

Nebraska Transit Trends

2012 NATP MANAGERS WORKSHOP & ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN KEARNEY AT THE YOUNES CONFERENCE CENTER

On June 12-14, managers, exhibitors and speakers gathered at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney, Nebraska, to meet and discuss the needs of managers from across the state. Managers had the opportunity to attend educational sessions, visit with exhibitors in the exhibit hall, and network with fellow managers. Educational session presenters included Jerry Wray, Abe Anshasi, Frank Faughn, Wayne Masek and George Gallardo of the Nebraska Department of Roads; Cindy Terwilliger, Claudia Hill and Joni Roeseler of the FTA; Brandon Benitz of Associated Staffing, Inc.; Bill Troe of the URS Corporation; Jeremy Steadman of RouteMatch; Bill Ferguson of Western Pathology Consultants, Inc.; Patti Monahan of the National Rural Transit Assistance Program; Jamie Chambers and John Pirruccello of American Medical Response; and Mark Intermill of the American Association of Retired Persons.

Managers were able to visit with various exhibitors who have an impact on the transportation world including Altro Transflor, Braun Corporation, CMI Enterprise, Freedman Seating, MOR/ryde International and RouteMatch Software. Representatives were on hand to answer questions and provide more information on the type of services they provide. These

companies affect many transit systems and their support of NATP helps fund our workshops. Many of the representatives graciously provided giveaway items that were given during a drawing on the last day of exhibiting. Winners of gift cards from Freedman Seating include Jill Cammack, Neva Umstead, Lois Weidner, Jonnie Kusek and Carol Maxson. Winners of gift cards from RouteMatch Software include Brenda Williams, Jean Sharman and Denise Smith. Vicki Goeken was the winner of a gift card from MOR/ryde International. Altro Transflor offered a clock to be given away and Jerry Wray was the lucky winner. Carrie Brienig and Doug Kessler were the winners of gift cards from Braun Corporation. CMI Enterprise also gave away two gift cards and the winners were Charles McGraw and Coletta Clouse. Thank you again to our wonderful exhibitors for their support of NATP!

On the first night of the Workshop, managers were invited to tour The Great Platte River Road Archway. The tour took the group back in time to view the struggles of the early pioneers, the birth of the railroad, and the building of I-80, the nation's first interstate. After the tour, attendees gathered in the Archway's banquet area for a meal provided by Dickey's Barbeque Pit and were treated

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CONGRATULATIONS!!

Rookie Manager of the Year
Marilee Hyde

Transit Manager of the Year
Carol Meyerhoff

Pioneer Award
Lee Meyer

Friend of Transit
Georgia Janssen

In Appreciation
Laura Lindgren
Carol Maxson
Jerry Wray

Years of Service Pins
Charles McGraw - 5
Carol Meyerhoff - 5
Marilee Hyde - 15
Carol Maxson - 20
Donetta Nye - 30

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NEBRASKA PUBLIC TRANSIT MAINTENANCE & STORAGE FACILITIES

During the recent NATP Managers Conference in Kearney, there was a short presentation on transit bus maintenance/storage facilities. I would like to update everyone on the progress of several facilities either in the planning stage or being constructed.

Recently, representatives from the FTA regional office in Kansas City, MO and the NDOR participated in a ground breaking ceremony at North Platte and a ribbon cutting in Sidney. The Sidney facility was a rehab of an existing building and was completed in April. The North



Facility in North Platte

Platte facility is new construction and is expected to be completed in October 2012.

In addition to these two facilities, a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Phelps County transit facility in Holdrege is being planned for July 2012 as is a ground breaking ceremony for the RYDE Transit facility in Kearney. The Kearney facility is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2013.

Facilities in Saline County, Webster County, Scotts Bluff County, and Tri Valley Health System in Cambridge are all in the planning or pre-design stage at this time. Saline County is in the process of negotiating with an Architectural and Engineering firm for design of their facility. Webster County has an Architectural and Engineering firm on board and is in the process of designing their facility. Scotts Bluff County and Tri Valley Health System in Cambridge both have received environmental clearance and are in the planning stage of their projects.



Facility in Sidney

Next year's presentation on transit facilities should be very impressive with all that is happening across Nebraska in our transit programs.

Jerry L. Wray
Transit Liaison Manager
Rail & Public Transportation
Division
Nebraska Department of Roads

NATP'S IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is definitely a bittersweet time for me because of my resignation as president of NATP and from the Board of Directors. I have enjoyed serving in both capacities for the last 14 years. I will be retiring from my job as Transportation Director in Ogallala at the end of September as well. Thank you to the Association and to FTA for the very nice awards and recognition I received at the Banquet.

I would have liked to have been farther along in the statewide coordination project than we are because I feel like the job isn't done and that there is so much left to do. We have travelled this road at a turtles pace much of the time, and, while I feel we have reached some of the goals we set out to accomplish, the task of coordinating

transportation in Nebraska has just begun. Coordination is a strategical challenge and it will take many years of dedicated behind-the-scenes planning before much progress is seen. It is going to require cooperation with each other, with the private providers, with the 5310 systems, with NDOR and the planners and on and on, to get the task done. I hope you all will keep plugging away at it because the citizens who depend on public transit will be rewarded with a first rate transportation system that will get them to the places they need to go when it is completed.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve. I have made so many friends across the state and have enjoyed knowing each and every one of you. I want to

keep in touch, so here is my home email in case you want to send me a "hello" now and then and let me know how things are going. cmaxson@allophone.com

I am also on Facebook, so you can locate me there as well.

Keep "Moving those Nebraskans to the Good Life." All my best to everyone!

Carol Maxson
NATP President



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I hope all of you had a safe and fun 4th of July! It is hard to believe we are already into July - how time flies when you're having fun!

June was a busy month at the NATP office. We conducted the 2012-2013 membership drive and held the Managers Workshop. It was nice to meet many of the managers from across the state. This year's workshop was held in Kearney at the new Younes Conference Center. I was impressed with the facility, and we had wonderful and diversified speakers that were entertaining and educational but allowed enough time to connect with fellow colleagues. The workshop also allowed time to spend with vendors; be sure to thank these vendors and sponsors for their participation in the workshop.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Carol Maxon for her service as president of NATP. She has served the association well and spent years guiding the NATP members. Although I did not have the opportunity to work with her for very long, I see the impact of her work and thank

her for setting so many things in motion for all of us to benefit from. Carol was honored at our workshop and presented with a gift; *please take time to drop her a note and thank her for her service.* It will be difficult to move forward without her guidance; however, she has reassured me she is going to stay in touch. Carol, I am so glad I had the pleasure of working with you!

I had the privilege of attending the Community Transportation Association of America EXPO in Baltimore, Maryland in May. I felt it was a great learning experience and the EXPO covered numerous topics affecting our state and

national organizations and a host of vendors in the exhibit hall. Joni and I were judges at the *Rodeo*. It was exciting to see the winners in the van and small bus divisions from Nebraska competing at the National level and I look forward to our 20th Annual Statewide NATP Rodeo where we will select next year's EXPO attendees! Mark your calendars to attend the Driver Training and Rodeo which will be held in Kearney on September 18 and 19, 2012 and perhaps earn a trip to next year's EXPO in Albuquerque!

We welcome Scott Bartels as our new President of NATP and look forward to his guidance and ideas which will be valuable in the years ahead. The NATP Board will meet at the NATP office later this fall.

Don't hesitate to contact the NATP office if there is anything we can do to assist you. Have a great summer and keep up the great job...see you in September!

Kathi Schildt
NATP Executive Director



CTAA Attendees--Left to right: Carla Goranson, Larry Vortherms, Carol Graham, Kelly Durbin, Marcie Eggerling, Jim Eggerling, Vicki Goeken, Kathi Schildt

NATP'S 2012-2013 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

An old Chinese proverb states, "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." NATP has journeyed quite a distance since taking its "first step", and has much farther yet to go.

We should all appreciate the time and attention that past NATP officers and board members have given to the association and to the passengers that we ultimately serve. The NATP Annual Managers

Workshop in Kearney provided an opportunity to recognize a number of dedicated transit personnel and say thank you for their service. Those who are retiring will be greatly missed.

I appreciate the confidence placed in me by the association to help lead NATP as President for the next year. I look forward to hearing from managers and drivers concerning the direction NATP should move and

suggestions on how the association can better serve their needs and improve their ability to provide safe, reliable, accessible transportation.

As our dear friend Georgia used to close, keep "Moving Nebraskans to the Good Life."

Scott Bartels
NATP President

2012 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. Over 60 drivers attending the training which focused on the driving environment, distractions, professionalism and a refresher course on first aid and CPR.

The training was held in Norfolk (18 attendees), Grand Island (16 attendees), Beatrice (23 attendees), Kearney (5 attendees), Gering (3 attendees) and Ogallala (3 attendees).



Norfolk Drivers Training Attendees

Carson Fitzgerald, of the Nebraska Safety Center, assisted with the agenda for the Training and attended the Norfolk session. Dennis Holtz, new trainer with the Nebraska Safety Center, taught at all locations and did a nice job.

Dennis and Kathi rode together to the Gering and Ogallala sessions and had a lot of time to talk about 2013! Hopefully, they can develop some good content to increase the number of attendees next year.



Kearney Drivers Training Attendees

At each location, attendees were asked for input regarding topics and drivers were encouraged to visit the NATP website. 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.

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 those transit systems for hosting the events or assistance in selecting a training facility.

Want to host a 2013 location? Contact Kathi Schildt at (402) 420-0031 or kschildt@youraam.com.



Grand Island Drivers Training Attendees



Beatrice Drivers Training Attendees



Gering Drivers Training Attendees

2012-13 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

By now you have received your dues statement for 2012-13. We appreciate your faithful 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 will offer three categories of membership and thank those companies that are starting to advertise in our newsletter - thank these vendors as this shows support of your association!

A full listing of members will be electronically distributed and placed online in July - if you have questions about membership, please contact Kathi Schildt.

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to entertainment provided by staff of the Archway. "The Mail Order Bride" brought laughs to everyone as certain audience members were singled out to be part of the act.

After the meal, President Carol Maxson called the Annual Meeting to order. The agenda was gone through and Carol thanked everyone for their support during her tenure as president. Scott Bartels of Saline County Area Transit was elected to take Carol's place. Carol Prince, Sue Chipman, and Vicki Goeken were other members elected to the board (see page 4 for a complete listing of the NATP Board members).

Following the election of the board, numerous NATP members were honored for their service and commitment to transportation. Congratulations to all recipients!

FTA Awards

- Seward County Public Transportation - Highest % increase in transit passenger ridership (57.1%) among transit providers in Nebraska operating 1 vehicle. 2010-2011
- NanceTrans - Highest % increase in transit passenger ridership (83.6%) among transit providers in Nebraska operating 2-3 vehicles. 2010-2011
- Chappell Senior Center - Highest % increase in transit passenger ridership (56.5%) among transit providers in Nebraska operating 4-7 vehicles. 2010-2011
- Ryde Transit - Highest % increase in transit passenger ridership (3.9%) among transit providers in the Nebraska operating 10 or more vehicles.

• Retirements:

- Laura Lindgren, Director, Saunders County Public Transportation
- Jerry Wray, NDOR
- Carol Maxson, Ogallala Transit

• Retirement & Special Recognition as identified by NATP Board of Directors

- Georgia Janssen, former Executive Director, NATP

The TRB Scholarship award winners were also announced.

Jeffrey Baker, Vickie Goeken and Jonnie Kusek were chosen to attend the TRB Rural and Intercity Conference that will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, in October.





Vicki Goeken presents the 30 year pin to Donetta Nye.

Thanks to Workshop Sponsors & Vendors

Altro Transflor

Braun Corporation

CMI Enterprise

Freedman Seating

MOR/ryde International
Special thanks for being a break sponsor!

RouteMatch Software



Jeremy Steadman, RouteMatch



FTA Speakers: Cindy Terwilliger, Joni Roeseler & Claudia Hill



Jamie Chambers & John Pirruccello with AMR discuss guideline requirements.



Kearney was the host site, with the banquet at the Archway.



Bill Ferguson, WPCI, presents to the managers.



Left: Break sponsored by MOR/ryde International



NATP President Carol Maxon



NATP Education Classroom



NATP attendees enjoy a tour of the Kearney Archway!



Kathi Schildt enjoys a "big cup" of caffeine at the banquet!

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**Next newsletter deadline is
October 19, 2012**

Please send your articles and pictures for the Nebraska Transit Trends newsletter to the NATP office by **October 19, 2012**.

We want to know what all of our members are doing throughout the state. Submit your typed articles via email (as a word document) to the NATP office at info@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 appear in the next newsletter.

Visit Us On The Web!
www.neatp.org

*Dates To Remember***September 2012**

18 - 19 NATP Drivers' Training/
Rodeo, Kearney
Holiday Inn & Nebraska
Safety Center

October 2012

14 - 17 20th Annual National
Conference on Rural
Public and Intercity Bus
Transportation
Salt Lake City, Utah

December 2012

12-13 NACO Conference
Kearney - Younes
Conference Center

January 2013

NATP Legislative Day
Lincoln

March 2013 - Proposed

NATP Drivers Training
Norfolk, Grand Island,
Beatrice, Kearney

April 2013 - Proposed

NATP Drivers Training
Gering, Ogallala

May 2013

CTAA National
Rodeo/EXPO
Albuquerque, NM

June 2013

4 - 6 NATP Managers' Workshop
North Platte