

Nebraska Transit Trends

UPDATE FROM NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ROADS

Vehicle Program Management Manual

A new manual for asset management of vehicles is now available. The NDOR Vehicle Program Management Manual includes guidance from the vehicle procurement process to disposal. There is also detailed guidance for preventative maintenance best practices and examples of scheduled maintenance templates for small buses, lower floor minivans and 12 passenger vans. The manual and scheduled maintenance Word templates are available online at <http://www.transportation.nebraska.gov/rpt/pub-transp.htm#asset>.

Desktop Reviews for Rural Transit Providers

In fiscal year 2015, the NDOR Transit Section will be conducting more thorough reviews of operating expenses submitted for reimbursement. These desktop reviews will increase NDOR's oversight activities as per State and Federal regulations. Transit Managers may be asked to provide additional documentation for expenses to determine eligibility for reimbursement. If requested, please provide all requested documents promptly and in electronic format through the new online invoicing portal (to be active August 1, 2014).

NDOR-NU Transit Update--January 1, 2014-June 30, 2014

Staffs from the Nebraska Department of Roads, University of Nebraska, and consultants have been very busy this year facilitating a variety of projects in support of the NDOR-NU Statewide Transit Initiative. In addition to coordinating training events for transit drivers and managers, NDOR and NU launched a new website and conducted an intercity bus needs assessment survey. Below is a partial list of activities and participation.

January 1, 2014-June 30, 2014

Listserve Subscribers: 83
NebraskaTransit.com Website Visits: 4,784
Intercity Bus Public Meetings: 8

Transit Manager Workshop Attendees

Title VI Workshop: 98
Drug & Alcohol Workshop: 62

Transit Driver Training Attendees

Passenger Service & Safety (PASS): 302
Defensive Driver: 274
CPR, AED, & First Aid: 38
Safe Kids Childcare Transportation: 19

BACK IN THE SADDLE!

The Annual Drivers
Training and Rodeo
will take place
September 16 & 17 in
Kearney.

Registration
information will
be sent soon!

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NEW CNG BUSES ARE CLEANER, CHEAPER & SAFER

Mayor Chris Beutler and StarTran officials celebrated the arrival of five new compressed natural gas (CNG) buses, which will be less expensive to operate and better for the environment. StarTran plans to add eight more CNG buses and 11 CNG handi-vans over the next two years.

"Over the 15-year lifetime of these vehicles, the City will save about \$1.3 million in lower fuel costs and reduced maintenance," Mayor Beutler said. "At the same time, natural gas produces 25 percent less greenhouse gas emissions than diesel fuel. These vehicles will benefit the entire community and demonstrate the dedication of StarTran to a high-quality, cost efficient transit system."

The buses, engineered by New Flyer, replace buses which have been in service for over 12 years. They cost about \$484,000 each, with an additional cost of about \$35,000 for the CNG fuel system. StarTran Transit Manager Mike Davis said the additional investment in the CNG systems will pay off in about six years. State funding covered the additional cost on three of the first five buses, and Mayor Beutler thanked Black Hills Energy for donating \$70,000 to cover the additional cost on the other two.

"From an economic and environmental standpoint, the benefits of natural gas as a vehicle fuel grow more enticing every day," said Jeff Sylvester, Black Hills Energy's Vice President of Nebraska natural gas operations. "Congratulations to StarTran and the City of Lincoln for joining the thousands of communities and businesses across the country that are saving taxpayers money or increasing profits with natural

gas vehicles."

The Mayor also recognized Hexagon Lincoln, the local company that manufactured the CNG tanks on the first five buses.

"I commend StarTran Transit Manager Mike Davis and Mayor Beutler for being environmentally progressive and fiscally minded in procuring these New Flyer CNG buses," said Jack Schimenti, President of Hexagon Lincoln. "We are pleased to be part of the Lincoln community and look forward to more successes in the future."



The new CNG buses are also the first to be painted with a new design based on the City's branding initiative developed by ArchRival. The 30-passenger buses will be used on the UNL routes. Davis said that once the 24 CNG vehicles are in operation, they will make up about one-third of the StarTran fleet.

Davis said another benefit of CNG is increased safety. CNG storage tanks are stronger than gasoline or diesel fuel tanks, reducing the likelihood of accidental release. If released, CNG disperses quickly into the air instead of forming pools on the ground, thus reducing the risk of fire and ground contamination. Davis said CNG engines also operate more quietly than diesel engines.

To create CNG, natural gas is sourced from underground reserves and then compressed to about 1 percent of its volume. About 1,300 natural gas fueling stations are now open in the U.S. Davis said CNG is about \$1.50 less per gallon than diesel, and the stability of CNG prices makes it easier to plan for long-term costs.

StarTran has been recognized nationally as a transit industry leader in the use and promotion of alternative fuels.

- Between 1994 and 2000, four buses powered by a blend of 95 percent ethanol and 5 percent gas were in regular transit. From 2000 to 2008, the entire fleet was powered by a fuel blend of 8 percent ethanol and 92 percent diesel.
- In 1994, StarTran began powering two buses with biodiesel, which includes soybean oil.
- In 2008, the entire remaining fleet began using biodiesel.
- In 2010, StarTran used federal stimulus funds to replace 10 handi-vans and three fixed-route buses with hybrid vehicles, powered by a combination of gasoline and electricity.

More information on StarTran is available at startran.lincoln.ne.gov or 402-476-1234. More information on Black Hills Energy is available at blackhillsenergy.com. More information on Hexagon Lincoln is available at hexagonlincoln.com.



WEBSTER COUNTY HOLDS OPEN HOUSE

An open house for the new Webster County Vehicle Storage Building, located in Red Cloud, was held Thursday, March 13.

Mary Delka, Webster County Senior Services Manager, hosted guests from the community and around the state for the event.

Information about the process was provided and attendees were given the opportunity to view the new facility.

Congratulations to Mary Delka and her staff on their beautiful new facility!



Pictured: Kathi Schildt, Kayleen Meyers, Kily Gortmaker, Sandy Schulz, Mildred Crable, Mary Delka & Tiffany Fougeron

RYDE TRANSIT

During May and June, Transit supervisors attended the two day Drug & Alcohol Testing, Compliance and Reasonable Suspicion Training. Also, myself and the other coordinators will be working on a Title VII plan for RYDE Transit, which should be available late summer.

During the month of June, we performed employee performance evaluations for all transit employees.

A couple weeks ago, North Platte hosted the Nebraska Association of transportation Providers (NATP) Managers Meeting at the Holiday Inn in North Platte.

RYDE Transit in Franklin will be coordinating rides with Webster County Transportation Services and Village of Guide Rock Public

Transportation. The goal of this project is to give Franklin County and Webster County residents more options to travel to Kearney, Hastings, and Grand Island. Call 308.425.3724. This project moved out of the "pilot phase" July 1, 2014.

For Questions about the Mobility Management Program or RYDE Transit's involvement, please call 308.865.5677 and ask for Charles for more information.

Effective May 1st, IntelliRide a division of Veolia Transportation is handling all of the NET (Non Emergency Transportation) for DHHS of Nebraska (specifically – AD Waiver, Medical; AD Waiver, Non-Medical; and Medicaid Medical NET Transportation). IntelliRide will be replacing AMR/ Access2Care as of May 1, 2014.

Veolia Transportation based out of Lombard, IL is known for their Blue Super Shuttle Vans that provide transportation at major airports. If anyone has any questions about individuals who are not receiving authorization for transportation, the individual will have to contact their DHHS caseworker, or Access Nebraska.

Charles McGraw
RYDE Transit



2014 MANAGERS WORKSHOP

On July 8-10, nearly 60 managers, exhibitors and speakers gathered at the Holiday Inn Express in North Platte to meet and discuss the needs of managers from across the state. Managers had the opportunity to attend educational sessions, visit and talk with exhibitors in the exhibit hall, and network with fellow managers.

Educational session presenters included NDOR Staff Kari Ruse, George Gallardo, Frank Faughn and Wayne Masek; University of Nebraska (Lincoln, Omaha and Kearney) staff Bill Bivin, Mick Anderson, Dennis Holtz, Valerie Lefler, Jerry Deichert and Shashank Gajjala; FTA Staff Mokhtee Ahmad, Cindy Terwilliger, Mark Bechtel, Logan Daniels and John Lynch; IntelliRide staff Jim Work; Jamie Chambers, Kelli Haverstick and Zach Krauter; National RTAP representative Jess Wallis, AARP representative Lee Myers; and Brandon Benitz.

Bill Bivin, Rural Transit Training Coordinator, provided technological services that allowed the Workshop to be viewed online by managers who were unable to make it to North Platte. The presentations will be available online soon. Visit www.neatp.org for a link to these presentations.

Managers were able to visit with various exhibitors who have an impact on the transportation world including Altro Transflor, Braun Corporation, IntelliRide, Master's Transportation, Mobilitat, Kelderman Air Suspension Systems, Mobility Motoring/Eldorado National,



and RouteMatch Software. Representatives were on hand to answer questions and provide more information on the type of services they provide. These companies affect many transit systems and their support of NATP helps fund our workshops. Many of the representatives graciously provided giveaway items that were given during a drawing on the last day of exhibiting.

Winners of gift cards from NATP include Corrina Duckworth, Vicki Goeken, Cindy Sanders, Dustin Butler, Carol Meyerhoff and Carrie Breinig. Winners of gift cards from RouteMatch Software included Joyce Deaver and Denise Smith. Penny Vollbracht was the winner of a gift card from Master's Transportation. Altro Transflor offered a gift card and Jonnie Kusek was the lucky winner. Coletta Clouse was the winner of a gift card from Mobilitat. National RTAP also gave away a gift card and the winner was Beth Siegfried. Neva Umstead received Braun's "Rise Above" book. Thank you again to our wonderful exhibitors for their support of NATP!

On the first night of the Workshop, manager Marilee Hyde invited attendees to tour the new North Platte Public Transit Facility. Marilee provided a tour of the facility and arranged for the food and entertainment. Be sure to thank Marilee for her hard work!

After the meal, President Scott Bartels called the Annual Meeting to order. The agenda was gone over and Scott thanked everyone for their continued support. Carol

Prince and Scott Bartels were reelected to serve on the Board. Jonnie Kusek was elected to serve as an At-Large member.

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

- Rookie Manager of the Year – Jonnie Kusek
- Transit Manager of the Year – Charles McGraw
- Pioneer Award – Cindy Sanders
- In Appreciation
 - o Sue Chipman
 - o Larry Worth



Years of Service Pins

- o Colleen Clayton – 5 years
- o Lynne Viglicky – 5 years
- o Penny Vollbracht – 5 years
- o Stephanie Copp – 10 years
- o Neva Umstead – 10 years
- o Scott Bartels – 15 years
- o Vicki Goeken – 15 years
- o Donetta Nye – 30 years

• FTA Awards

- o Guide Rock Transit - Highest increase in Transit Passenger Ridership among rural transit providers with 1 to 2 vehicles.
- o Scotts Bluff County Transportation - Completion of New Bus Barn Facility
- o Saline County Area Transit - Highest Increase in Transit Passenger Ridership among rural providers with over 4 vehicles.

The TRB Scholarship award winners were also announced. Charles McGraw, Beth Siegfried, and Cindy Sanders were chosen to attend the TRB Rural and Intercity Conference which will be held in Monterey, California.



2014 MANAGERS WORKSHOP

Tuesday's afternoon sessions started off with a welcome from North Platte Mayor Dwight Livingston who welcomed everyone to North Platte and encouraged them to take advantage of what the city had to offer.

NDOR and the University of Nebraska staff provided statewide transit initiative updates on programs including: website updates, ListServe information, Spanish language training, Title VI plan, Drug & Alcohol Compliance, future training opportunities, updates on Drivers Training, PASS Training, and CPR and First Aid training, intercity transit study, marketing support and much more!

Facility presentations were provided by Charles McGraw (RYDE Transit), Mary Delka (Webster County Public Transit), Carol Prince (Scottsbluff County Handy Bus), Marilee Hyde (North Platte Public Transit), Denise Smith (Phelps County Public Transit), and Les Larsen (City of Sidney Public Transportation). Thank you to each presenter and congratulations on your new facilities!

The second day of training started out with information from NDOR including invoice and reimbursement updates, vehicle warranty procedures, program management manual, and other updates and event information.



After the NDOR updates, FTA's Dawn Sweet provided an ADA session via telephone. We appreciate Dawn's willingness to step in after the original speaker was unable to participate. Dawn answered questions submitted to FTA prior to the workshop as well as questions asked by attendees that day.

FTA staff provided a session that included personnel updates, status of highway trust fund, fiscal year 2015 appropriations, MAP-21 reauthorization and implementation update, and other items as well.

Following lunch, staff from Veolia/IntelliRide were on hand to discuss the new non-emergency medical transport system. They reviewed procedures for using the provider portal, tablets, and clearing the trips. A question and answer time was also provided. Staff were also available in the exhibit hall to answer further questions.

Following time with the exhibitors, many attendees gathered to socialize and enjoy a free evening. A storm rolled in suddenly and it began hailing. Hopefully no one sustained too much damage to their vehicles!

The final day of the Managers Workshop started off with a presentation from Jess Wallis of the National RTAP. Jess was on hand throughout the conference and provided

information and training manuals for attendees. She discussed the new Emergency Procedures for Vehicle Maintenance Facilities Module as well as the new toolkits available on their website.

Lee Myers, AARP's representative on the Metro Area Planning Agency's Transportation Technical Advisory Committee, filled in for Mark Intermill to discuss the Aging Nebraskans Task Force. He discussed the purpose of the task force and the opportunities it presents to advocate for public transportation in a state with a growing population that is over the age of 80.



The final presenter for the day was Brandon Benitz, Transportation Safety Manager for the Nebraska Safety Center. Brandon discussed marketing and customer service issues and practices and encouraged managers to evaluate their current strategies.

Thank you to everyone who presented, exhibited, sponsored and attended the NATP Managers Workshop. If you have suggestions for future workshops, please contact the NATP office.

*"Thanks a bunch for the scholarship to the 21st National TRB Conference. I am very excited and appreciative for this opportunity."
Beth Siegfried,
City of McCook Transit*



2014 CTAA EXPO & ROADEO

NATP managers, drivers, and staff traveled to Minneapolis, Minnesota, the second week of June for the CTAA EXPO and Rodeo. Winning drivers of the Nebraska Rodeo were Fred Krenk (Wayne Public Transit), Sharon Brown (Hitch and Hay Public Transit), and Brenda Guilliams (Richardson County Transit). Managers Penny Vollbracht and Amber Hubl were able to attend with their drivers. Scott Bartels and Corrina Duckworth were also able to attend the event.



The drivers meeting and training events were held on Saturday along with the judges meeting. Sunday was the perfect day for the Rodeo – the weather was great! Nebraska managers and staff served as judges for the event and cheered on our Nebraska drivers! The Awards Banquet was held later that evening and was a great opportunity to honor drivers from across the state.

The rest of the week was dedicated to learning seminars, general sessions, visiting with vendors in the EXPO, and networking with others from across the state. Seminars revolved around the changing role of leadership, improving service delivery, developing better outcomes, and harnessing new technology. Many of the presentation slideshows are available online – be sure to check out <http://web1.ctaa.org/webmodules/webarticles/> to view these programs.

Minneapolis' Public Transportation System did a wonderful job of providing transportation services to all attendees (at no cost). Nebraska attendees utilized public transportation to get to CTAA

events and view all the sites that the city had to offer.

Look for recaps from various seminars in the newsletter. Here's what the attending managers had to say about their experience.

Corrina Duckworth: This year I attended the 2014 CTAA EXPO in St. Paul and had a wonderful experience. It allowed me to gain up-to-date, useful information on various topics. I took the Certified Community Transit Supervisory (CCTS) course. It touched on subjects such as managing staff, working as a team, communication, safety, and customer service. I also attended other workshops and sessions, which included information regarding the MAP 21 safety requirements.

The speakers and instructors that I encountered were all very knowledgeable in the areas they were speaking about.

Attending the trade fair was also beneficial. I knew which vendors I wanted to visit with and I was able to get the information I wanted from visiting each one.

I would suggest attending future CTAA events. It is a great place to connect with other managers, gain more knowledge on current and future issues, and talk one-on-one with numerous vendors.



Penny Vollbracht: I want to thank NATP and NDOR for the opportunity to have our van driver, Fred Krenk compete at the fall Rodeo in Kearney. This opportunity allowed Fred and myself to meet other exceptional Nebraska van drivers and transit managers & rekindle

old friendships. Being a Rodeo van driver requires van drivers to study the Nebraska Drivers manual and work on driving skills to become their best. It enforces the feeling of being a professional so thank you for this. It was truly an honor to be a representative from Wayne Public Transit. The Rodeo in Nebraska and National Rodeo means everything to our drivers and managers. It reinforces that they are important in the scheme of things. That the drivers are important for transit as a whole of the United States and Canada.

Drivers and managers are a part of the "Big Picture" in transportation whether it be a small town or a big city. Being at the National Rodeo enlightened us in the ins and outs of the transit organizations across the U.S.A. We also learned of the involvement of the state organizations like NATP and how they strengthen the unity between the transit systems and the state departments. The State organizations plan the State Rodeos and the CTAA staff expressed that the highlight of the national conference was the National Rodeo.

Fred Krenk, our van driver, is competitive and he personally set a goal to win the Nebraska competition and also achieve a goal to go to the national Rodeo.

He and I were so thrilled when he won first place at the state level and we were able to go to St. Paul, Minnesota, and stay at the Crowne Plaza on the Mississippi River. The Drivers securement training and the Judges meeting are a great learning experience and area of sharing stories. Sometimes we think we are the only ones experiencing issues with our customers and with securing scooters, and then we find out we all have a story to tell and similar challenges. Going to the National Rodeo competition at the huge Minnesota State Fairgrounds on a beautiful June day with perfect temperatures of 80 degrees was

2014 CTAA EXPO & ROADEO

like heaven. I judged the Left Hand Reverse obstacle along with the Minnesota Rodeo planners.

Fred drove the new style of mini van and he did not like the mini van MV1 due to poor vision of the rear wheels when backing up and looking through the rear view mirrors (that did not extend out enough) and also the large square boxy front end of the MV1 van. He felt it affected his performance at the competition and he expressed his frustration. (Many times)



At the Rodeo Awards banquet, we sat by the Canadians from the capital of Canada; Ottawa, and that was fascinating to hear that they just ordered all new buses and body on chassis for their fleet.

The ideas shared at the CTAA Expo general sessions expanded ideas for growth, service delivery and marketing our system with technology like Facebook, for example. One general session explained the importance of transportation in this nation to improve our population quality of life with affordable transportation.

Learning about new technology at the huge trade show and visiting with the new vendors and talking to owners of Ricon and Q-Straint and Sure-Lok products broadened our knowledge base.

The luncheons and speakers encouraged ideas for growth of numbers of passengers and building up our customer satisfaction. The experience to go to the general sessions and luncheons at the CTAA Expo was out of this world. My favorite was about the future of technology

and how quick everything is changing and the challenges and encouragement to try to keep up and accept the challenges of technology. The Intensive Sessions were not offered as part of my scholarship but I felt the Certified Transit Manager looked like one I wished I could have attended.

Thank you for funding and offering this wonderful growth experience.

Fred Krenk: NATP is of great value to the local van and bus drivers. Training has been provided making us more efficient transporters of all aged citizens in our communities.

The state Rodeo provides more training on safely and securely transporting disabled people and elderly persons. In the spirit of competition we review and study the Nebraska laws to do our best on the written part of the contest. The driving competition challenges our driving skills to make us do the best we can. The fun of the Rodeo is meeting old friends and making new friends and visiting to find better ways to make our home unit the best.



Qualifying for the National Rodeo is awesome, again meeting old friends from Nebraska and making new ones from across the nation. More training and review and studying to do the best on the tests at the Rodeo is required. Again our driving skills are challenged with the timed driving contest. Information to help make our home unit better is picked up in conversations with folks from across the nation. At the end of the Rodeo, a sense of accomplishment and pride can

be taken back to the home unit to challenge co-workers to compete at the state Rodeo in the fall. Our main goal is to provide a safe and secure transport to our local citizens in Wayne. Thank you for the Rodeo and Expo experiences.

Amber Huhl: This was my first experience at a ROADEO as I am a new Administrator/Dispatcher for Hitch & Hay Public Transit in Stratton. It was a positive experience and I would encourage other managers and their drivers to participate in this event as there is much to be learned in all areas of the transit system.



As you can see, the National CTAA Rodeo and EXPO is a wonderful experience for drivers and managers. We encourage you to consider attending a national event in the future. The 2015 CTAA Rodeo and EXPO will be held in Tampa, Florida.

Please encourage your drivers to participate in the Nebraska Rodeo. They have the opportunity to win a trip to Tampa, but more importantly, they have the opportunity to improve their driving skills, learn correct wheelchair securement procedures, network with other drivers and just enjoy a day out on the course.

Registration information will be sent soon!

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION NIGHT AT SALTDogs BASEBALL GAME



Join us for Public Transportation Night at the
Lincoln Saltdogs Baseball Game!

We will have reserved seating and special pricing for our group. Take your friends and family out to a ball game and catch up with other Nebraska transportation providers.

August 29, 2014
7:05 pm
Lincoln, NE
vs. Sioux City Explorers

How to purchase tickets:

Contact the NATP office at (402) 761-2216 or tfougeron@youraam.com
You will need to send \$11/ticket to the NATP office by August 15:

NATP
521 First Street
Milford, NE 68405

2014 - 2015 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

NATP membership renewals were sent in May for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. Thank you to those who have submitted dues. If you need a copy of your membership invoice, please contact the NATP office.

NATP was formed to promote effective, efficient public transportation throughout Nebraska. NATP supports public transportation that is accessible to all, particularly the aged, handicapped, and anyone who would otherwise be without transportation.

NATP had previously provided drivers training seminars for drivers across the state. With the new requirements from NDOR and changing staff, those trainings are now provided through NDOR.

The NATP Board is discussing the new vision of the association. We look forward to setting new goals and providing an updated yearly agenda. Look for more information coming soon!

If you have an idea that you would like the Board to consider, please contact the NATP office. We would love to have your feedback!

We appreciate your continued support as we renew the vision of our association and continue to provide the best service to members of our communities.

Public
Transportation is
a key element in
allowing Nebraska
citizens to maintain
their independence,
dignity and self-
respect

NATP STAFF MESSAGE

Hello everyone! I hope you are all having a wonderful summer so far. NATP has been busy the last couple of months with the CTAA EXPO and the Managers Workshop.

Kathi and I enjoyed the opportunity to meet with managers and staff from across the country as well as reconnecting with all of our Nebraska managers.

Kathi and I battled torrential rains on the drive to St. Paul last month. It seemed as though the rain cloud followed us all the way to Minnesota! It was sunny skies for the rest of the week, however. We attended the Judges Meeting on Sunday as National Rodeo Veterans, but it was great to see how the Rodeo Committee comes together to make this event happen. Be sure to thank our Nebraska Rodeo Committee Members for their hard work on our state Rodeo. It takes a lot of work to make sure things run smoothly!

On Sunday, buses transported everyone to the Rodeo event held at the Minnesota State

Fairgrounds. Kathi and I served as left turn judges – it was once again a great opportunity to see how the course is laid out and how well each driver does. The Awards Ceremony was a wonderful opportunity to honor drivers from across the country – what a great service our drivers provide to members of our communities!

While we attended all of the educational seminars that we could, we did have an opportunity to have some fun as well. Be sure to ask Penny Vollbracht who her favorite Backstreet Boy is (they happened to be in town while we were there – took me back a few years!). We also utilized public transportation to visit the Mall of America, the Science Museum of Minnesota, and the Saint Paul Saints baseball stadium. You can learn a lot about people by engaging in conversation while riding the bus. I'm sure some of you know that first hand with your transit system.

The Managers Workshop was another success! It was great to see everyone who attended, hear

from the presenters, and visit with vendors. I always have a blast catching up with everyone and getting to know our new managers as well. I would like to thank Marilee Hyde from North Platte Public Transit for allowing us to view her new transit facility and for hosting the banquet.

The Board will meet soon to discuss new opportunities and visions for the association. Stay tuned for more information. Thank you everyone for your continued support!

Tiffany Fougeron
Associate Director



NATP'S 2014-2015 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all,

Hey, wasn't that a terrific Managers Workshop in North Platte? Thanks to all of our sponsors, presenters, NATP, NDOR and FTA staff and volunteers for producing one of the most informative and educational management workshops that I have attended! We reviewed everything from ADA regulations concerning restraint devices, cycling lifts, tracking denials, and transporting service animals to invoicing and vehicle procurement procedures and opportunities for Spanish language training, online employee training, driver training, and substance abuse policy compliance.

IntelliRide issues were addressed and will hopefully be resolved as

time progresses. Remember Lee Myers' words of encouragement and recognize that public transit managers are often the voice advocating for the people who need transit most. Be sure to follow up on the Aging Nebraskans Task Force committee and attend the hearings once they are set up. Also, let the gubernatorial candidates know about the Access Nebraska problems and push to make transportation a campaign issue.

Congratulations to all the individuals and transit agencies who were honored for their hard work and success in moving transit forward. Thanks to Marilee Hyde for the tour of North Platte's new facility and providing wonderful entertainment and an excellent dinner. The weather

cooperated and it made for a great evening out. It is always fun and interesting when we can get together to network and share ideas.

Speaking of which, I hope to see you all at the NATP Rodeo in Kearney September 16th and 17th. It is imperative that we encourage stronger participation at this event. We want to hear your suggestions on how to build and improve upon this twenty-plus year function.

Until then, safe travels everyone.

Scott Bartels
NATP President

DHHS - WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS

DHHS continues to promote World Elder Abuse Awareness by educating people about elder abuse and neglect warning signs.

One in 10 Americans is a victim of elder abuse, neglect or exploitation and only one in 14 cases is reported to authorities.

"That's why it's so important for Nebraskans to learn how to recognize and report elder abuse and neglect. It's everyone's responsibility," said Thomas Pristow, director of DHHS' Division of Children and Family Services.

To learn more about the signs of elder abuse and neglect, visit DHHS' Adult Protective Services website. If abuse is suspected, call the Adult Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 1-800-652-1999. Callers can remain anonymous.

The APS Act established a program designed to meet the needs of vulnerable adults and to assure

the availability of the program to all eligible persons. It places authority and responsibility for investigations and interventions in situations of abuse/neglect of vulnerable adults with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and local law enforcement agencies.

Adult Protective Services investigates reports of vulnerable adult abuse/neglect/exploitation, including self-neglect and intervenes when maltreatment is confirmed.

Adult Protective Services are provided with as little disruption to the client's life as possible. Whenever possible, clients are helped to live in the environment of their choice.

DHHS acknowledges that as long as adults can recognize the consequences of decisions they have made about their lives, the right to make those decisions

must be respected, provided they are capable of making that choice.

http://dhhs.ne.gov/children_family_services/Pages/nea_aps_apsindex.aspx#Indicators



DHHS recently recognized six Nebraskans with Elder Abuse Prevention Advocate of the Year awards for their work to protect the elderly.

Investigator Cindy Koenig-Warnke with the Lincoln Police Department's Technical Investigations Unit was recognized with the first statewide Elder Abuse Prevention Advocate of the Year Award.

The following people received regional Elder Abuse Prevention Advocate of the Year awards: Richard Belik, Omaha Police Department detective, eastern Nebraska; Lily Hans, coordinator at TRIAD, southeast Nebraska; Sheila Kennedy, with the South Central Nebraska Area Agency on Aging, central Nebraska; Mike Dehart of Bulldog Construction in Nebraska City, southeast Nebraska; and Thelma Whitewater, elder abuse prevention coordinator, Indian Health Services, Winnebago Reservation, northeast Nebraska.

Nebraskans are encouraged to watch for elder abuse and, if they suspect it has occurred, to call the Adult Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 1-800-652-1999.



Pictured: Lily Hans, coordinator at TRIAD accepts her Elder Abuse Prevention Advocate of the Year award as Thomas Pristow, Director, DHHS Division of Children and Family Services; and Cynthia Brammeier, DHHS administrator, Medicaid and Long-Term Care, look on.

NATP 2014-2015 LEADERSHIP**BOARD MEMBERS**

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**Next newsletter deadline is
October 22, 2014**

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

*Dates To Remember***August**

29 Lincoln Saltdogs Baseball
Public Transportation
Night - 7:05 pm
Lincoln, NE

September

16-17 NATP Drivers Training
& Rodeo
Kearney, NE

October

26-29 TRB Conference
Monterey, CA

