

Nebraska Transit Trends

21ST ANNUAL NATP DRIVERS TRAINING & ROADEO



The Nebraska Association of Transportation Providers (NATP) held their Annual Statewide Roadeo and Drivers Training at the Nebraska Safety Center in Kearney on September 17 and 18. A total of twenty three drivers from across the state registered and competed in the Roadeo. Thirty two volunteers, made up of transit managers and staff, NDOR staff and others stepped in to judge the event. Jeff Baker of Seward County Transit and Cindy Sanders of Guide Rock Public Transit were co-chairs for the Roadeo.

Everyone who participated in the Roadeo, either as a judge or a contestant, was invited to an awards luncheon. All Roadeo contestants were announced and presented with a certificate and a Roadeo lapel pin. Drivers who had been accident free for the past 12 months were awarded a Safe Driver Award window sticker to place in their vehicle. Roadeo Committee members were asked to stand and be thanked for their hard work in putting together this event.

Committee members include Jeff Baker, Scott Bartels, Wayne Masek, Cindy Sanders, Denise Smith, Corrina Duckworth and Neva Umstead. Judges were then announced and presented with a tire gauge which featured the NATP logo to thank them for their hard work. The event could not have taken place without the help of everyone.

The Roadeo competition consists of a written test, pre-trip inspection and wheelchair securement segments, and a driving skills course. This year, a new mini-van category was added to go along with the van and small bus divisions already in place. There was also a Hawaiian theme this year; many participants went all out with grass skirts, leis, and Hawaiian shirts. The first place drivers from each division and their managers are eligible to attend and compete in the CTAA National Roadeo in St. Paul, Minnesota, in June of 2014.

First place winners of all three divisions won \$250 and an engraved clock. The second place winners received a \$150 check along with



Neva Umstead & Bobbi Lechner make the Left Turn look festive.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Driver of the Year
Sharon Brown

Spirit Award Winner
Brenda Guilliams

Van Division
1st - Sharon Brown
2nd - Michael Frederick

Mini-Van Division
1st - Fred Krenk
2nd - Jim Eggerling

Bus Division
1st - Brenda Guilliams
2nd - Ardis Niederklein

Thank you to the Roadeo Committee, Nebraska Safety Center Staff, Judges and Drivers for participating!

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NATP Office
521 First Street, PO Box 10
Milford, NE 68405
Phone: 402-761-2216
Fax: 402.761.2224
General Email: info@youraam.com

UPDATE FROM THE NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ROADS

News



www.transportation.nebraska.gov

State Headquarters
1500 Highway 2
Lincoln, NE 68502
Communication Office: (402)479-4512

October 28, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information Meetings Nov. 5 to Discuss Transit Service Pilot Program

Transit agencies in Webster County, Franklin County, and Guide Rock, along with the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) will hold public information meetings to discuss implementation of a pilot program for coordinating service to the regional center communities of Kearney, Grand Island and Hastings. The purpose of the meetings is to describe the service changes for the pilot program and take comments.

The meetings are in support of NDOR's mobility management project to increase cooperation and coordination among public transportation providers.

Three meetings will be held at the following locations and times:

| <u>Franklin</u> | <u>Red Cloud</u> | <u>Guide Rock</u> |
|--|---|---|
| Franklin County Senior Center 623 15 th Avenue Franklin, NE Tuesday, November 5, 2013 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM | Elm Street Center 435 N. Elm Street Red Cloud, NE Tuesday, November 5, 2013 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM | Village Meeting Room 120 West Douglas Guide Rock, NE Tuesday, November 5, 2013 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM |

At the meeting, representatives from the transit agency in each community/county will afford an opportunity for interested persons or agencies to be heard with respect to the social, economic and environmental aspects of the project.

#NDOR#

Contact:

Chip Burger, 678-808-8965, or email at chip.burger@urs.com
Kari Ruse, NDOR Transit Liaison, 402-479-4694, or email at kari.ruse@nebraska.gov

NR10-GQ

UPDATE FROM THE NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ROADS

FTA Drug & Alcohol Compliance

The Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) Rail and Public Transportation Division has secured the professional services of Precision Compliance Inc. (PCI), and FTA drug and alcohol compliance specialist. PCI will provide support, training, and technical assistance to all 5311 sub-recipients and the NDOR Transit Section to ensure compliance with the Federal regulations mandating drug and alcohol testing.

Over the next twelve months, PCI will schedule and conduct site visits at all 5311 transit systems. They will review current policies, procedures, and record-keeping practices. As identified deficiencies are corrected and to ensure continued compliance, PCI staff will provide ongoing technical assistance and support to your drug and alcohol program manager

PCI staff will also conduct training at 4 locations across the state in the spring of 2014. More details about training will be released as dates and venues are finalized. At least one representative from your organization should plan to attend one of the two-day trainings. Tentative training schedule:

| Date | Location |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| May 19-20, 2014 | Lincoln/Omaha area |
| May 21-22, 2014 | Kearney |
| June 2-3, 2014 | Scottsbluff |
| June 4-5, 2014 | North Platte |

The professionals at PCI are available to assist you with any questions relating to compliance with Federal drug and alcohol questions. NDOR encourages the 5311 transit systems to take advantage of this opportunity.

PCI's contact information:

Precision Compliance
Beverly Krieger, President
1220 Ravenwood Rd.
Boulder CO 80303
1-888-611DRUG(3784) or 303-499-1473
bkrieger@precisioncompliance.com
Website: <http://precisioncompliance.com/>

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2013 DRIVERS TRAINING & ROADEO (Continued from page 1)

an engraved key ring that features the state seal.

Winners of the small bus division were Brenda Guilliams of Richardson County Transit, first place, and Ardis Niederklein of Saline County Area Transit, second place.

The van division winners include Sharon Brown of Hitch and Hay Public Transit, first place, and Michael Frederick of Richardson County Transit, second place.

The mini-van division winners include Fred Krenk of Wayne Public Transit, first place and Jim Eggerling of Norfolk Public Transportation, second place.



Brenda Guilliams, Fred Krenk and Sharon Brown were winners in their categories.

The driver of the year award went to Sharon Brown who had the highest score of 860 out of a possible 1000 points. Sharon received a \$50 Visa gift card as her prize and also took home the traveling trophy for winning the van division. Brenda Guilliams took home the traveling trophy for the small bus division and Fred Krenk took home the trophy for the mini-van division.



Deputy Wyatt Hoagland leads the Defensive Driving Course.



Wheelchair securement.

For the third year, the Rodeo Committee decided to honor a driver who exemplified good sportsmanship during the event. The committee also based this award on participation in this year's Hawaiian theme. Brenda Guilliams took home this award, which consisted of a colorful beach bag cooler and a tropical houseplant.



Bud Fears of Q-Straint/Sure-Lok discusses wheelchair securement

On Tuesday, over 60 drivers and managers attended a free drivers training held at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center. Buffalo County Deputy Sheriff Wyatt Hoagland provided five hours of Defensive Driving Training to the attendees. Hoagland is a part-time ADT and Driver's Education instructor for the Nebraska Safety Center in Kearney and did an excellent job of providing valuable information while keeping the audience involved.

In the afternoon, Bud Fears from Q-Straint/Sure-Lok provided a hands-on wheelchair securement segment. Everyone who attended the training received a certificate from the Safety Center and a padfolio and bottle koozie which feature the NATP logo.



The mini-van division was added for 2013.

2013 TRANSIT MIDWEST CONFERENCE

The first ever Joint Transit Midwest Conference was held August 4-7, 2013, at the Intercontinental Kansas City at the Plaza Hotel. Nebraska joined forces with the Missouri, Kansas and Iowa Public Transit Associations to provide all members throughout the region with an excellent educational and networking opportunity.

The planning committee spent many hours coordinating this event and appreciates the feedback from attendees and exhibitors. The number in attendance far exceeded our initial expectations. There was over 300 attendees and just over 60 exhibitors that filled the exhibit hall and overflowed into the hallway. Thank you to the exhibitors and sponsors who helped make this event such a success!

Nebraska had 34 attendees, many of whom utilized the transportation that NATP provided. One vehicle started in Ogallala, picking up managers in North Platte, Kearney and Grand Island. A van started in Norfolk and picked up managers in Lincoln. Both vehicles arrived Sunday afternoon, just in time for the welcome reception.

Monday's agenda consisted of state Board meetings, keynote speaker Mark Aesch, FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff, Iowa Congressman

Tom Latham and Missouri Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II, CTAA Executive Director Dale Marisco, the presentation of FTA awards and the golf tournament awards, best practices panels, Kansas City Area Transportation Authority off-site facility tour and various workshops. The evening's social networking event took place at the American Jazz and Negro League's Baseball Museum. Attendees were treated to an amazing Kansas City barbeque meal and were able to explore the museum.

On Tuesday, the day consisted of various workshops including substance abuse training, management training, customer service and much more. NDOR



Charles McGraw, Corrina Duckworth, Sue Chipman and Cindy Sanders utilize public transportation.

Larry Ossowski, previous member at large, indicated that he would not be seeking re-election for his position on the Board. The membership elected Jeff Baker into the vacant position. Charles McGraw and Vicki Goeken were re-elected into their Board positions as well.



Managers received new NATP shirts for attending.

presented to the Nebraska managers and provided updates regarding Title VI Compliance, Drug and Alcohol Compliance, application checklists and much more.

"The meeting with NDOR provided Transit Managers with information on upcoming mandatory changes that will be happening over the next eighteen months," said Sue Chipman.

NATP held its annual meeting and the election of officers was held.

Nebraska attendees headed back home after the conference adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Overall, the joint conference was a great success. A big thank you goes out to our sponsors, exhibitors, speakers and committee.

The committee has met to wrap up the conference and would like to continue to have this joint conference every three years. Look for more photos on the NATP website.



Intercontinental Hotel



Negro Baseball League Museum



**The Nebraska Association of Transportation Providers invites you to
attend Legislative Day at the Capitol...**

Legislative Day
Wednesday, January 22, 2014
State Capitol
1445 K Street, Lincoln, NE

Meet at the Information Desk
on the 1st Floor at 11:30 a.m.
Dutch Treat Lunch in the Cafeteria

Distribution of materials
will be at 1:00 p.m.



----- (Clip and mail, or email to) -----

Please RSVP by Wednesday, January 15, 2014, to: NATP Office at email tfougeron@youraam.com or fax (402.761.2224) or mail your registrations to NATP, 521 First Street, PO Box 10, Milford, NE 68405.

Transit System Name: _____

Attendee Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone and/or email: _____

District # and Senator's name: _____

I will be attending the Legislative Dutch Lunch at 11:30 a.m. the Capitol. ☐ Yes ☐ No

I will be assisting in Distribution of Materials to the Senators at 1:00 p.m. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Below, please provide me with the best method to contact you, in case of Snow Day on January 29, 2014.

NATP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Happy fall everyone!

We had quite a busy August and September for NATP. Thank you to the members who were able to attend the first Transit Midwest Conference in Kansas City. For a first-time joint event, we think things went very well. We hope that everyone who attended took away some valuable information and enjoyed what Kansas City had to offer.

One of the highlights was the Talking Heads booth that was sponsored by Trapeze. A group of 2-3 people sat in front of a green screen and their heads were placed on the bodies of dancers. I must say, our members have quite the dance moves!

The annual Drivers Training and Rodeo was held September 17 and 18 in Kearney. This was our second year running this event and with the help of the Rodeo Committee and other volunteers, it went very well.

This year, the committee decided to have a Hawaiian theme. It was great to see how festive everyone could be! We also had a new T-shirt designed that went with

the theme as well. Also, there was the addition of the mini-van division to the Rodeo.

The training that took place on Tuesday was presented by Deputy Wyatt Hoagland of the Buffalo County Sheriff's office. Wyatt did an excellent job of keeping everyone's attention and provided a great wealth of information to attendees.

The next NATP events include the NACO (Nebraska Association of County Officials) Conference in Omaha in December. Tiffany will represent NATP as an exhibitor and hand out information to attendees.

Our Legislative Day is scheduled for Wednesday, January 22. If you would like to participate, please fill out the form on the previous page and turn in to our office. We hope to have a great representation of our association as we reach out to our state's leadership.

I'm sure many of you have heard that NATP will not be conducting a spring Drivers Training in 2014. With the proposed requirements drafted by NDOR, a larger offering

of courses will be offered (and required) for your drivers in order to receive funding. The curriculum has not been finalized, but NDOR is working with the Nebraska Safety Center to develop a program that will apply to all 5311 sub-recipients. Once we receive any information, we'll be happy to relay that to you.

We will continue to offer our training at the Rodeo in the fall and are looking at the possibility of hosting other trainings. We are open to your suggestions.

Many of you know that Sue Chipman, manager of the McCook Public Transit, is retiring at the end of this year. We will miss her dearly! She's been instrumental in so many facets of NATP and Nebraska transit!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. Wishing you a wonderful Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Kathi Schildt
NATP Executive Director

NATP'S 2013-2014 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall brings in the season of Thanksgiving. So let us take a moment to think about all that we need to be thankful for in transit: active board members, strong management, great drivers, excellent training, RTAP resources, grant funding and other funding sources, and perhaps most of all... service opportunities!

It takes a lot of hard work to put all these pieces together to develop an efficient, user friendly transit system. While Nebraska has many such systems, there is always room for improvement and expansion of services.

So this Fall, make a special effort to thank all those who are supporting your transit. Whether they are using your services, providing their time and talents to set goals and policy for your transit system, driving, dispatching, or providing maintenance, let each of them know how important they are to making transit available to all.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Scott Bartels
NATP President



Scott with his mother, Dorothy, who received the Friends of Transit Award.

NATP WEBSITE UPDATED

The NATP website has a new look. The NATP staff, with help from National RTAP, created a new website for the association.

"The change was definitely needed. The old website made it difficult and time consuming to make changes," said Tiffany Fougerson, NATP staffperson. The new website is much more accessible and includes numerous features and upgrades.

Be sure to check the website for event information, newsletters and helpful links. After events, photo galleries will display photos and even videos.

If you would like to see something featured on the website, send an email to tfougerson@youraam.com.



PONCA EXPRESS TRANSIT FACILITY

Construction is under way in Norfolk for a new Ponca Express transit facility. Ponca Express is a public transportation system administered by the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska. The \$3.5 million project is funded by the Federal Transit Administration and is expected to be completed by April 2014. The 15,000 square foot building will include space for 16 vehicles, 12 offices, conference rooms and a FEMA storm shelter.

Ponca Express is based in Norfolk with a satellite location at the Tribal Headquarters in Niobrara.

Ponca Express became a member of NATP in 2013.

The service area includes Winnebago, Columbus, Wayne, Lincoln, Omaha, Grand Island and Sioux Falls, South Dakota.



Ponca Express transit facility under construction in Norfolk.

This growing transit system currently serves 275-400 tribal and community members each month and plans to expand services in the future.

Visit <http://www.poncatrib-ne.org/PoncaExpress> to learn more about this transit facility.

RYDE TRANSIT UPDATE

RYDE Transit in Franklin will be coordinating rides with Webster County beginning in November. The goal of this project is to give Franklin County and Webster County residents more options to travel to Kearney, Hastings, and Grand Island. Watch for more information as this project develops.

October 10 was the Prime Senior Festival located at the Buffalo County Fairgrounds. RYDE Transit offered free rides to and from the festival. There was an excellent turnout at this event.

RYDE Transit also co-sponsored the Senior Festival in Hastings on Wednesday, October 16 at the Hastings Auditorium. RYDE Transit offered free rides to this event.

On Election Day (Tuesday, November 5), RYDE Transit offered free rides to vote in all six counties.

On November 11, RYDE Transit offered free rides to Veterans.

NATP 2012-2013 LEADERSHIP**BOARD MEMBERS**

Western Region
Carol Prince
1825 10th Street
Gering, NE 69341

West Central Region
Charles McGraw
PO Box 2288
Kearney, NE 68848-2288

East Central Region
Vicki Goeken, Secretary
PO Box 302
Norfolk, NE 68702

Eastern Region
Scott Bartels, President
Box 412
Western, NE 68464

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kathi Schildt
NATP Office
kschildt@youraam.com

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Jeffrey Baker
320 S 14th Street
Seward, NE 68434

Sue Chipman, Treasurer
1312 West 5th Street
McCook, NE 69001

Curt Simon
222 Cuming Street
Omaha, NE 68102

City of Lincoln - STARTRAN
Mike Davis
710 "J" Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

NATP OFFICE

521 First Street, PO Box 10
Milford, NE 68405

General Email: info@youraam.com
Phone: 402-761-2216
Fax: 402.761.2224
www.neatp.org

**Next newsletter deadline is
February 7, 2014**

Please send your articles and pictures for the Nebraska Transit Trends newsletter to the NATP office by **February 7, 2014**.

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



The NATP office will be closed November 28-29 and December 24-25. Enjoy the holidays with your friends and families!

*Dates To Remember***December**

11-13 NACO Conference
CenturyLink Center
Omaha, NE

January

22 Legislative Day
Lincoln

29 Legislative Day
(SNOW DATE)
Lincoln

June

8-14 National CTAA Rodeo
& Expo
St. Paul, Minnesota

July

8-10 NATP Managers
Workshop
North Platte

thank
you!

Thank you to Sue Chipman of McCook Public Transit for her many years of service on the NATP Board as at-large Treasurer. Sue will be retiring from her position in McCook at the end of the year.

We will need a replacement for Sue on the Board. If you're interested in serving on the Board, email Kathi Schildt at kschildt@youraam.com.



UPDATE FROM THE NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ROADS

(Continued from page 3)

The public comment period for the required driver training project ended October 25, 2013. The comments will be compiled and shared with transit managers through a link on the NDOR Transit Section and NATP websites. NDOR will collaborate with the UNK Safety Center to develop a draft 12-18 month training schedule that will also be released for public comment prior to implementation of the program.

We met recently with representatives from the University, School of Public Administration, to discuss the Title VI compliance project for the rural transit systems. For those of you who attended the 2013 Transit Managers' Workshop, you will recall that Title VI was a topic discussed during the rural network session. Non-compliance with Title VI requirements was noted as a finding during NDOR's 2012 State Management Review and continues to be a concern for FTA Region VII.

Please continue to use the resources provided on our website (forms, posters, templates, samples, etc.). The University will create an FTA compliant Title VI template plan for your use which will also be posted on our website. In addition, we have tasked them with researching the census demographic data for each of the systems. This information is critical to the Four Factor Analysis required for your limited English proficiency (LEP) plan. The LEP plan will be part of your overall Title VI plan and is often the most confusing and cumbersome element.

The kick-off date for the Title VI compliance project is tentatively scheduled for November 1, 2013. Our goal within the first 12 months is for every system to have a Title VI plan submitted to NDOR and approved. A minimum of four Title VI workshops will be

scheduled across the state in the spring/summer of 2014. You are strongly encouraged to send at least one representative from your transit system to a workshop in your area.

Thanks to those of you who have already spent a considerable amount of time and effort addressing Title VI compliance. I wanted you all to be aware that additional resources will be available very soon.

It has been brought to our attention on several occasions that there are only a small number of mechanics across the state trained to work on the Braun wheelchair lifts. This is causing a burden for the systems especially in the western part of the state. It is also a potential safety and asset management issue.

We are working with the Braun Corporation to bring training to Nebraska in the spring-summer 2014. The training will be scheduled at multiple locations across the state and offered at no cost to private sector mechanics and any driver/mechanics in the transit systems. After the training, NDOR will compile a list of trained mechanics that will be available on our website.

To facilitate this project, please provide the following information:

1. Name and contact information for the company currently providing wheelchair lift repair and routine maintenance for your transit agency.
2. Name and contact information for the mechanic/shop currently providing repair and routine maintenance for your vehicles (if different than above).

Kari E. Ruse
Transit Liaison Manager
NDOR Rail & Public Transportation
402-479-4694
kari.ruse@nebraska.gov

Per the regulations, your transit vehicles are defined as buses and buses and school buses are required to stop at all railroad grade crossings. Stickers for your vehicles are available through a number of internet suppliers. You can submit the cost with your operating assistance invoice.

60-6,172. Buses and school buses required to stop at all railroad grade crossings; exceptions.

(1) The driver of any bus carrying passengers for hire or of any school bus, before crossing at grade any track of a railroad, shall stop such vehicle within fifty feet but not less than fifteen feet from the nearest rail of such railroad and while so stopped shall listen and look in both directions along such track for any approaching train and for signals indicating the approach of a train, except as otherwise provided in the Nebraska Rules of the Road. The driver shall not proceed until he or she can do so safely. After stopping as required by this section and upon proceeding when it is safe to do so, the driver of any such vehicle shall cross only in such gear of the vehicle that there will be no necessity for changing gears while traversing such track and the driver shall not shift gears while crossing such track.

(2) No stop shall be made at any such crossing when a peace officer or a flagperson directs traffic to proceed or at an abandoned or exempted grade crossing which is clearly marked as such by or with the consent of competent authority when such markings can be read from the driver's position.