



Nebraska Transit Trends

LEGISLATIVE MEETING REVAMPED

Register now for the 2015 Legislative Meeting, taking place March 17 and 18 in Lincoln. The new version of the Legislative Meeting consists of training for managers on the afternoon of March 17. Managers will be provided with information on how to speak to elected officials, legislation for local sales tax initiatives, advocacy vs. lobbying, history of the Unicameral and more! This training will take place from 1-5:00 p.m. on March 17 at the Courtyard Marriott in downtown Lincoln (808 R St.).

On the following morning, this information will be put to good use as we have invited the Senators to a



complimentary breakfast at the Capitol. This will be a great opportunity to meet with your local Senator! Please call

your Senator and personally encourage him or her to attend. We already have 18 Senators who have confirmed that they will be attending! Find your Senator's contact information here: http:// nebraskalegislature.gov/senators/senator_find.php

After the breakfast, attendees will go on a guided tour of the Capitol. We will then meet with Governor

Ricketts to have him sign a proclamation declaring the second week in April as "Public Transit Week."

This training is FREE to managers. Hotel stay and meals are considered reimbursable expenses through RTAP (if your system is 60+ miles away). If you need a hotel room, please contact the NATP office as soon as possible.

Please register for the event by March 11. Registration is available online: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/natp-legislative-meeting-registration-15542366637. View the brochure on page 7.

More information is available on our website. We hope to see you there!

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NATP PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to All,

Spring has sprung! No...not quite yet. But at this time of year the days are getting noticeably longer, and so springs optimism!

This is also the time of year when Congressmen and Senators are busy presenting bills, making amendments and debating issues. In an effort to make NATP's annual legislative day more effective, we have embarked on a new campaign, changing our method of getting to know our state senators. Included in this change are:

- An afternoon of instruction on how to reach out to senators and advocate for public transit.
- Breakfast with the Senators • (please personally invite your senator).
- A proclamation signing by Governor Ricketts.
- Tour of the Capitol.

In addition to the Governor's proclamation, we have been working with University of Nebraska staff and NDOR to design a logo and generate ideas for events that each transit system may choose to participate in during Public Transit Week scheduled for the second week of April. My thanks to Jeff Baker and Tiffany Fougeron for organizing these efforts and to Mike Davis and Curt Simon for helping provide presenters.

On the congressional level, I encourage everyone to go to the link below where you can find an outline of talking points and information on Stand Up for Transportation Day being held April 9. You will notice that many of the talking points are applicable at the state level as well. I have also included a listing of Transit-Related Committees in the 114th Congress that was provided by Scott Boaren with CTAA. You can find this on the last page of the newsletter.



It is my hope that armed with these talking points and your personal experience in transit, each of you will help to make a long-term impact on providing resources that allow us to provide much needed services in our communities.

Note: То find/contact your senator go to www. nebraskalegislature.gov/ senators/senator_list.php

Until next time, safe travels everyone.

Scott Bartels NATP President



The Saline County Area Transit building project is nearing completion. Congratulations to Scott Bartels and his team on all of their hard work.

Link to Stand up for Transportation:

http://www.apta.com/members/memberprogramsandservices/advocacyandoutreachtools/Stand%20Up%20for%20Transportation/Pages/SU4TGeneric-Talking-Points.aspx

DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING COMPLIANCE

In October 2013, the NDOR Transit Section procured the services of Precision Compliance, Inc. (PCI) to assist the rural transit providers with drug and alcohol testing PCI provides compliance. ongoing technical assistance to transit managers, conducts site visits, and facilitates the development of required policies and procedures. In 2014, trainers from PCI developed and conducted a two-day workshop at four locations across the state. The workshops were attended by

55 rural transit managers and supervisors responsible for compliance.

PCI's founder and owner, Beverly Krieger, was also invaluable to the NDOR Transit Section staff in responding to a Federal drug and alcohol audit conducted in November 2013. Ms. Krieger worked with the NDOR transit managers and rural transit agencies to address deficiencies identified during the audit. NDOR's response to the formally submitted findings of the compliance audit team was accepted in September 2014 and the audit was closed out.

PCI will continue to provide ongoing technical assistance to NDOR and the transit systems at least through December 2015.

SAVE THE DATE - MANAGERS WORKSHOP JUNE 23-25, 2015

The date and location has been set for the 2015 Managers Workshop. This year's event will take place June 23-25 at the Holiday Inn Express in Lexington.

The Board is working on developing the schedule for the workshop. Topics under discussion include writing, arant emergency management planning, records retention, and more.

If you have an idea for a speaker or topic, please call

Tiffany Fougeron at the NATP office or send an email.

We look forward to seeing you in Lexington!



CTAA SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR EXCELLENCE IN MOTION AWARDS

.

CTAA delegate Charles McGraw has been asked to nominate a CTAA member from Nebraska for the annual membership awards.

Each year at EXPO, CTAA presents membership the awards to recognize excellence in community transportation following the award in categories: Rural and Urban Community Transportation System Community of the Year, Transportation

Manager of the Year and the State Leadership Award (recognizes an organization, either a State Association or State Agency). The Board of Directors knows that our delegates are able to identify the person or organization who best exemplifies these ideals.

Eligible nominees for Nebraska include: NATP, Scott Bartels, Jill Cammack, Mike Davis, Michael Felschow, Marilee Hyde, DeAnn Keith, Charles McGraw, Carol Prince and Darin Rubeck.

Please contact Charles if you would like to nominate someone. Deadline for nominations is April 17.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Norfolk Public Transportation-Vicki Goeken



The member spotlight for this issue is Vicki Goeken with Norfolk Public Transportation. I have really enjoyed getting to know Vicki over the past couple of years through her work as a member of the NATP Board. Vicki has been on the board for many years and has served as the Secretary.

I planned on meeting with Vicki at her office as I was going to be in Norfolk for another event. Unfortunately something came up and she was unable to meet with me. I was able to visit her office and speak with Peggy Buckendahl, the dispatcher for the system, and Jim Eggerling, a driver for the system.

Both Jim and Peggy had nothing but nice things to say about Vicki and their passengers that they serve on a daily basis.

Jim indicated that Vicki was the best boss he's ever had. He also added that she was the first boss he's ever had since he had previous farmed on his own. You can tell that this group enjoys what they do and mesh well together.

Vicki was still able to answer questions about the system and how they serve the community of Norfolk.

Vicki has worked at Community Concern of Norfolk since 1997.

She began her career as a dispatcher and in 1999, she became the manager of Norfolk Public Transportation as well as the Norfolk Senior Center.

Norfolk Public Transportation transports people inside the city limits and immediate surrounding areas. They currently have two lowered-floor mini vans and one car. They will be receiving another lowered-floor mini van soon. The system runs three vehicles from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and one vehicle from 7:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The lowered-floor mini vans are wheelchair accessible.



Jim Eggerling stands by one of the mini vans that the system utilizes.

History of Norfolk Public Transportation

The Handi-Bus was acquired by Community Concern about 1978 with a grant in conjunction with the Northeast Nebraska Area Agency on Aging. The City of Norfolk contributed the local match to purchase the bus. The City took over the operation from 1979 to 1981. It was then operated by several different agencies until 1995 when it was again run by Community Concern. An office was rented in the Norfolk Senior Center's building for dispatch. Over the years the system grew from one vehicle running Monday through Friday to three vehicles running during the week and one on Saturday and Sunday. The name was changed from Norfolk Handi-Bus to Norfolk Public Transportation.

Highlights

When asked about some of the highlights of serving the community, Vicki said, "Transportation is a basic need, and we are happy to help provide that service. To show their appreciation for the service, we have received cards, balloons, baked goods, candy and flowers. It makes you feel good to know you have helped and that they really appreciate it."

Peggy and Jim indicated that it's good to know that they're helping people. Many of their passengers have indicated that they don't know what they would do without this service.

Challenges Facing Norfolk Public Transportation

Vicki indicated that IntelliRide continues to be a challenge with the transit system. Other challenges include insurance and matching funds.

Peggy indicated that the phone lines can be very busy and this can be a challenge balancing that with other tasks that need to be done. Another challenge is keeping passengers on time.

Jim added that inclement weather and watching out for other drivers on the road can be a challenge.

Benefits of Belonging to NATP

"Being a member of the Nebraska Association of Transportation Providers provides educational opportunities and networking. Ι strongly encourage all transportation providers to become a member. I have enjoyed being on the Board of Directors these past few years," said Vicki Goeken.



PUBLIC TRANSIT WEEK - SECOND WEEK IN APRIL

The second week in April (April 6-12) 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.

We are working on finalizing draft press releases, flyers, and other marketing items 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.

Some ideas include: Stuff the Bus, Discounted/Free rides on



one day, "Selfies" (have riders send selfies of themselves utilizing public transit), getting 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. A webinar was available last week that provided more information on Public Transit Week including how-to's, ideas and suggestions, and more. View the PowerPoint on our website.

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

RYDE TRANSIT UPDATE

The Transportation Department is off to a busy start for the first months of 2015. 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 6 – 12, 2015. Watch for a proclamation from the Governor and more information as the week approaches.

On January 13-14, Chris Zeilinger from CTAA (Community Transportation Association of America) was here to start the CTAA Technical Assistance grant –awarded to RYDE Transit, which will study the current transportation system in Kearney. Chris and I met with many individuals locally during the two days.

Charles McGraw RYDE Transit



NATP invites you to attend the 2015 Legislative Meeting. This meeting will consist of training, breakfast with the Senators, tour of the State Capitol Building, and signing of a Proclamation declaring the second week in April as "Public Transit Week."

This event is FREE for NATP members. Expenses will be eligible for RTAP reimbursement.

Registration for this event is available on the NATP website, www.neatp.org and www.nebraskatransit.com.

If you need a room at the Courtyard by Marriott, you need to notify the office by February 14. If our room block fills, additional rooms are available at the Country Inn & Suites. Please contact the NATP office as soon as

Invitations have been sent to the Senators. Please call your Senator in early March and personally

time of arrival and plan to be there to greet them. Find your Senator's contact information at http://

encourage him/her to attend. Find out their approximate

LEGISLATIVE MEETING Lincoln, NE

Register now



Tuesday, March 17

1:00 - 5:00 p.m

Training at the Courtyard by Marriott Lincoln (808 R St., Lincoln)

- How to Speak to Your Elected Officials
- Advocacy vs. Lobbying
- History of the Unicamera

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Evening on your own. Enjoy the new Railyard with a wonderful selection of restaurants.

Wednesday, March 18

7:30 - 9:00 a.m.

Complimentary breakfast with the Senators, State Capitol Building, Room 1023, 1445 K Street.

9:00 - 9:45 a.m.

Guided tour of the State Capitol Building. We will meet at the north entrance on the second floor.

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

nebraskalegislature.gov.

possible to reserve your room.

NATP members will witness Governor Ricketts signing the proclamation declaring the second week of April as Public Transit Week.

Questions?

Contact Tiffany Fougeron at the NATP office (402) 761-2216 tfougeron@youraam.com

STATEWIDE TRANSIT INITIATIVE UPDATE - NDOR TRANSIT SECTION AND UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

Nebraska State Statute 13-1204

Department of Roads; coordinating and technical assistance agency:

The department shall be the principal state agency responsible for coordinating public transportation activities in the state, and when requested, shall provide technical assistance to improve Nebraska's public transportation system. The department may contract pursuant to the Nebraska Public Transportation Act to assist state agencies, political subdivisions, and public and qualified public.

To meet the obligations set forth in state statute, the NDOR Transit Section is the pass through agency for Federal Transit Administration and State Transportation funds. As the direct grantee for federal funds, the Transit Section is responsible for project management oversight to ensure processes are in compliance with statutory, administrative and regulatory requirements.

It has been a successful first year for the NDOR Transit Section/University partnership. "The Nebraska Local Technical Assistance Program is excited to be working on another project with NDOR that is having a positive impact on Nebraska's citizens, particularly those in rural areas," says Nicole Frankl, Director, LTAP. The project includes a number of tasks including the following:

- Public Outreach
- Transit Technology
- Rural Transit Driver Training
- Route Needs Assessment Research
- Civil Rights Compliance

Statewide Transit Initiative Year One Accomplishments:

Public Outreach

To raise awareness about public transportation in the state, Valerie Lefler and Bill Biven, NU staff, and Kari Ruse, NDOR Transit Manager, participated in and/or presented information at the following events in 2014:

- Federation for the Blind Annual Conference
- Nebraska Legislature's Aging Task Force Meeting and Public Hearing
- Nebraska Association of County Officials Regional Meetings
- Nebraska Legislative Planning Committee
- Nebraska Transit Managers Meeting
- Tribal Transportation Conference
- Statewide Van Pool Stakeholders Meetings

<u>Technology</u>

The new online portal for invoice processing was launched in August 2014, with great success. After a few glitches were resolved, transit managers quickly learned to navigate the new system to submit invoices for reimbursement. The portal also serves as an asset management and data collection tool for the Transit Section.

NATP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

Hello everyone. I hope you are all staying warm and looking forward to warmer weather ahead – I know I am. It's hard to believe that it's already March and that spring is just around the corner.

If you haven't already, I encourage you to register for the NATP Legislative Meeting, taking place March 17-18 in Lincoln. Some of you have participated in previous Legislative Days. This meeting is much more!

On the afternoon of March 17, we have four great speakers lined up to provide updates and insight on what's going on in Nebraska Legislature. First we will have Sean Kelley, a lobbyist for the Omaha Metro. He will discuss how to reach out to your elected officials, legislation for local sales tax initiatives, and advocacy vs. lobbying. NACO's executive director Larry Dix will also be on hand to talk about what legislation is currently important on the county level. Next we will have Heidi Uhing who is the director of the Unicameral Information Office. Greg Adams, former Speaker of the Legislature, will address our group as well. He is now with Accelerate Nebraska.

After an afternoon of training, managers will be able to explore the new Railyard area in Lincoln's Haymarket on their own. There are so many great



Check out the Railyard and Haymarket area restaurants down there. It just so happens to be St. Patrick's Day so be sure to wear green!

The next morning we will meet for a Legislative Breakfast with the senators at the State Capitol. If you're planning on attending, I encourage you to reach out to your senator and personally invite them to attend the breakfast. I have the list of confirmed senators if you have any questions.

After the breakfast, we will go on a guided tour of the Capitol. The tour will end at the Warner Chamber where we will witness Governor Ricketts sign a proclamation declaring the second week in April as Public Transit Week in Nebraska.

This is a great opportunity to learn more about governmental procedures, meet with your senators, and network with managers from across the state. For eligible individuals, the hotel stay will be direct billed. Hotel reservations were due in February, but if you still need a room, call me and we'll see if we can get a room for you. If you haven't registered online, be sure to do so as soon as possible. I hope to see you all there!

I'm sure you are all wondering about Public Transit Week. The Board is working with NDOR and the University staff to promote public transit across the state. Webinars were available online to inform managers about this event. We have ideas, press releases, marketing items and so much more available to you. The powerpoint from the webinar is available on our website, or I can email that to you as well.

We are working on developing the schedule for the Managers Workshop, taking place June 23-25 in Lexington. If you have any ideas for the workshop, be sure to send them my way.

As always, I ask that you send updates from your transit system to share in the newsletter and/ or on our Facebook page. The Facebook page is growing – have you liked us yet?!

I look forward to seeing you at future events. Thank you for all you do!

Tiffany Fougeron

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!



Gary Donnar, Service Manager

Cummins Central Power introduces the Omaha Service Manager, Gary Donnar. Gary brings 41 years of experience in the industry. Gary comes from service growing from a technician to a foreman. From there, he grew to become the lead trainer for Cummins engine technology. Now Gary is the service manager in Omaha. Ask him how we can help.



STATEWIDE TRANSIT INITIATIVE UPDATE - NDOR TRANSIT SECTION AND UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)

User testimonials:

"We love the new invoice system. It has taken something out of the dark ages and made it almost fun to use. Everything is truly user friendly and the amount of time we spend on invoices has been cut in half. We love it." Marilee Hyde, City of North Platte Transit Manager

"The new online invoice system takes less time and has excellent support staff when I'm at a *loss."* Penny Vollbracht, City of Wayne Transit Manager

Rural Transit Driver Training

In partnership with the Nebraska Safety Center (NSC) at the University of Nebraska in Kearney, mandatory training for rural transit drivers kicked off in January 2014. Trainers from NSC have already provided over 600 hours of instruction to rural public transit drivers.

"The Nebraska Safety Center at UNK has relished the opportunity to partner with NDOR on enhancing the safety of our citizens throughout the entire state by assisting in public transit driver safety training." Mick Anderson, Operations Manager, Nebraska Safety Center

Rural transit driver training participants January 1, 2014-December 31, 2014

Workshops	PASS	Defensive Driving	First Aid/ CPR/AED	Transporting Children	Difficult Pas- sengers	Distracted Driving	Evacuation Procedures	Emergency Procedures	Total
Total Participants	372	333	40	22	38	39	24	27	895

Route Needs Assessment Research

The Center for Public Affairs Research at UNO conducted a statewide intercity bus study in 2014. The objectives of the study included the following:

- Identify existing intercity bus service 1.
- 2. Interview intercity bus providers
- 3. Conduct public information open houses to identify ridership demographics
- 4. Gather public input to identify gaps in service
- 5. 6. Summarize the information gathered
- Develop an action plan to address intercity bus needs
- Share the study findings with the transportation community and general public 7.

The final report is located on NDOR's website http://www.transportation.nebraska.gov/docs/Intercity-Bus-Assessment-2014.pdf.

Compliance with Title VI, Civil Rights Act 1964

Direct and sub recipients of federal funding are required to ensure nondiscrimination in federally funded programs administered by state and local entities. To assist the NDOR Transit Section with compliance, University staff developed a state guidance document and template plans for sub recipients. Valerie Lefler, UNO, and other NU staff also developed and conducted workshops for sub recipients. In 2014, a total of 110 transportation professionals attended 8 Title VI workshops across the state and more workshops will be scheduled in 2015. Transit managers should continue working with University staff to complete their individual Title VI plans.

NATP 2014-2015 LEADERSHIP

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Next newsletter deadline is May 22, 2015

Please send your articles and pictures for the Nebraska Transit Trends newsletter to the NATP office by **May 22, 2015**.

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*. 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





Transit-Related Committees in the 114th Congress

Earlier this month the 114th Congress was sworn in. Let's take a closer look at the key community and public transportation committees and their leadership. MAP-21 (current federal surface transportation law) was extended last summer to May 31, 2015 – so these committees are charged with developing new surface transportation legislation or extending current law by that date.

U.S. Senate

Senate Banking Committee

Chair: Richard Shelby, Alabama Ranking: Sherrod Brown, Ohio

Republican Members: Michael Crapo, Idaho Bob Corker, Tenn. David Vitter, La. Patrick Toomey, Pa. Mark Kirk, Ill. Dean Heller, Nev. Tim Scott, S.C. Ben Sasse, Neb. Tom Cotton, Ark. Mike Rounds, S.D. Jerry Moran, Kan.

Democratic Members: Jack Reed, R.I. Charles Schumer, N.Y. Robert Menendez, N.J. Jon Tester, Mont. Mark Warner, Va. Jeff Merkley, Ore. Elizabeth Warren, Mass. Heidi Heitkamp, N.D. Joe Donnelly, Ind.

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

Chair: James Inhofe, Okla. Ranking: Barbara Boxer, Calif.

Republican Members: David Vitter, La. John Barrasso, Wyo. Shelley Moore Capito, W.V. Mike Crapo, Idaho John Boozman, Ark. Jeff Sessions, Ala. Roger Wicker, Miss. Deb Fischer, Neb. (likely to be named Chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee) Mike Rounds, S.D. Dan Sullivan, Alaska

Democratic Members: Thomas Carper, Del. Benjamin Cardin, Md. Bernard Sanders, Vt. Sheldon Whitehouse, R.I. Jeff Merkley, Ore. Kristin Gillibrand, N.Y. Corey Booker, N.J. Edward Markey, Mass.

U.S. House of Representatives

Transportation & Infrastructure Committee

Chair: Bill Shuster, Pa. Ranking: Peter DeFazio, Ore.

Republican Members: Don Young, Alaska* John Duncan, Tenn.* John Mica, Fla.* Frank LoBiondo, N.J.* Sam Graves, Mo.* (Has been named Highways and Transit Subcommittee Chair) Candice Miller, Mich. Duncan Hunter, Calif.* Rick Crawford, Ark.* Lou Barletta, Pa.* Blake Farenthold, Texas* Bob Gibbs, Ohio* Richard Hanna, N.Y.* Daniel Webster, Fla.* Jeff Denham, Calif.* Reid Ribble, Wisc." Thomas Massie, Ky.*

Tom Rice, S.C.* Mark Meadows, N.C.* Scott Perry, Pa." Rodney Davis, Ill.* Mark Sanford, S.C. Rob Woodall, Ga.* Todd Rokita, Ind. John Katko, N.Y.* Brian Babin, Texas" Cresent Hardy, Nev.* Ryan Costello, Pa.* Garret Graves, La." Mimi Walters, Calif.* Barbara Comstock, Va.* Carlos Curbelo, Fla. David Rouzer, N.C. Lee Zeldin, N.Y.

Democratic Members: Eleanor Holmes Norton, DC* Jerrold Nadler, N.Y.* Corrine Brown, Fla.* Eddie Bernice Johnson, Texas* Elijah Cummings, Md. Rick Larsen, Wash. Michael Capuano, Mass." Grace Napolitano, Calif.* Daniel Lipinski, Ill.* Timothy Walz, Minn. Steve Cohen, Tenn.* Albio Sires, N.J.* Donna Edwards, Md.* John Garamendi, Calif. Andre Carson, Ind. Janice Hahn, Calif.* Richard Nolan, Minn.* Ann Kirkpatrick, Ariz.* Dina Titus, Nev.* Sean Patrick Maloney, N.Y.* Elizabeth Esty, Conn.* Lois Frankel, Fla.* Cheri Bustos, Ill.*

* Denotes members of the Highways and Transit Subcommittee