

Nebraska Transit Trends

LEGISLATIVE EVENT A SUCCESS

The Legislative Event that was held on March 17 & 18 in Lincoln was a success! The first day consisted of an afternoon of information provided by:



- Sean Kelley is the lobbyist for Omaha Metro. Sean provided an insight on how the Nebraska Legislature operates. He also explained that the difference between advocacy and lobbying is that advocacy is creating public awareness for your cause

and lobbying is attempting to influence policy makers directly. Kelley explained that unfortunately, most Senators don't view public transit as a top priority. This is probably due to a lack of knowledge. He encouraged attendees to establish relationships with their Senators, especially during the "off-season."



- Larry Dix is the Executive Director/Lobbyist for the Nebraska Association of County Officials. He discussed a few issues that currently impact counties including inheritance and property taxes. He encouraged attendees to spend time with their county/city boards and educate them on the importance of public transit. It is also important for your passengers to communicate their needs to the boards as they are their constituents. He also encouraged systems to work together, develop long-term goals, and work on changing the general public's perception of transportation.



- Heidi Uhing is the Director of the Nebraska Legislature's Unicameral Information Office. Heidi provided information about the background and history of Nebraska as the only state with a non-partisan unicameral. A unicameral system eliminates partisanship, decreases the influence of lobbyists, increases public influence and makes it easier for public participation in government.



- Greg Adams is a former Senator and Speaker of the Nebraska Legislature. Adams was a lively presenter and provided attendees with a special insight on how to approach their Senators. For events such as our Legislative Breakfast, he encouraged attendees to personally reach out to their Senators to let them know that they'll be there. He also emphasized the importance of building a relationship with Senators

prior to the session and before you have an issue to address. He also said to not shortchange the Senator's aide; they are often the "gateway" to the Senator. Be nice to them!

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NATP PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you are all in good health and great spirits!

Spring has been exceptionally wet in our area this year. Another three inches fell the other night. While there has been much flooding and property damage in Saline County, so far we have been able to work around flooded and washed-out streets and roads well enough that only one route had to be partially cancelled. We were able to reschedule those passengers after the water receded so they could purchase necessary supplies, food and medication. Situations like these make people recognize how important public transportation is to meet daily needs for so many! It also reminds us how important it is to continue advocating for public transit.

Spring has been busy in many other ways as well. We had good attendance for NATP's re-energized legislative event in March that actually covered two days. It began with an afternoon of instruction on how to reach out to senators and advocate for public transit. Legislative Day followed beginning with a breakfast with the Senators, a tour of the Capitol and culminating with a proclamation signing by Governor Ricketts declaring the second week of April as Public Transit Week. The day also provided me with the opportunity to testify at the hearing for NDOR funding.

Many transit managers were active with Public Transit Week and held some very successful events. At Saline County Area Transit we held a pair of food drives for the local pantries and had passenger appreciation days where we provided free rides to those who made a donation to the food bank.

April also brought a change of address for Saline's transit office. We are now located on the main street of Western at 107 S West Avenue. I would like to remind everyone that we are hosting a ribbon cutting and open house Thursday, June 18 beginning at 2:00 with the open house extending until 4:00 p.m. You are all welcome to attend.

Nebraska was once again well represented at the CTAA EXPO and National Rodeo competition held in Tampa, Florida. Congratulations to our competing drivers, Larry Vorthers and Kily Gortmaker in the van division, and Diane Schaepe in the body on chassis division for a job well done! There was a good variety of topics covered in the professional development and general sessions. "Why Vanpool Works for Transit" and "Smart Financing for Your Agency's Future" were the two most interesting sessions for me. The roundtable session on financing provided a lot of insight as to how public transit is finding the funding necessary not just to survive, but to thrive. The vanpool session



gave a lot of tips on who to contact as major stakeholders and the advantages to participants – both employees and employers.

To finish, I would like to thank Tiffany Fougeron and Charles McGraw for presenting to the NACO commissioners and supervisors on June 11 in Kearney. I feel this was an opportunity for NATP to educate and advocate at a level that is most effective – locally. And I am very pleased that another opportunity to work with NACO has developed through an invitation to discuss potential legislation for introduction in the 2016 legislative session from Larry Dix.

I hope to see many of you at the Managers Workshop in Lexington.

Until next time, safe travels everyone.

Scott Bartels
NATP President

SCAT RIBBON CUTTING AND OPEN HOUSE

The ribbon cutting and open house for Saline County Area Transit will be held on Thursday, June 18, 2015, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at their new location at 107 S. West Avenue in Western, Nebraska.

Cake and refreshments will be served.

Join Scott Bartels and his staff to congratulate them on their new building!



PASSAGE OF LB 610

The Department of Roads has posted gas tax revenue projections for municipalities and counties to reflect the passage of LB 610 last week. Your revenue projection can be found by accessing <http://www.transportation.nebraska.gov/city-county/>.

Look under "Alphabetical Index" and click on "LB 610 - Gas Tax Revenue for Cities & Counties" Once you open the document, you need to look at the tabs on the bottom of the page and click on the tab

entitled "Muni."

Also, it is imperative that you thank the Senators who voted to override the Governor's veto. They were under tremendous pressure to support the veto. Please send emails or letters thanking the 30 Senators who voted to override the Governor's veto!

The following 30 Senators who voted to override the Governor's veto of LB 610: Baker, Campbell, Coash, Crawford, Davis, Friesen,

Gloor, K. Haar, Hadley, Hansen, B. Harr, Howard, Hughes, Johnson, Kolowski, Kolterman, Krist, Kuehn, Lindstrom, McCollister, Mello, Morfeld, Nordquist, Pansing Brooks, Scheer, Schumacher, Seiler, Smith, Stinner and Williams.

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2015 - 2016 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

NATP membership renewals were sent in May for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Thank you to those who have submitted dues. If you need a copy of your membership invoice, please contact the NATP office.

The NATP Board has worked hard to develop new goals and visions for the association.

The Legislative Event was updated and provided a training event and a better opportunity to meet with Senators. Public Transit Week and the proclamation were also ideas that were developed. We look forward to the continued growth of these events. Our ultimate goal is to increase awareness of public

transportation and inform public officials about the transit needs of our communities.

We are looking to our members for involvement. If you would like to serve on a committee (Membership, Advocacy/Legislative, Public Relations/Education), please contact the NATP office.

MANAGERS WORKSHOP

The Managers Workshop will take place June 23-25 at the Holiday Inn Express in Lexington.

There is a great lineup of presentations including:

- Grant Writing 101
- FISH Philosophy
- Roundtable Discussions
- NDOR Updates
- FTA Updates
- ADA Q&A
- Public Transit Week
- Emergency Management
- Technology
- Reasonable Suspicion Training
- Ethics in the Workplace
- Show Me the Money
- Financial Management for Transit Providers

The Annual Banquet and Membership Meeting will take place Tuesday evening at the Mac's Creek Vineyard. RYDE Transit will provide transportation to and from the hotel.

During the banquet we will hold elections for the following positions: West Central, East Central and At-Large. View the nominees on page five.

There will be seven exhibitors during the workshop on Wednesday. There will be plenty of time to meet with them and also time for prize drawings.

There is still time to register!

Call the office today if you would like to attend and if you need a hotel room.

We look forward to seeing you there!



BOX BUTTE COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSIT COLLECTS PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS

During the course of employment with the public transit system, the BBCPT employees are aware of many individuals that are in need of essential items to enable them to maintain a cleaner, healthier lifestyle. These individuals may be temporarily down on their luck, come from low-income families or are senior citizens with limited resources that do not enable them to afford the personal hygiene items that many of us take for granted.

The employees of BBCPT collected items to assemble personal hygiene kits to be distributed through the BBCPT system and other outreach organizations such as the Northwest Community Action and Doves Programs. Items collected included:

- Bar Soap
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Razors
- Lotion
- Wash Clothes

Transit employees reached out to members of their communities asking for their help to give much needed hygiene products to people who are struggling to meet many family's basic needs. By distributing the kits through their local outreaches, they hope to assist with something so simple which can have such a profound impact on someone's life. One kit for one individual can change one life.

The initial collection of items

ran through June 4, 2015. The hope was to collect enough of all items listed above to place in each kit. In addition to the above items, each kit will contain a card with proper hand washing and teeth brushing techniques and personal or business contributors listed. The original goal was to assemble at least 200 kits total from the first collection. BBCPT collected over 1400 items, which will enable their volunteers to assemble at least 150 complete kits and many individual items to be distributed as needed.

"It's just our way of trying to give back to our community and help our neighbors in need", states Jonnie Kusek, Transit Director for Box Butte County. Another collection drive is scheduled for late in the fall.

CTAA DELEGATE UPDATE

The State Delegates of CTAA met on Monday evening of the CTAA conference to discuss concerns related to public transportation and to share individual concerns from each state. As the Nebraska State Delegate I was able to share the importance of transportation and the concerns the Nebraska Transit Managers have. Those concerns I shared with CTAA staff were: staffing and employment concerns, Medicaid brokerage concerns, local funding issues, MAP21 and bus funding.

CTAA shared with us the importance to start new partnerships with private businesses. CTAA is available to help any members who need assistance forming a partnership. CTAA also recommended re-visiting any partnership that a public transit entity has and encourage that to grow.

This summer CTAA members will see another benefit of their membership in a newly introduced partnership with Enterprise Rent-A-Car called RideShare which is designed to enhance development of van pools and eliminate startup costs. Watch for upcoming developments with this program.

During this conference I attended sessions on: low cost video production for transit agencies, apps and how they can work for you, building transit networks, bridging fixed routes and demand response routes, and directing your system into the future. There was also a great opportunity to meet with vendors including: RouteMatch, Intelliride, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, National RTAP, Goshen Coaches, Forest River Buses, Mercedes Benz Vans, Mobilitat and Braun.

Finally I would like to congratulate our drivers: Larry Vortheims - Avera Creighton Hospital, Diane Schaepe - Seward County Public Transit, and Kily Gortmaker - Webster County Public Transit. These drivers did an excellent job on the course and represented the drivers from Nebraska well. Thanks to the "Team Kily" crew that traveled to Tampa to support Kily and the rest of the Nebraska drivers.

I appreciated the opportunity to represent Nebraska. I know there are some transit systems that are not members of CTAA. If you are interested in a membership, please contact me at my office.

Charles McGraw

NATP BOARD NOMINEES

The individuals below have contacted the NATP office with their intentions to run for the open NATP Board positions. The election will take place during the banquet on Tuesday, June 23 at the Mac's Creek Vineyard during the Managers Workshop. If any individuals are interested in running for a position, contact the NATP office.

Charles McGraw ***West Central Position***

It has been great pleasure of mine to represent the West Central Region for the past 6 years. During these 6 years, I have worked to the best of my abilities to represent this region. Many of you know I regularly send out emails with information regarding public transit at all levels (federal, state, and local) to transit systems within the West Central Region – with the goal of informing managers in the region about information I receive. I make a point to call any new managers and offer what I can for assistance as a manager begins their career with public transit. Advocacy for public transit is important and I represent my region at NACO, League of Municipalities, CTAA, TRB and other affiliations which can enhance public transportation. I would appreciate the opportunity to run for this position, serving another 2 years, and would welcome any input those in my region have, as well as other managers across Nebraska.

Marilee Hyde ***At-Large Position***

Hi my name is Marilee Hyde, I have been employed by the City of North Platte for the past 39 years. The past 16 years I have been running the Public Transit for the City. As you all know we wear so many hats in our day-to-day jobs. Three

years ago transit became my full-time job and I am truly blessed to have a new facility to run.

I would love to serve on the board to help in any way possible. I am a very hard worker and would love to serve the association.

I feel so very fortunate to be a part of the transit family for the past 15 years. Let me tell you we have come a long way and the future is so exciting.

If you love what you do for a living, you will never work a day in your life.

Brenda Ford-Halstead ***At-Large Position***

I have been a manager in public transportation here at the hospital since the inception of the program in 2000 and had a transit program through the senior center in the mid 1980's for a few years.

In our town of approximately 3,500, there was no public transit. Many years ago the bus came through a couple times a week, and an elderly lady had a "taxi" service which really only served her friends so public transit has always been a need.

Since 2000 our fleet has grown from 1 to 5 vehicles and we now serve an average of 755 people, providing 1,150+ trips per month and cover an average of 4,000 miles per month all over Nebraska and into South Dakota and Iowa.

I am so blessed that I have an amazing staff who really want to be where they are providing excellent service to our elders, disabled and the general public.

As a board member I would work to be the voice of the rural providers and get to know each program in much more

detail. I think there are many ways we could more efficiently work together to provide transportation that serves the needs of our community members and allows them to remain independent.

Jeff Baker ***East Central Position***

In 2013, I submitted my name for nomination for the Member-At-Large position. At that time I felt that I could contribute to the overall success of the public transportation cause in Nebraska. Over the last couple of years, I have focused my efforts in strengthening NATP and representing not just my own program's interests but every transit agency's potential throughout Nebraska.

I have enjoyed serving as the co-chair of the Rodeo Committee and have served as the NATP Treasurer since the end of 2013. I have decided to run for the East Central Board Member position because I hope to continue promoting public transit and I believe that as an Association, NATP is a leader in advocating for our transportation systems to the Nebraska Unicameral, Nebraska Department of Roads, and County and Municipal political subdivisions.

NATP is a great organization with unlimited potential and I ask for your support as we continue to revamp and improve existing programs like Legislative Day, Manager's Workshop and the Rodeo Competition but also as new ideas and programs continue to take shape this next year.

I look forward to seeing everyone next week in Lexington.

LEGISLATIVE EVENT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Find your Senator's information here: http://nebraskalegislature.gov/senators/senator_find.php

The next morning we had the opportunity to have breakfast with the Senators at the historic Ferguson House in Lincoln. There were a lot of great conversations and exchanges of contact information happening.

Following the breakfast, attendees went on a guided tour of the Capitol. We also witnessed Governor Ricketts sign our proclamation declaring the second week in April as Public Transit Week!

This was a great event - we are already looking forward to the 2016 event. More information will be coming later this year.



PUBLIC TRANSIT WEEK

The second week in April was proclaimed "Public Transit Week" in Nebraska. This was 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 our transit systems and communities.

Press releases, flyers, and other marketing items were available to members to use during this week. Advertising expenses related to Public Transit Week

cookies at the transit office, going to the schools to teach students how to ride the bus, etc. Many systems developed their own ideas and events.

Prior to the Public Transit Week, a webinar was available that provided more information on Public Transit Week including how-to's, ideas and suggestions, and more.

We are very excited about continuing to hold Public Transit Week every year and hope that you are "on board!"

A panel will provide discussion on Public Transit Week during the Managers Workshop.



Richardson County Transit provided flowers to their top 5 passengers.

were considered allowable expenses for the systems.

During the "Public Transit Week," systems were encouraged to come up with daily events that would encourage the public to utilize public transportation or thank them for continued support. Some ideas included: Stuff the Bus, Discounted/Free rides on one day, "Selfies" (have riders send selfies of themselves utilizing public transit), getting stories of riders, serving



York County Public Transit Stuffed the Bus for Blue Valley Community Action.



North Platte Public Transit held a Stuff the Bus Event.



O'Neill Mayor Bill Price signed a proclamation declaring April 6-10 as Public Transit Week in honor of St. Anthony's Hospital Transportation Service.



Seward County Public Transit held an Easter Egg Hunt.



StarTran held Stuff the Bus events at various locations.

NANCETRANS

In 1993, the Fullerton Area Senior Center wanted to expand their services to provide transportation for the elderly and disabled. An application to the State of Nebraska Department of Roads for a vehicle was made. A full size passenger van with a rear wheelchair lift was granted. The first driver for the system was LeRoy Belgum. The system has evolved from just serving the elderly and



Chris Fisher, Mike Bosak and Neva Umstead are pictured during their Open House.

handicapped to becoming public transportation for anyone of any age or ability. In 2008 the senior center replaced the handi-van with a 2008 Ford Goschen bus which is equipped with a wheelchair lift.

In the same year, a contest was held to give the public transportation system a new name. The contest concluded with a tie which was broken by the Board of Directors making the final decision. The name of 'NanceTrans', submitted by Linda Lambert, became the winner. In 2010 an additional vehicle was aquired thru ARRA (American Recovery & Reinvestment Act) and TIGER (Transportation Infrastructure Generating Economic Recovery) funds that were available at that time. This brought a Dodge Caravan to the transportation system.

NanceTrans continues to provide safe and reliable transportation service to the citizens of Nance County. The current drivers are Lyle Newquist, Mike Bosak and Chris Fisher.

The first annual Nebraska Public Transit Week was celebrated by NanceTrans with a complimentary bottle of water

for each passenger to enjoy on their trip. We played "Let's Make a Deal" with each passenger as they boarded to win a prize if they answered correctly (there was no incorrect answer). An appreciation was given to all veterans and their spouses by giving free rides on Tuesday. An Open House was held by offering a free chicken dinner with cake and ice cream. An introduction of the staff, staff appreciation and a tour of NanceTrans was given. Staff were presented with personalized water bottles to show gratitude for all they do for our passengers. Shirts were purchased for the staff with the new logo.



WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Camelot Transportation Inc. strives to be the state's premier passenger transportation company by providing our service to the people of Nebraska and surrounding states. We pride ourselves on being a professionally operated, strictly confidential, economical passenger transportation company. We operate authorized passenger vans with certified trained drivers and escorts.

Camelot Transportation Inc. understands the importance of bringing family together and our helpful staff members are trained to provide the best transportation experience to our clients, regardless of their

age or ability, because we care. We work hard to accommodate the medical needs of our client's by providing a comfortable environment to non-emergency medical facilities. We also understand the needs of parents/ foster-parents,

counselors, case workers, and doctors. We know that transportation plays a vital role in these critical and necessary moments, which is why it is our goal to make sure our clients get to their scheduled destinations in a safe and timely manner.



CTAA EXPO - TAMPA, FLORIDA

Kily Gortmaker

Being at the National Roadeo was quite an eye opener for me. I was surprised at the number of drivers that have completely different, yet quite similar, jobs to my own. Meeting drivers from all over the country makes us realize how important our jobs really are in every area of the country.

At the classes I attended I learned that we are doing things mostly correctly. I say mostly, only because we don't seem to have the safety strap on the lifts. I was told that in Florida they are now mandatory. As far as lift operation and wheelchair securement I believe Nebraska has our act together!!

I really appreciate the opportunity to be able to attend the National Roadeo. I experienced so many new adventures including flying, oceans, trolleys, ferries, taxis, and trams; not to mention seeing the beauty of another part of our country. Thank you very much for the opportunity.



Kily Gortmaker and her supporters wore "Team Kily" shirts during the Roadeo.

Larry Vortherms

I am Larry Vortherms, Transportation Coordinator for Avera Creighton Hospital. I manage the public transit system located and operated out of Creighton, Nebraska. I am also the main driver and therefore meet the driving requirements to participate in the State and National Roadeos.

During the week of May 30 through June 5, 2015, I had the privilege and honor of participating in the 26th Annual

CTAA Roadeo and EXPO that was held in Tampa, Florida, representing Nebraska. This was the third time that I have competed in this national event. I met some new drivers from across the country while participating in this two day training and competition. I also reconnected with a couple of drivers that I had met at previous Roadeos. Discussing daily operations and challenges with these drivers, I find that all drivers face the same challenges no matter where they work.



The future looks bright for Larry Vortherms as he gets his fortune told during the Big Night Out.

As Transportation Coordinator for Avera Creighton Hospital, I was able to attend the conferences and EXPO that were held following the Roadeo. Here was an opportunity to learn more about "Developing Policies and Procedures for Transit," "Financial Management for Transit Agencies," and a whole host of other topics that would keep one busy for months trying to digest all the information that was presented.

The EXPO showcased the vendors that we may deal with at one time or another, those that supply vehicles, wheelchair lifts, routing programs and everything in between. You get to examine the equipment and ask questions about the products. You can compare them side-by-side. As an example, it was easy to compare the Mobility Ventures "MV-1" van versus the BraunAbility lowered-floor Dodge Caravan. This is invaluable information. I could go on, but you get the picture.

I want to thank the Nebraska Department of Roads for

the scholarships that they provide that make attending the National Roadeo a possibility. Also, a thank you to the Nebraska Association of Transportation Providers for all of its support and to Avera Creighton Hospital for letting me structure schedules to allow me to attend.

I would hope that NDOR would consider sending representatives to the Roadeo and conferences in the future. I think there are invaluable information and numerous contacts that would benefit all who attend.

Of course you all want to know how I did in the competition. I had competed in the full size van division the previous two times that I was at Nationals. This year I competed in the minivan competition. I placed 6th overall in this division which is higher than where I placed previously. It seemed to be a tight course as expressed by a lot of the drivers. We drove MV-1s during the competition.

Again, thank you to all that supported those of us that attended the Roadeo and EXPO.



Nebraska attendees take time for a photo during the Awards Banquet.

Diane Schaepe

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the NATP and NDOR for giving me the chance to compete on a national stage, for our county and the great state of Nebraska.

It should only serve to enhance my driving skills and it was a great learning experience. The trip down to Florida was good and the weather was great.

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CTAA EXPO - TAMPA, FLORIDA (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

There was a lot to see amidst the registration and driving. The bus I had to drive was completely different than what I drive in Seward, but I worked through the tough spots as best as I could.

This event served to stretch me as a person and a driver. It also helped me face tough situations and work them out under pressure. Again, this should serve me and the community where I work.

Jeff Baker

I would like to thank NATP and NDOR for sponsoring the opportunity for my driver Diane Schaepe and I to attend the CTAA Rodeo and Conference held in Tampa, Florida, May 30th – June 3rd. CTAA put on a great Rodeo event and had top notch training that brought awesome speakers in from around the country and gave us an opportunity to meet and network with great “transit minded” individuals from across the nation.

Several years ago, I challenged the drivers within Seward’s Transit program to attend the Nebraska Rodeo training and competition held in Kearney. As I look back now, I realize how reluctant and uncertain my drivers were going into a competition and trying something completely new to them, but when we got back from Kearney, I heard things like “enjoyed”, “learned” and “met.” Since that first Rodeo, I have always told my drivers that if they attended a Rodeo event and learned something new, improved and honed their skills, and networked with their fellow drivers – it didn’t matter how many cones they took out on the course or how well they ranked at the end of the day. The purpose of the Rodeo is not to win but to learn; learn from their peers, learn from the instructors, and celebrate the commitment of the individuals who like them, are dedicated to providing the very best transportation services within our great state!

In Tampa, we saw the best that public transportation has to offer as over 80 drivers took to the Florida State Fairgrounds and showcased their skills in driving, wheelchair securement, and pre-trip inspections. They tested their knowledge with a 100 question test on basic driving and motor vehicle operations and they endured 90+ degree heat with 100% humidity (maybe not that bad, but it was hot). The Nebraska drivers did an excellent job and I really enjoyed watching them as they competed. They represented their state well and I am very proud of all that Diane, Larry, and Kily accomplished while in the Sunshine State!

I would like to challenge my fellow managers to encourage your drivers to participate in the 2015 Rodeo to be held September 23 in Kearney and I can’t wait to see who takes home the trophy this year!



NACO COUNTY BOARD WORKSHOP

NATP was invited to present during the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) County Board Workshop on June 11 in Kearney.

NATP executive director Tiffany Fougeron and NATP board member and transit director of RYDE Transit Charles McGraw were on hand to provide two 90 minute presentations.

Fougeron provided an overview of what NATP does and the various activities that we are involved in.

McGraw went into detail on how important county funding is for public transit. He explained that even a “small” budget cut could greatly impact the overall budget for the transit agency.

The attendees asked a lot of great questions and walked away with more knowledge on how public transit works across the state.

This was a great opportunity for NATP to speak in front of our elected officials.

If you would like a copy of the PowerPoint, please contact Tiffany at the NATP office.



Charles McGraw provides information about transit funding during the NACO County Board Workshop.

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*Dates To Remember***June, 2015**

June 23-25
Managers Workshop
Lexington

September, 2015

September 22-23
Driver Training / Rodeo
Kearney

NATP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

It seems like I had to make room for a lot of items in this newsletter! Thank you to those who attended the Legislative Event and participated in the first ever Public Transit Week. What a great way to promote public transit across Nebraska! I look forward to seeing what everyone will do in 2016.

I was able to attend the CTAA Rodeo and EXPO in Tampa with a great group of drivers and managers. I should have known better and kept lathering on the sunscreen - I am still peeling from judging the Rodeo!

The Rodeo event was very hot and the course was very tight. There was little room for error. Our drivers did a great job representing our state. A lot of the other drivers have competed



My future looks bright and I will meet a big goal this year!

in these National events for years. The man who won the overall event said this was his 7th year. Larry Vortherms got 6th place this year and this is the third time he's competed. I see a victory in his future!

There were many great national speakers as well as localized, small group meetings where we could really interact with all attendees. It's also great to meet with our CTAA members in

person as I spend a lot of time communicating with them over phone and email.

During the state association meeting, Scott Bogren from CTAA really drove home the need for a united front from our transit agencies to let Congress know that we are/will be facing a bus capital crisis. I will keep you updated as more information comes.

I hope to see everyone at the Managers Workshop in Lexington. There is a great line-up of presentations and this is an excellent opportunity for networking!

See you soon!

Tiffany Fougeron
Executive Director

New Best Practice in Securing 3-Wheeled Scooters

By Anne Lowder

Do you ask customers that board your vehicle riding a 3-wheeled scooter if they would like to transfer to a seat? If so, you are following a recommended best practice, because 3-wheeled scooters are difficult to secure. However, if your customer does not want to move to a seat, you can't require it per the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). To address such situations, Q'Straint, a manufacturer of securement straps and devices, has updated its securement recommendations for 3-wheeled scooters. This article outlines Q'Straint's new recommendations.



Q'Straint recommends that securements for 3-wheeled scooters flare out wider in the back than in the front.

New best practice

The National Transit Institute's (NTI) goal for securing wheelchairs is to be able to limit the movement of the device during an incident and to protect the occupant. To meet NTI's goal, Q'Straint recommends that 3-wheeled scooters be secured differently than the way 4-wheeled mobility devices are secured. Q'Straint's *Q5-1160 SC Scooter Securement Instructions* were presented at the Q'Straint and SURE-LOK National Training Seminar in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida on October 1-2, 2014.

For a **4-wheeled mobility device**, NTI best practices state that the tie-downs be attached to the same frame component of the chair (base frame member or seat frame member of the chair). Ideally, both the front and rear tie-downs should be at a 30-45 degree angle. The front tie-downs should be anchored to the floor wider than the chair to stabilize the side-to-side tilting movement of the chair. The rear tie-downs should be anchored directly behind the mobility device to help contain the chair in the securement area and limit forward and back movement.

For a **3-wheeled mobility device**, Q'Straint recommends that the front and rear securement anchor configurations be reversed in terms of how wide they are set (see photo above). The securement anchor points on a 3-wheeled scooter need to flare in the rear and be narrowly set on the front of the scooter.

Q'Straint instructor John Gross demonstrated why they were recommending this change by showing how following NTI's best practice for securement of a 4-wheeled device does not prevent a 3-wheeled scooter from moving beyond what is considered safe. He secured a 3-wheeled scooter with an additional strap looped around the front column of the

The Americans with Disability Act specifies that "when the wheelchair or mobility aid is secured in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, the securement system shall limit the movement of an occupied wheelchair or mobility aid to no more than 2 inches in any direction under normal vehicle operating conditions." 36 CFR 1192.23 (d)(5)

scooter with the two front tie-downs secured by attaching to either side of the additional strap. The front tie-down anchor points were flared. Gross was easily able to pull the scooter back and forth using that method of securement, with much more than the ADA-recommended two inches of movement.

Switching the anchor point configuration for a 3-wheeled scooter so the straps flare more widely at the rear and narrowly at the front lessens the scooter's movement to the two inches of movement under normal vehicle operations.

Summary

Securement of 3-wheeled scooters is difficult because of the lack of solid frame securement points. Q'Straint and National Transit Institute highly recommend that scooter occupants transfer to a bus seat if they can and will transfer. Explain to your customer why transferring to a seat makes good safety sense. Plus, it would be a more comfortable ride.