please RSVP to the office if you plan to attend the dinner and haven't already registered.

The next morning, attendees are invited to a free breakfast at the Ferguson House near the Capitol. Invitations have been sent to the Senators. Please call your Senator and personally encourage him or her to attend. Find out his/her approximate time of arrival and plan to be there to greet them. You can find your Senator's contact information at <http://nebraskalegislature.gov>.

The next presenter will be David Babcock, attorney for the Nebraska State Patrol. David will present on the concealed carry law and how that might impact public transportation employees.

Following this presentation, Bill Troe of SRF will provide members with information on the progress of the Nebraska Mobility Management Program and Coordinated Transportation Plan.

The training will close with a demonstration of how to use NATP's new website and blog format.

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## NATP PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Well, the transit wheels just keep turning! I am sure most of you are well into planning your 2017 budget.

In visiting with Wayne Masek, I learned that the new minivans have been arriving at NDOR. Some of them will be ready to pick up as soon as Wayne can secure titles and process all the paperwork. Whereas the bus production has been running a bit behind schedule, they probably won't be in until April or May.

Legislative Day will soon be here with the opportunity to network with State Senators over breakfast. Later, Governor Pete Ricketts will proclaim April 10-16 as Public Transit Week. It is an impressive list of events and ideas that transits have brainstormed and planned for the week! Remember to send your orders in for promotional materials to Erin Skoog by March 1.

On February 22 and 23, NATP hosted a vendor booth at the League of Nebraska Municipalities Conference in Lincoln. Thank you Jeff Baker for spending Monday with me in the booth, and especially to Tiffany Fougeron for setting everything up. We had a lot of mayors, council members and other officials stop in to visit and collect information about the importance of public transportation in small rural towns. Many of them had questions about setting

up service areas, funding opportunities and took our contact information with them.

We just have to keep planting seeds of knowledge so that curiosity grows. Helping rural Nebraska recognize the value of public transportation is an important part of that process.

I hope to see you all at the Legislative Event on March 8 and 9 in Lincoln.

Until then, safe travels everyone.

Scott Bartels

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE



Hello everyone,

I hope you all enjoyed the holiday season and are gearing up for spring. Spring for many of you means budgets - not quite a four letter word but close! Your NATP Board is also working on the budget

for the upcoming fiscal year. Last year brought a lot of new ideas and ways to promote transit and provide excellent learning opportunities for our members.

One of those improvements included providing more scholarships for members to attend national events. NDOR has also increased the number of scholarships that they will support. The deadline for the CTAA scholarship is March 2. The deadline for the TRB scholarship is July 11. View the website for the scholarship application.

The Board is looking to the members to join our committees. If you would

like to serve on one of the following committees, please let me know:

Events  
Public Relations/Education  
Advocacy/Legislative  
Membership

Thanks for all you do!

Tiffany Fougeron  
Executive Director

## 2016 TRANSIT MIDWEST CONFERENCE

NATP has once again teamed up with transportation associations in Missouri, Kansas and Iowa to offer members a large, joint conference. AASHTO, APTA and CTAA are also partners for this year's event.

The Transit Midwest Conference will be held August 14-16 at the Westin Crown Center Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri.

Executive Directors and staff from each association have had numerous conference calls to determine speakers and programming, social events, hotel contracts, etc. for this event.

NATP managers will be able to view a wide variety of speakers, attend a full exhibit hall, and network with managers from other states.

The entertainment for Monday evening will include entrance

into the WWI Museum and a meal. This is free if you register for the full conference.

NATP is in charge of the exhibit hall so please encourage your vendors to exhibit at this event. The registration link for exhibitors is posted on the NATP website.

Exhibitors can also be directed to the NATP office for more information on how to register. In order to positively represent the association and our State, it is important that Nebraska has a large number of members in attendance.

The plan is to have a charter bus pick up managers at designated locations along I-80 and drive everyone to the conference. This will help keep travel costs down.

Mileage to the designated areas will be reimbursed through RTAP.

A block of rooms has been reserved for conference attendees. NATP members are encouraged to share rooms if possible to help alleviate some of the costs. To book your reservation, call the Westin at (888) 627-8538. The group rate is \$139 per night.

You can now register for the conference online. Choose the early bird full conference registration for \$185. Also scroll down to register for the Monday Night Social Event which is free with your paid registration.

This will be a great opportunity for everyone. Please mark your calendars!

<http://www.cabllc.com/TransitMidwest/general.htm>

**2016**  
**Save THE Date!**

**Transit Midwest Conference**  
Westin Crown Center  
Kansas City, MO

In Partnership with the 2016 State Public Transit Partnership

**August 14-16, 2016**

Missouri Public Transit Association  
Kansas Public Transit Association  
Nebraska Association of Transportation Providers  
Iowa Public Transit Association

**NATP**  
Nebraska Association of Transportation Providers

**iPTA**  
Iowa Public Transit Association

**AASHTO**  
American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials

**APTA**  
American Public Transportation Association

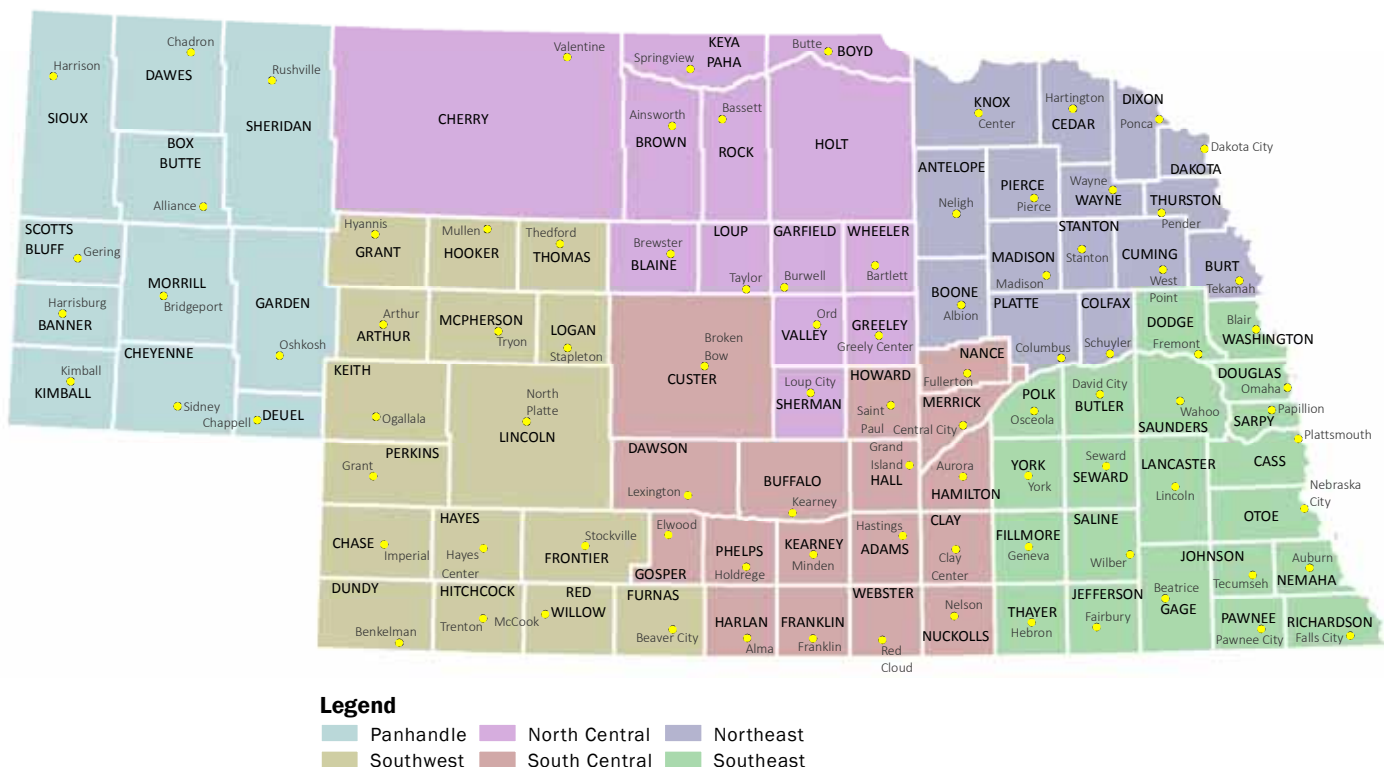
**Kansas Public Transit Association**

**Missouri Public Transit Association**



# MOBILITY MANAGEMENT PROJECT

NDOR and SRF Consulting are organizing Regional Coordinating Committees in support of the statewide Mobility Management Project. We invite you to provide input on behalf of your transit agency and community. Please consider participating on the Committee in your area. Contact Kari Ruse by March 1, 2016, if you intend to participate. The first meetings will be scheduled in each region in late March.



## LEAGUE OF NEBRASKA MUNICIPALITIES

The NATP hosted a booth at the League of Nebraska Municipalities 2016 Midwinter Conference on February 22-23 at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln.

On hand to visit with officials from cities and municipalities were NATP board members Jeff Baker and Scott Bartels.

According to Baker and Bartels, the information was very well received by attendees. Many officials were interested in starting a new transportation system and others stressed the importance of transportation in their communities.

It is important that NATP continues to meet with our elected officials and attend events like this so we continually reiterate the importance of public transportation across Nebraska.

Fiscal Year 17 applications for operating assistance are due by April 22, 2016. Complete the application and upload supporting documentation through your online portal at [nebraskatransit.com](http://nebraskatransit.com). If you have any questions, please contact Kari Ruse, [kari.ruse@nebraska.gov](mailto:kari.ruse@nebraska.gov), 402-479-4694



**Saturday April 2, 2016 @ 7:05 pm**

**TRI-CITY STORM vs Fargo**

SPECIAL THEME/PROMOTION

**Concrete Cares Night**

**SPECIAL OFFER!**

**Public Transit Employees Tickets are paid  
for by NATP Association\***

**Special Ticket price for Public Transit  
Families & Friends Tickets are only **\$11.00****

**Each ticket will receive a **FREE** pop and  
popcorn concessions voucher and it's also  
Concrete Cares Night**

**Return your ticket order form to Tiffany  
Fougeron at the NATP office by Noon  
on Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>**

\*Up to 30 free tickets available to NATP members in the West Central Region. Free tickets will be dispersed equally among regional members.  
Other members and guests can purchase tickets.

# LEGISLATIVE MEETING 2016



NETWORKING + LEARNING + ADVOCACY



**NATP  
35 YEARS!**

NATP invites you to attend the 2016 Legislative Meeting. This meeting will consist of training, breakfast with Senators and the signing of the Public Transit Week Proclamation. This event is FREE for NATP members. Expenses will be eligible for reimbursement from NDOR.

## Questions?

Contact Tiffany Fougeron at the NATP office  
(402) 761-2216 or [tfougeron@youraam.com](mailto:tfougeron@youraam.com)

## Tuesday - March 8

**1:00 - 5:30 p.m.**

Training at the Courtyard by Marriott in Lincoln  
(808 R Street)

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 1:00 pm        | Panel 1<br>Community Action<br>Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation,<br>Immanuel Communities<br>Citizens for Improved Transit |
| 2:15 pm        | Panel 2<br>Dave Landis<br>Russ Karpisek<br>Bill Avery   |
| 3:30 - 3:45 pm | Break   |
| 3:45 - 4:15 pm | Concealed Carry   |
| 4:15 - 4:45 pm | Bill Troe   |
| 4:45 - 5:30 pm | Blog Demonstration  |
| 6:30 - 8:30 pm | NATP Anniversary Dinner<br>Lazlo's - 210 N. 7th Street  |

## Wednesday - March 9

**7:30 - 9:00 a.m.**

Complimentary breakfast with the Senators at the  
Ferguson House by the Capitol (700 S. 16th St.)

**10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

Witness Governor Ricketts sign the proclamation  
declaring the second week in April as Public Transit  
Week in Nebraska.

## LEGISLATIVE EVENT (CONTINUED)

Following the breakfast, we will then move to the Capitol where we will witness Governor Pete Ricketts sign a proclamation declaring the second week in April as Public Transit Week.

Register today for this event!



## STARTRAN GEARS UP FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT WEEK

- Monday, April 11: Buddy Day – Pay Cash or Use Your Pass  
– Two Ride for One Fare (includes Handi-Van)
- Tuesday, April 12: Bike & Bus for FREE
- Wednesday, April 13: Seniors Ride FREE (includes Handi-Van)
- Thursday, April 14: Patron Appreciation Day (staff will hand out treats to patrons to show our appreciation for their patronage)
- Friday, April 15: Be A Car-Free Person  
– Throw in the Key & Ride for FREE (regular routes only)

Also on Saturday and Sunday, April 16 & 17, we will be co-sponsoring with Dignity Radio, Sam's Clubs and Walmarts in Lincoln, our 17th Annual "Stuff the Bus" event. We want to stuff all the buses full of new items needed by Friendship Home, which provides 24-hour emergency shelter for women and children experiencing domestic violence.

On Friday, April 15th, we kickoff this event with our Supermarket Sweep.

On Saturday, April 16th, we also operate our Big Red Express for the UNL Red/White Spring Game from two lots – North Star High School and SouthPointe Pavilions, to and from the game.



*StarTran stuffed numerous buses of charitable donations in 2015*

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Are you interested in learning more about public transportation and expanding your knowledge as a manager?

NATP and NDOR are sponsoring scholarships for managers to attend national conferences. The Annual CTAA EXPO is your chance to join colleagues from across the nation in a

setting dedicated to fresh ideas, innovative products and services, networking and learning. The 2016 event will take place May 22-27 in Portland, Oregon. That scholarship deadline is March 2.

Scholarships are also available for the 2016 National

Conference on Rural Public & Intercity Bus Transportation which will take place October 2-5 in Asheville, North Carolina. The deadline for this scholarship is July 11.

Applications are available on the website.



# 2016 PUBLIC TRANSIT WEEK

The second week in April (April 10-16) will be considered "Public Transit Week" in Nebraska. This is a great opportunity to raise awareness of public transportation in our communities, diminish any misconceptions about public transit, and provide a fun way to celebrate your system and your community.

Draft press releases, flyers, and other marketing items are available that you can easily adjust to fit your transit system. Advertising expenses related to Public Transit Week will be reimbursed under administrative costs under the marketing category (90% reimbursement).

During the "Public Transit Week," systems are encouraged to come up with daily events that would encourage the public to utilize public transportation or thank them for continued support.



## SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS FROM THE PAST

If you weren't aware, NATP is celebrating 35 years in 2016! That's 35 years of promoting and supporting effective, efficient, public transportation in Nebraska.

We are looking for photos from NATP events and occasions from the past. Send your best shots to me before March 7 if possible. I look forward to seeing your pictures and sharing!

Photos will be shared on the NATP Facebook page and included in upcoming newsletters.

Some ideas include: Stuff the Bus, Discounted/Free rides on one day, "Selfies" (have riders send selfies of themselves utilizing public transit), receiving stories of riders, hosting an open house, going to the schools to teach students how to ride the bus, staff appreciation day, passenger appreciation day, dump the pump week, etc.

We welcome any ideas that you may have so we can share them with everyone. You do not need to do something every day – we encourage you to choose events that are achievable for your system.

Webinars were presented that provided more information on Public Transit Week including how-to's, ideas, suggestions and more.

We are very excited about Public Transit Week and hope that you are "on board."



Send your photos to [tfougeron@youraam.com](mailto:tfougeron@youraam.com).



2007 Board: Gloria Gummere, Scott Bartels, Georgia Janssen, Curt Simon, Carol Maxson, Larry Worth, Jane Cronk and Larry Ossowski

## CTAA EXPO 2016

The annual Community Transportation EXPO is your chance to join colleagues from around the nation in a setting dedicated to fresh ideas, innovative products and services, networking and learning. You will not want to miss this conference. In addition to the important discussions on the legislative front, there will be dozens of training sessions, workshops and networking events that will allow you to advance your understanding of transit issues, develop fresh solutions to challenging issues and help you outline new approaches to your work.

Join us May 22-27 in Portland, Ore., for EXPO 2016! Always regarded as among the nation's most innovative communities, Portland, Ore., is a natural setting for our 28th annual EXPO. Beyond it's robust and diverse set of mobility options - ranging from light rail and streetcars to volunteer drivers and extensive bicycling infrastructure - Portland embraces concepts fundamental to community and public transportation: flexibility, responsiveness, scalability and efficiency.

See more at:  
<http://web1.ctaa.org>.



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**Next newsletter deadline is  
May 23, 2016**

Please send your articles and pictures for the Nebraska Transit Trends newsletter to the NATP office by **May 23, 2016**.

We want to know what all of our members are doing throughout the state. Also, if you see something newsworthy, be sure to let the office know. Submit your typed articles via email (as a word document) to the NATP office at **tfougerson@youraam.com**. You may include pictures if you like, but be sure to save them as a .jpeg file or they may not be included in the newsletter. Documents received after the deadline will appear in the next newsletter.

**Visit Us On The Web!**  
[www.neatp.org](http://www.neatp.org)

***Dates To Remember*****March**

March 8-9  
Legislative Event

**April**

April 2 - West Central Member  
Appreciation event

April 10-15  
Public Transit Week

TBD - NATP Board Meeting

**May**

May 21-27 - CTAA EXPO  
Portland, OR

\*Membership Renewals Sent

**July**

July 1 - Membership Renewals Due  
July 11 - TRB Scholarship Deadline

**August**

May 14-16 - Transit Midwest Conference  
Kansas City, MO

**RYDE TRANSIT NEWS**

The Transportation Department is off to a busy start for the first months of 2016. Special THANKS to all of the Transportation Staff who helped during the holidays and vacation days.

NATP, NDOR and local public transits are working on Public Transit week in Nebraska, which will be April 10-15, 2016. Please watch for a proclamation from the Governor, and more information as the week approaches.