

# Nebraska Transit Trends

## CHANGE IN NON-EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION BROKERAGE

The official bulletin from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services was received on February 6 announcing the change in the non-emergency transportation brokerage for the state.

*The purpose of the Provider Bulletin is to announce the new Non-Emergency Transportation Broker for Medicaid covered services.*

*Beginning May 1, 2014, IntelliRide will preauthorize and arrange all non-emergency medical transportation for Medicaid eligible clients. Medicaid clients will continue to schedule transportation with AMR/Access2Care for services through April 30, 2014. Transportation requests to a Medicaid covered service after this date will need to be arranged through IntelliRide.*

*IntelliRide will contact enrolled Nebraska Medicaid transportation providers in the next 30 days.*

*For questions regarding the information in this bulletin, please contact Dawn Vosteen, Program Specialist at dawn.vosteen@nebraska.gov or 402-471-9530.*

## CONGRATULATIONS SUE CHIPMAN!

Congratulations to Sue Chipman on her retirement from McCook Public Transit in December, 2013. A retirement party was held on December 19 in McCook. Sue would like to share the following:

*"I want to thank NATP for the beautiful plant I received and Cindy, Denise and Charles for being a part my retirement party.*

*In my years with NATP I have met many wonderful people and made some dear friends. It is difficult to put into words what NATP has meant to me. This organization has provided information and support whether it was purchasing a van or building a bus barn. When situations were difficult, I could always turn to my friends in transit. The networking with other transit managers was so valuable.*

*The opportunity to serve on the NATP Board gave me even more insight into ways the State and Federal government works and the importance of staying up to date on all of the rules and regulations.*

*Lastly, I want to thank Georgia Janssen, who was the Executive Director when I started, and Kathi and Tiffany with AAM for their leadership and friendship."*



*Charles McGraw, Denise Smith, Sue Chipman & Cindy Sanders shown here at Sue's retirement party*

### 2013 STATS

#### Miles Traveled

- 2.7 Million (Rural)
- 9.2 Million (Urban)

#### Passenger Boarding

- 711,588 (Rural)
- 7.1 Million (Urban)

#### Number of Vehicles

- 208 (Rural)
- 408 (Urban)

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# UPDATE FROM THE NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ROADS

## Statewide Transit Initiative

On January 3, 2014, the NDOR Transit Section and staff from UNL, UNK, and UNO met in York to kick off the Statewide Transit Initiative Partnership. This multi-year partnership will promote and support safe, reliable, affordable, and efficient public transportation in Nebraska.

Some of the projects to be facilitated through this partnership include the following:

### 1. Safety

- As of January 1, 2014, rural transit drivers will be required to complete minimum training within specified time frames. The training will be conducted by the Nebraska Safety Center at UNK and includes core curriculum elements, refreshers and elective courses.

### 2. Implement Statewide Mobility Management

- To improve efficiency, increase ridership, and provide additional transit options, rural public transportation will be provided by a system of coordinated services and providers statewide.

### 3. Technology and Asset Management

- The Transit Section and NU are developing a website dedicated to statewide public transportation. The site will be a one-stop shop that will meet the needs of the traveling public in addition to providing resources for transit providers.

- The site will automate data collection and allow for the electronic submission of required information from transit providers.

- The site will also house comprehensive, up to date information for all federally funded transit assets in the state.

- The site is currently functional but some elements remain to be developed.

### 4. Marketing and Research

- NU will conduct research to identify gaps in service across the state.

- To increase ridership and awareness of public transportation, a statewide transit marketing plan will be developed and launched in cooperation with NDOR's Communication Division.

### 5. Compliance with Federal Rules and Regulations

- Staff from UNO's Office of Public Administration will support the NDOR Transit Section to ensure all transit systems are in compliance with regulations regarding Title VI nondiscrimination.

- Title VI template policies, demographic information and training will be available to transit managers in 2014.

The NDOR Transit Section and staff from all three Nebraska University campuses met on January 3, 2014 to kick off the Statewide Transit Initiative Partnership.



1st row (left to right): Valerie Lefler, UNO; Shashank Gajjala; David Drozd, UNO ;  
George Gallardo, NDOR, Melanie Kiper, UNO  
2nd row (left to right): Ethel Williams, UNO; Franchell Abdalla, UNO; Frank Faughn, NDOR;  
Jerry Deichert, UNO; Connie Trautwein, NDOR; Kari Ruse, NDOR  
3rd row (left to right): Darla Morris, UNK; Bill Biven, UNL; Mick Anderson, UNK; Ryan Huff, NDOR;  
Dennis Holtz, UNK; Wayne Masek, NDOR; Sarah Kugler, NDOR

## WEBSTER COUNTY TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE

The new Webster County Vehicle Storage Building, located in Red Cloud, is ready for use!

An open house is scheduled for Thursday, March 13 at 2:00 pm.

Please make plans to attend this open house as the staff would love to have you there!

Please call Mary Delka, Webster County Senior Services Manager, at (402) 746-3251 if you have any questions.



## BOX BUTTE COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSIT NAMED SPOTLIGHT CHAMBER MEMBER

On January 15, 1974, a grant was received for a Sr. Handy Bus sponsored by the County of Box Butte. Alliance was served four days a week and one day in Hemingford for this one bus. The program was originally staffed by one volunteer driver and made approximately six to eight transports a day.

Today, the program is known as Box Butte County Public Transit with ten paid employees; eight in Alliance and two in Hemingford. There are six vehicles, five of which have wheelchair lifts and the transit system makes approximately 150-200 transports daily. Every time an individual boards a Public Transit Bus there is a \$1 fare. Boarding passes are also available at \$20 for 20 transports. Transports are made to and from the Alliance Airport 24 hours a day, seven days a week with special rates applying.

BBCOPT has been chosen by the Nebraska Department of Roads to become part of a State mobility management plan

that would assist in connecting communities in the Nebraska Panhandle; Alliance/Scottsbluff and possibly Chadron in the future. Transports are currently being made between Hemingford and Alliance on Monday mornings as scheduling allows.

BBCOPT belongs to the Alliance Chamber of Commerce because of their leadership and promotional efforts and that their vision is very much like our own. We strive to promote our local communities and economies, while offering safe, efficient and affordable transportation services to the general public of all ages.



**We've Moved!!**  
 New Address:  
 Box Butte County  
 Public Transit  
 816 Flack Ave.  
 Alliance, NE 69301  
 (308) 762-3596

Congratulations!!!  
 Box Butte County Public Transit celebrated  
 their 40th Anniversary on January 15



# 2014 LEGISLATIVE DAY

NATP held its annual Legislative Day on January 22 at the State Capitol. Thirteen members and NATP staff met for lunch in the cafeteria, catching up and discussing issues related to Nebraska transit.

After lunch, everyone split into groups in order to reach out to most of the Senators. Information on what Nebraska transportation providers do for the state along with ice scrapers and water bottle koozies (featuring the NATP logo) were given to Senators.

Members who attended the Legislative Day included: Scott Bartels, Mike Weston, Carol Meyerhoff, Jeff Baker, Vicki Goeken, Dustin Butler, Colleen Clayton, Coletta Clouse, Beth Siegfried, Charles McGraw, Mike Davis, Marilee Hyde, Larry Vortherms, Tiffany Fougeron and Kathi Schildt.

NATP members often contend with many issues while trying to provide the best service possible for riders. It is important to let Senators know what these issues are. Meeting with the Senators is a good way to open the lines of communication, but it is important that NATP members continue to develop that relationship and communicate with Senators about current issues that you face.



*Scott Bartels, Mike Weston, Carol Meyerhoff, Jeff Baker, Vicki Goeken, Dustin Butler, Colleen Clayton, Beth Siegfried, Charles McGraw, Tiffany Fougeron and Mike Davis stand in front of the NATP Display*

**Find your Senator!**

It's important to establish an open line of communication with those representing you. The Nebraska Legislature website makes it easy to find your senator and provides their contact information.

Visit [http://nebraskalegislature.gov/senators/senator\\_find.php](http://nebraskalegislature.gov/senators/senator_find.php) to find your senator and contact them today!

# RYDE TRANSIT COORDINATING WITH WEBSTER COUNTY & GUIDE ROCK

Beginning December 2, 2013 - Webster County Public Transportation, along with the Village of Guide Rock Public Transportation and RYDE Transit-Franklin County, are part of a Pilot Project working with the Nebraska Department of Roads, to test out a new way of offering trips to regional centers. The goal of this project is to give Franklin County and Webster County residents more options to travel to Kearney, Hastings, and Grand Island.

Everyone is excited to be a part of this Pilot Project!



## 2014 MANAGERS WORKSHOP

Make plans to attend the 2014 Managers Workshop July 8-10 in North Platte. After the 2013 Joint Transit Midwest Conference, NATP is back to hosting the regular Managers Workshop.

This year's workshop will consist of many updates from the Nebraska Department of Roads and many of the new programs that they are implementing with the help of the University of Nebraska.

A representative from Veolia Transportation (replacing AMR) will provide information and also be able to answer questions.

A representative from the University of Nebraska will provide a presentation on mobility management as well as provide a question and answer segment. A demonstration will be presented about the new technology being offered.

NDOR will provide information on maintenance best practices and more.

During many of our driver training workshops, drivers indicated that they would like their managers to know what they're learning and to also better understand the job that they do. Trainers will be on hand to inform managers on what their drivers are saying and share some of the common questions that the trainers are being asked.

The schedule is still being developed as we look for more ideas on what managers would find beneficial.

The awards banquet will take place on Tuesday, July 8 at the new North Platte Transit Facility. Marilee Hyde, manager of North Platte Transit, will host the managers to an evening of great food and fellowship. NATP awards will be presented and the Annual Membership Meeting will be held as well.

We are seeking nominations for the following awards:

- Rookie Manager of the Year
- Transit Manager of the Year
- Pioneer Award
- Friend of Transit Award
- In Appreciation

If you would like to nominate someone, please send your nomination to [tfougeron@youraam.com](mailto:tfougeron@youraam.com) by April 21 and indicate why you think the nominee should receive the award.

NATP is looking for transit systems who would like to provide a facility update. Have you updated your facility? Built a new facility? Please share about the process you went through, any setbacks, and anything else you wish to share. Tiffany Fougeron will create a Power Point presentation; please provide information to her by June 1.

We look forward to seeing you in July!



## TWO SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR TRB CONFERENCE

### **21st National Conference on Rural Public and Intercity Bus Transportation Monterey, California October 26-29, 2014**

TRB (Transportation Research Bureau) is sponsoring the 21st National Rural Public and Intercity Bus Transportation Conference, October 26-29, 2014, in Monterey, California.

This conference is designed to address key rural public and intercity bus transportation themes including planning and design; policy, funding and

finance; rural transportation in today's operating environment; technology and training solutions; and special topics in rural mobility.

NATP and NDOR will sponsor two scholarships to the conference.

Please write two to three paragraphs explaining what you expect to gain professionally by participating in the rural conference and how it will benefit your transit system and other transit systems.

NATP Executive Director Kathi

Schildt and NDOR will review and evaluate all applications. Scholarship winners will be announced during the 2014 Managers Workshop in July.

Scholarship guidelines can be found on the NATP website. Please email applications to [kschildt@youraam.com](mailto:kschildt@youraam.com) or mail to:

NATP  
PO Box 10  
Milford, NE 68405

The deadline for submitting an application is May 21.



# Public Transit

## Employee & Family Night

DATE & TIME:

# Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> @ 7:05 pm

<b>TRI-CITY STORM</b>	VS	Muskegon	Special Theme/Promotion: <b>Lap Dog Races</b>
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TICKET PURCHASE: FILL OUT INFORMATION BELOW

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

# OF TICKETS		YOUR GROUP PRICE IS ONLY:	\$10.00	TOTAL PRICE =	
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

**Special Group Offer: It's a special retreat at the Tri-City Storm game for Public Transit employees plus friends and family. Tickets for the game on March 8<sup>th</sup> are **ONLY** \$10.00. It's also Lap Dog Race Night.**

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: Submit completed forms with payment info to Charles McGraw by Tuesday March 4<sup>th</sup>. Your tickets will be available at will call on March 8th**

PAYMENT INFORMATION

\_\_\_\_\_ Cash or Check enclosed (payable to Tri-City Storm)

\_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card (VISA or Mastercard)

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card (Print): \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## NATP STAFF MESSAGE

Spring is almost here! It's time to start thinking ahead for the upcoming season and consider your spring training, cleaning, reorganizing - whatever it is you do to help you renew and reenergize after a long, cold winter.

By now you are aware of the driver training requirements - be sure to check the NDOR Transit page for training schedules, requirements, and updates and be sure that your staff stays current.

Tiffany Fougeron attended the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Conference which took place December 11 & 12 in Omaha at the CenturyLink Center. An information booth was set up in the exhibit area and information was placed out, along with the NATP banner and giveaway items. Many people stopped by to ask questions and gather more information.

Jeff Baker, Seward County Transit, was also on hand during most of the conference. This year's NACO Conference will take place December 10-12 in Omaha.

In December, we were sad to say goodbye to Sue Chipman as she retired from her position at McCook Public Transit. She was also a great resource as Treasurer

on the NATP Board - her advice and passion for Nebraska transit will be greatly missed! We were able to meet Beth Siegfried, Sue's successor, at the Legislative Day. Welcome Beth!

Thank you to those who were able to make it the Legislative Day on January 22 at the Capitol. It is always a good time to meet with the managers and to also greet the senators and introduce ourselves. If you were not able to make it, please be sure to get in contact with your senator. Look for more information on page 4.



Recently, National RTAP held a webinar series that showcased the new online toolkits that provide a wealth of information. The "How To Find Almost Anything" toolkit is a great resource that offers information on technical assistance, training opportunities,

peer assistance, best practices and much more.

The "Transit Manager's" Toolkit is a great resource for all managers - including those new to the job and those who have been working for years. Learn more about administration and compliance, safety, security and management, mobility management and more.

The last toolkit that many of you and your drivers might find beneficial is the "Rodeo" toolkit. This is a great resource to help encourage our drivers to participate in the Nebraska Rodeo. In this toolkit, drivers can view course requirements and even follow videos that show each segment of the Rodeo. We encourage you to show this to your drivers and make sure they sign up for the Nebraska Rodeo!

The winning drivers from the 2013 Rodeo and their managers have been registered for the National Rodeo & EXPO in St. Paul, Minnesota. Wish them all good luck as they represent Nebraska!

Kathi Schildt & Tiffany Fougeron

## NATP'S 2013-2014 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Steve Jobs, in the height of his success, wore the same attire day after day after day. Apparently, it saved him the time and hassle of having to make numerous trivial, small decisions. But that sure sounds boring, doesn't it? The same thing day after day?

When I was contemplating the concept of doing everything the same every day, it occurred to me, isn't that what we strive for in transit safety?

If we do all the small things right:

- Inspect transit vehicles and

keep them in good repair

- Properly board and secure passengers
- Drive defensively
- Don't allow ourselves to be distracted

The list can go on, but you get the idea. If we pay close attention to all the little details and do them correctly day after day, our chances of having "boring" days keep increasing. And that is a good thing. How better to save time and reduce stress than by keeping things on the safe side?

It also places our transit agencies in a pretty good light to those we serve. So, keep up the good, boring work!

Scott Bartels  
NATP President



## RYDE FACILITY HONORED

The Associated General Contractors-NE Building Chapter recently announced Sampson Construction received the 2013 Build Nebraska Award for the RYDE Transit Facility in Kearney, NE. The project won the award in the "New Construction Projects-Under \$5 Million" category.

Eligible projects were evaluated by a panel of their industry peers from other regions. Evaluation criterion included innovation in methods and materials, project management, client service, challenge of a difficult job and sensitive treatment of the environment and surroundings. The award encourages outstanding performance and quality construction throughout the entire state.

The RYDE facility was funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and a dedicated appropriation.



The 19,000 square foot building provides vehicle storage space, an employee wellness room,

and office facilities. A number of innovative features were incorporated into the building design including a geothermal energy system to heat and cool the building, electric vehicle charges and in-floor radiant heat.

RYDE Transit is a public transportation system operated by the Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska. Based in Kearney, RYDE serves numerous communities in seven Nebraska counties. In fiscal year 2013, RYDE vehicles traveled 344,000 miles and recorded over 122,000 passenger boardings.

Congratulations!

## MCCOOK PUBLIC TRANSIT WELCOMES BETH SIEGFRIED

Beth Siegfried of McCook assumed her new duties as the Senior Services Director for the City of McCook on January 2, 2014.

Her duties include the Senior Center, Meals On Wheels Program as well as the McCook Public Transit.

Beth is a lifelong resident of Southwest Nebraska other than a couple of years in Colorado. She was the Foundation Director for Tri Valley Medical Foundation in Cambridge for past 13 years and was ready to quit driving 50 miles a day.

She is blessed to have her three sons, daughter-in-law and three

grandchildren, plus one more on the way living close by.

Beth says, "I am really enjoying the Senior Center, I have known most of these people all of my life."

We welcome Beth to NATP and congratulate her on her new position!



Beth Siegfried,  
McCook Public Transit



## STARTRAN OFFERING A "SAFE RIDE HOME"

StarTran will be offering a 'Safe Ride Home' on Saturday, March 15, 2014. Based on availability, riders can get on board the bus at designated zone locations outside downtown, or reserve a time for home pick up. This service will operate from 8 pm until 2 am.

Reservations can be made beginning Monday, March 10 through Thursday, March 13, 2014, between 12:00 (noon) to 4:30 pm ONLY, each day, at 402-441-7110.

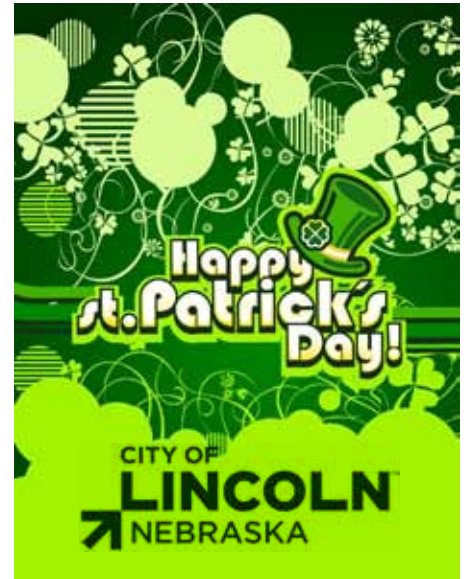
Reservations for rides on Saturday, March 15 will be scheduled between 7:30 - 11:00 pm.

When passengers are dropped off, they will be given instructions about where to catch the bus for their return trip. If the passenger's

destination is within another zone, the passenger will transfer downtown to the appropriate bus within that destination zone. Buses will be marked with the zone locations.

The cost for this service is \$1.75 one way or \$3.50 round trip, including Handi-Van service. StarTran passes will also be accepted. Handi-Van service will be offered to those eligible through the normal reservation process.

For more information on this Safe Ride Home or to view the zone locations, go to the website [startran.lincoln.ne.gov](http://startran.lincoln.ne.gov), and look under programs and services, or call 402-476-1234.



## NATIONAL RTAP PRESENTS NEW TOOLKITS

The Transit Manager's Toolkit was designed to give new transit managers the information they need from day one to ensure their agencies are in compliance with the FTA regulations tied to Section 5311 funding. Information is easy to find on the website, and content is divided into three categories: Administration and Compliance, Operations, and Tribal Transit. Each content page contains links to relevant regulations, circulars and helpful resources produced by National RTAP and partner organizations. Examples of topics covered include drug and alcohol programs, Americans with Disabilities Act, safety and security and emergency management, and 5311 and the Tribal Transit Program.

How to Find Almost Anything is an online toolkit designed to connect rural and tribal transit operators, state program managers, and other industry stakeholders to

free and low-cost information on a variety of topics. From training materials to technical assistance to peer networks and beyond, this toolkit will help rural and tribal transit stakeholders save resources by providing a simple-to-use guide to finding various kinds of relevant information. Navigate through sections on Peer and Technical Assistance, Information and Best Practices, Online Forums, Conferences, Technology Tools and more. The toolkit also includes a step-by-step guide to searching online for transit-related information.

The Bus Rodeo Toolkit is designed to give an overview of the steps it takes to

put on a bus rodeo. A video guide to the rodeo competition portion is included, as well as an easy-to-use spreadsheet for scoring and instructions for judges and other personnel.

Check them out today!

<http://webbuilder.nationalrtap.org>



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**Next newsletter deadline is  
 June 13, 2014**

Please send your articles and pictures for the Nebraska Transit Trends newsletter to the NATP office by **June 13, 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](mailto:tfougeron@youraam.com)**. You may include pictures if you like, but be sure to save them as a .jpeg file or they may not be included in the newsletter. Documents received after the deadline will appear in the next newsletter.

Visit Us On The Web!  
[www.neatp.org](http://www.neatp.org)



*Dates To Remember*

**June**  
 1 New Membership Year  
*Dues will be sent in May*  
 8-14 CTAA Expo & Rodeo  
 St. Paul, MN  
 13 Newsletter Deadline

**July**  
 8-10 NATP Managers  
 Workshop  
 North Platte

**September**  
 16-17 NATP Drivers Training  
 & Rodeo  
 Kearney, NE

**October**  
 26-29 TRB Conference  
 Monterey, CA

