

# Nebraska Transit Trends

## UPDATE FROM THE NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ROADS

### Vehicle Titles

If you have received a vehicle purchased through NDOR with 5310 or 5311 funds, the vehicle titles must be retained in the name of the original funding applicant. Applicants may allow other entities to utilize the vehicle to provide transportation services, but the vehicle owner on the title cannot transfer the title without written permission from NDOR. This requirement is outlined in the agreement between NDOR and the sub-recipient. If you have any questions, please contact Wayne Masek, NDOR Transit Section, 402-479-4369 or send an email to [wayne.masek@nebraska.gov](mailto:wayne.masek@nebraska.gov).

### Site Visits

George Gallardo and Wayne Masek from NDOR's Transit Section are currently conducting site visits of all 5310 and 5311 sub-recipients. Transit systems will be contacted to schedule the visits and provide documentation prior to the visit. Requested documentation will include a completed site visit questionnaire, copies of drug and alcohol policies, vehicle titles, and maintenance records.

Per the funding agreements with NDOR, sub-recipients are required to provide all requested documentation for review to ensure system compliance. Please submit all information requested prior to the site visit in a timely manner. If you have any questions, contact Kari Ruse, 402-479-4694 or email [kari.ruse@nebraska.gov](mailto:kari.ruse@nebraska.gov).

### Mobility Management

NDOR will be launching five Mobility Management pilot projects across the state later this summer. The projects were carefully selected during an extensive statewide study and research phase. They include the Scottsbluff/Gering, Alliance, Webster County - Franklin County, Guide Rock - Superior (Nuckolls County) and Richardson County - Blue Rivers East Intercity areas. During the pilot projects, data will be gathered to support the concept of scheduling coordination among service providers and document cost savings. When implemented, the Nebraska Mobility Management project will provide an efficient, coordinated transportation system that will grow statewide.

### ROADEO TIME!

View photos and read what the winning Nebraska drivers and managers had to say about their trip to Albuquerque for the National CTAA Rodeo and EXPO.

### SAVE THE DATE!!

The 21st Annual Nebraska Statewide Drivers Training and Rodeo will be held September 17 & 18 in Kearney.

Additional information on pages 6 & 7.

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# 2013 TRANSIT MIDWEST CONFERENCE - KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

The 2013 Transit Midwest Conference is now in its final stages of planning and the registration process is going well.

Attendees can expect a great lineup of speakers, sessions, exhibitors, and plenty of entertainment.

Nebraska managers will be picked up Sunday morning by bus at stops along I-80. Western managers will be picked up in Ogallala, North Platte, Kearney and Grand Island. The Eastern folks will be picked up in Norfolk and Lincoln. Passengers will then travel to Kansas City, arriving early to mid-afternoon. The welcome reception will held from 5:30-7:00 and attendees will then be able to explore Kansas City.

Monday will consist of our state's board meeting, opening ceremonies, panel presentations, lunch, breakout sessions and vendor time. The evening social network event will take place at the American Jazz and Negro Leagues Baseball Museums. Attendees will be treated to a real Kansas City BBQ meal and be able to tour the museums.

Costs for attending this event has

been sponsored by RouteMatch so be sure to thank them for their generosity.

Tuesday will consist of numerous workshops to choose from that will cater to your specific needs.

There will be presentations from FTA, APTA, CTAA and many more with topics ranging from substance abuse training to successful grant writing to customer service.



*Intercontinental Kansas City at the Plaza*

Nebraska managers will load the buses after the last session at 4:00 pm and make the journey back home.

The full agenda and session descriptions are available on the conference website at <http://www.cabllc.com/TransitMidwest2013/>

[registration.htm](#).

Attendee registrations, room reservations, travel to and from the closest pickup location and meals that are not provided during the conference will be eligible for reimbursement through RTAP. Please keep all of your receipts and records and turn in after the conference to NDOR.

Rooms are filling up quickly at the hotel, so attendees are encouraged to book a room soon. NATP members are encouraged to share rooms if possible to help alleviate some of the costs. To book your reservation, call the Kansas City at the Plaza Hotel at (866) 856-9717. The group rate is \$109 per night. Mention Regional Transit Conference to receive the group rate.

If you would like to attend this conference and have not let the NATP office know, do so as soon as possible to ensure necessary transportation and other accommodations.

## STARTRAN HIRES NEW TRANSIT MANAGER

The City of Lincoln has hired Mike Davis as StarTran Transit Manager.

Mr. Davis was the transit manager of operations for Los Alamos County in New Mexico, since 2007, and comes to StarTran with 15 years of progressive experience managing public transportation projects, programs and initiatives.

His work history and experience also includes transit administration and operations for Johnson County, Kansas; Mesa, Arizona; Billings, Montana; and Aspen, Colorado.

He has a bachelor's degree in urban planning and geography from the University of Utah and a master's degree in urban planning from the University of Kansas.

Welcome, Mike!



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It's summer! We are definitely feeling the heat in Nebraska, but I won't complain after that long, never-ending winter.

June seemed to really fly by. Here at the NATP office, we are keeping busy with the 2014 membership drive. If you haven't paid your renewal dues, please remember to do so. We've also been busy preparing for the Transit Midwest Conference, taking place in August. We are setting the transportation schedule and will send emails to everyone when we get it finalized. We are also excited to provide those who are attending the conference with new NATP shirts! We will definitely look very professional and unified as a group! Tiffany did a great job "modeling" the new shirt at Nationals!



Nebraska is in charge of the exhibit hall so we have been actively seeking out potential companies to exhibit at the conference. Tiffany and I were able to visit every vendor at the CTAA National EXPO, and many were excited to join us at the conference in August.



*Fred Krenk driving the course*

This year's National Rodeo and EXPO was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. It was a great experience to travel with our winning Nebraska drivers and their managers and watch them compete and represent our state!

The educational sessions, vendor time and networking opportunities all added up to a great overall experience.



*Oldest house in the United States*

Mark your calendars to attend the Nebraska Drivers Training and Rodeo which will be held September 17 & 18 in Kearney and perhaps you will earn a trip to next year's National CTAA Rodeo in Minnesota! (Shopping anyone?)

Tiffany is working on updating the NATP website. The current website is not very user-friendly and can be difficult to update. The new website should be revealed later this month!

Please don't hesitate to call the NATP office if there is anything we can do for you.

Kathi Schildt  
NATP Executive Director

## NATP'S 2012-2013 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello transit friends!

I hope you are all enjoying summer weather and the outdoor activities that come with it.

I recently had the privilege of attending the Community Transportation Association of America EXPO in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Thanks to sponsorship from NATP, NDOR and RTAP, drivers who win first or second place at the Nebraska Rodeo competition get to compete at the National Rodeo and their managers also get to judge and attend the EXPO.

Allow me to recognize and congratulate my driver, Ardis Niederklein, for her commendable effort in providing safe, reliable transportation to our patrons.

Drivers are our front-line contact with the public, and it is imperative that they represent our agencies in a competent, professional and caring manner.

I strongly encourage all transit managers to send as many drivers as possible to the annual statewide NATP Rodeo in September. It is a great educational opportunity. With all of the training and networking

that goes on, this event sends everyone home a winner!

Managers also have an excellent opportunity for learning and networking at the 2013 Region VII Transit Midwest Conference being held in Kansas City August 4-6.

Hope to see you there!

Scott Bartels  
NATP President

## 2013 STATEWIDE TRAINING HELD IN MARCH & APRIL

During the months of March and April, NATP offered Drivers' training in six locations across the state of Nebraska. Nearly 70 drivers attended the full-day training.



*Kearney Drivers Training Attendees*

Training sessions were held in Grand Island (16 attendees), Norfolk (18 attendees), Beatrice (21 attendees), Kearney (9 attendees), and Alliance (5 attendees).

Due to snow, the training offered in Alliance and Ogallala had to be postponed for two weeks. After the training in Alliance, a large snow storm came in which forced the cancellation of the Ogallala training session. Dennis Holtz, of the Nebraska Safety Center, assisted with the agenda for the training and taught at all locations and did a superb job. Dennis has an extensive amount of experience in the transportation industry and is able to relate to the drivers. Dennis and Tiffany rode together to the Alliance session and had a lot of time to talk about future training opportunities in 2014! It is always the goal of NATP to reach out to as many drivers as possible throughout the year. Managers are encouraged to keep their drivers updated on the latest information and refresher courses.



*Beatrice Drivers Training Attendees*

At each location, attendees were asked for input regarding topics and drivers were encouraged to visit the NATP website. This year, attendees were able to view the new NATP banner which will be brought to various training events, Legislative Day and other workshops. Each attendee was made aware of the NATP newsletter and that they can provide additional information that they would like to see included in future issues.



*Norfolk Drivers Training Attendees*

Attendees were provided with ice scrapers, tire gauges and pens, all featuring the NATP logo. It seems like we predicted the late snow storms by providing the ice scrapers so late into the spring season! Hopefully Mother Nature is a little more cooperative next year.



*Grand Island Training Attendees*

Based on feedback from attendees, the training was very worthwhile and offered additional knowledge to take back to their transit systems.

A special thanks to the Nebraska Safety Center, key NATP members for assistance with the set up of the training and the transit systems for hosting the events or providing assistance in selecting a training facility.

Want to host a 2014 location? Contact Tiffany Fougerson at [tfougerson@youraam.com](mailto:tfougerson@youraam.com) or (402) 761-2216.



*Alliance Training Attendees & Dennis Holtz*

## 2013-14 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

By now you have received your dues statement for 2013-2014. We appreciate your continued support of the NATP!

Our goal is to provide adequate, safe and affordable transportation that is essential to the economic health and vitality of our communities, large or small. Public transportation is a major key to maintaining an independent and productive life for all members of our communities.

NATP was formed to promote effective, efficient public transportation throughout Nebraska. NATP supports public transportation that is accessible to all, particularly the aged, handicapped and anyone who would otherwise be without transportation.

Access to medical, business employment, social and supporting services is fundamental to all of us. Public transportation is a key element in allowing Nebraska citizens to maintain their independence, dignity and self-respect.

NATP offers three categories of membership and appreciates the companies that are starting to advertise in our newsletter - thank these vendors as this shows support of your association!

**Membership renewals were due June 30th. If you haven't paid your dues yet, please remember to do so as soon as possible. You won't want to miss out on the benefits of being a member! If you have questions about membership, please contact the NATP office.**



Special thanks to Larry Ossowski of Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging in Beatrice for his years of service on the NATP Board. Larry has served on the Board since 1988!

*"To see NATP grow and spread its wings is thanks enough. A lot of progress has been made in 25 years of serving on the Board. I believe with the current leadership, (the current Board and AAM) NATP will continue to grow and provide its members with valuable resources."*

We will need a replacement for Larry on the Board. If you're interested in the position, please email the NATP office at [kschildt@youraam.com](mailto:kschildt@youraam.com).

## RYDE TRANSIT HOSTS OPEN HOUSE

RYDE Transit hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony and a community open house at their new transportation facility in Kearney. The ribbon cutting ceremony took place on June 7 and the open house took place on June 8.



Before



RYDE Transit's New Transportation Facility



After

## 2013 CTAA EXPO & NATIONAL ROADEO

During the first week of June, twelve Nebraskans made their way down to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the CTAA National EXPO and Roadeo.

The winning drivers from the Nebraska Roadeo: Larry Vortherms of Avera Creighton Hospital, Mildred Crable of Webster County Public Transit, Fred Krenk, of Wayne Public Transit and Ardis Niederklein, of Saline County Area Transit, all competed on Sunday during the National Roadeo event.

Managers Mary Delka, of Webster County Transit, Scott Bartels, of Saline County Area Transit, and Penny Vollbracht, of Wayne Public Transit, all accompanied their drivers. Manager Corrina Duckworth, of Saunders County Public Transportation, was also able to attend as well as Kathi Schildt and Tiffany Fougeron from the NATP staff and Kathi's daughter Meghan.

The following is a recap from Mary Delka, manager of the Webster County Public Transportation System:

*On Saturday, June 1, 2013, Mildred Crable and myself from Webster County Public Transit, began an exciting trip! We flew from the Grand Island Airport to Dallas/Fort Worth and then on*

*to Albuquerque to participate in the CTAA Roadeo. This adventure actually began when Mildred won the NATP Statewide Roadeo in the small bus division in September 2012, in Kearney.*

*Once we were in Albuquerque, the adventure continued. The classes on Lift Training and Wheelchair Securement prior to the Roadeo were very educational.*

*The Roadeo itself was held at the University of New Mexico and the organizers did a great job. We were warned in the judge's meeting to apply plenty of sunscreen and they were right! As a judge for the Roadeo, it was educational to witness the drivers on the obstacle course. I'm certain that navigating the course is much easier said than done! I'm proud of Mildred for doing her best. Having to demonstrate your abilities in a vehicle you are not used to driving is a test by itself!*

*At the Trade Expo, I came away with useful information. You can't put a price tag on what you can learn by networking with other people in the same profession! After hearing speakers at the banquets and also hearing the serious questions that were asked by drivers at the Pre-Roadeo classes, the importance of Public Transit was reinforced.*

*To have a safe, affordable means of travel is crucial for many people to manage their daily lives.*

*Mildred began driving for Webster County Public Transportation in 1998. I have been the Manager since the fall of 2010. Speaking for Mildred, I know that I can say we were proud and honored to be among the representatives from Nebraska at this event.*

*The time spent with others from Nebraska was great, and it was also a wonderful experience to meet other drivers and*



*New Mexico Rail Runner Express*

*managers from across the United States. Traveling to Albuquerque was a neat experience, too.*

*I want to thank the Nebraska Association of Transportation Providers, especially Kathi Schildt and Tiffany Fougeron, for their guidance throughout the event. I also want to thank the Nebraska Department of Roads and RTAP for their assistance in making this event a reality for us.*

*I encourage all Transit Systems to participate in the NATP Statewide Roadeo Competition. I believe that it benefits both the managers and the drivers. Thank you for a very memorable trip!*

*Ardis Niederklein, driver for SCAT, wrote the following about her experience at the CTAA National Roadeo:*

*Thank you NATP and NDOR for giving me the opportunity to represent Nebraska at the CTAA National Roadeo. I really encourage as many drivers as possible to consider competing at our state Roadeo in Kearney every September. What you do in Kearney is what you'll do at National's.*

*This year, there were 61 BOC contestants, 14 van drivers and the new category was mini vans, with only 8 competing.*



*The managers & drivers (minus Mary Delka) at the Roadeo*

## 2013 CTAA EXPO & NATIONAL ROADEO

(Continued from page 6)

Contestants came from as far away as Hawaii. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet new people that have the same daily work experiences that you do and see how they handle various situations.

The training sessions on the day before the Roadeo were beneficial as they had to do with lift training and wheelchair securement. They had a fleet of new buses for the wheelchair securement that I was unfamiliar with. It was a great system, but unfortunately I ran out of time before I figured it out. It made me realize how important it is for NATP to continue to provide various training sessions across the state. At the end of the day, we were treated to a lavish banquet that made us feel appreciated and proud to be a part of a wonderful, professional organization that provides a very important service.

The experience was a great morale booster and makes one come home with a new dedication to do the best every day behind the wheel of our vehicles.

Corrina Duckworth, manager at the Saunders County Public Transportation, was able to attend this convention as well. She wrote:

*I had an excellent experience attending the National Roadeo, EXPO, and Trade Fair this year. Judging at the Roadeo was not only fun, but also a good learning experience. The intensive classes I attended were very informative and the Trade Fair gave me an opportunity to meet with others. Everyone I talked to was very pleasant and had a piece of advice for me, which was helpful since I am still new to transportation.*

Fred Krenk, minivan driver from Wayne Public Transit, reports:

*It is a wonderful opportunity to meet other Roadeo drivers*

*from all over the United States, including Hawaii, and to visit about the number of units and amount of drivers it takes to run their transportation systems back home. The Roadeo competition, with serious competitors, provides trophies and big cash prizes to the top three in each of the three divisions.*

The EXPO Trade show displayed exhibitors who provided information on current equipment and communication systems as well as exposure to securement systems that differ from the program that Wayne uses.

*This was a great opportunity to see and explore the southwest area by public transit programs. We used airline, shuttles, public Albuquerque buses, and a Sunport Train to go from Albuquerque to Santa Fe and back during this Roadeo and EXPO trip.*

Penny Vollbracht, Director of Wayne Public Transit described her experience:

*I enjoyed meeting other directors, judges, and drivers from around the United States. It also gave Fred and me an opportunity to get to know the NATP staff and other Nebraska competitors better.*

*At the Roadeo, I got acquainted with several drivers and directors from the Tribal Public Transit, and I judged with a Santa Fe native who shared a wealth of information about the culture and people from the New Mexico region. I learned that the Nebraska Roadeo and National Roadeo are alike, and my*

*experience from Nebraska was valuable and helpful to make me comfortable at the national level of competition.*

The awards banquets for the Roadeo and the EXPO were wonderful experiences that enabled us to meet people from other states. It also provided tips on operation, expansion and enrichment of our transit program in Wayne. The sharing with other directors also indicated that we all share the same transportation problems, and coming to the



The Nebraska group at the Roadeo Awards Banquet.

*Roadeo and EXPO provided me with problem solving ideas. The Trade Show was a great site to meet exhibitors and give Wayne Public Transit a source to purchase securement products that will help our wheelchair riders feel safer and meet the state and national requirements.*

*Thank you NATP staff and NDOR staff for offering this exciting transit trip and thank you for covering the expenses so we can continue to grow and improve our program. Thank you Fred Krenk, Wayne minivan driver, who is competitive and who won in Nebraska and gave me the opportunity to go to my first National Roadeo and EXPO. Way to go Fred!*

## FUN TIDBITS

### Management Hacks for more productive meetings

Do people in your organization complain about time wasted in meetings? Now you can do something about it. Try these ideas to minimize time spent in meetings, and maximize their effectiveness.

Do you have regular pre-scheduled meetings on the calendar? Cancel them all and you'll quickly find out which ones you can get along without, and which should be reinstated to keep your team productive.

Schedule shorter meetings. Instead of the standard half or one-hour chunks, consider scheduling meetings lasting only 15-20 minutes. When there's no time for going off topic everyone will feel more was accomplished.

Set an agenda for each meeting and a time frame for each item. Make sure everyone knows the desired outcome and keep everyone on track to reach it.

If an item can't be resolved within the time frame, or if someone sets off on a tangent,

remind everyone of the allocated time, end discussion, and make an "executive decision" or plan a follow-up.

If the topic is worth further discussion, schedule a separate meeting. Invite only the attendees needed to get the desired result.

When you reduce meeting time, some people will lose their opportunity to be heard. Compensate by checking in more often with individuals. Keep these conversations brief and focused, but make sure to hear people out.

When people have a voice and can discuss what's on their minds, they are happier, less prone to burn out, and more productive.



### Do People "Like" your transit system?

Social media outlets are everywhere. Some of the most popular include Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. While some of us are dragging our feet when it comes to utilizing these services, it can be holding you back.

There are many benefits to using social media for your transit system. One of the greatest benefits is that most of these outlets are free. Think of the people you know who have Facebook accounts. That number continues to grow. The number of Facebook users is estimated at 1.11 billion! You may think that some of your riders are too old to be on Facebook and maybe they don't have accounts set up, but their children and grandchildren probably do. Facebook can be a great way to keep them and others in your community updated on the happenings of your system and could help bring more awareness to the services that you offer.

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/business/overview> for more information on setting up a page for your transit system.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

NATP would like to welcome ElDorado National and the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska as new members of the Nebraska Association of Transportation Providers. We are delighted to have you as part of our organization and look forward to seeing you at one of our many events this year!



New members Jake Olsufka & Dani Wright.

**NATP 2012-2013 LEADERSHIP****BOARD MEMBERS**

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**Next newsletter deadline is  
October 18, 2013**

Please send your articles and pictures for the Nebraska Transit Trends newsletter to the NATP office by **October 18, 2013**.

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 **[tfougeron@youraam.com](mailto:tfougeron@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***August**

4-6 Transit Midwest  
Conference for Managers  
Kansas City, MO

**September**

17-18 21st Annual Drivers  
Training and Rodeo  
Kearney

**December**

11-12 NACO Conference  
CenturyLink Center  
Omaha, NE

**January**

NATP Legislative Day  
Lincoln

**March - April**

Proposed Drivers  
Training  
Norfolk, Beatrice,  
Grand Island,  
Kearney, Gering,  
Ogallala

**June**

National CTAA Rodeo  
& Expo  
St. Paul, Minnesota

**July  
8-10**

NATP Managers Workshop  
North Platte