

Nebraska Transit Trends

NDOR FY 2012-2013 OPERATING ASSISTANCE AND VEHICLE PURCHASE PROCESS BEGINS

On Monday, February 13, the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) released the Federal Transportation Administration's Section 5311 funding applications on its website, <http://www.nebraskatransportation.org/rpt/pub-transp.htm>. The due date for submitting these applications to the NDOR's Rail and Public Transportation Division is Friday, March 30, 2012. Funding will become available July 1, 2012.

A tutorial is on the website that explains the forms and how to complete them. In the tutorial, is a checklist of other documents that must accompany the applications. Questions regarding the information on the website should be sent by email to DOR.Transit@nebraska.gov or contact Frank Faughn, Federal Grant Administrator, by email at frank.faughn@nebraska.gov or by telephone at 402-479-3680.

Small urban and rural transportation systems are eligible to obtain public transportation operating assistance funding. The Federal and State funding comprise 75% of a system's net project costs (Operating expenses less Project Income). The transit system must provide 25% in local

match funds. Examples of local match funds are dedicated tax revenues, private donations, and income from contracts to provide human service transportation, such as the non-emergency medical transportation paid by the Nebraska Health and Human Service System.

These transit systems can also purchase ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant vans or small buses to replace older fleet vehicles or add vehicles for new services. Federal funds pay for 80% and local match funds pay for 20% of the vehicle cost.

In FY 2011-2012, public transportation operating assistance agreements were executed with 60 transit systems for federal funds of \$3,525,948 and state funds of \$1,698,517.

NATP Managers' Workshop

The 2013 NATP Managers' Workshop is going to be held in Kearney on June 12 - 14. Contact Kathi if you have any information you would like to have included in the Workshop. Plans are under way and more details will be coming your way soon...

DRIVER'S TRAINING DATES

March 21, 2012
Norfolk

March 22, 2012
Grand Island

March 27, 2012
Beatrice

March 30, 2012
Kearney

April 3, 2012
Gering

April 4, 2012
Ogallala

Additional information about locations is on page 5.

IN THIS ISSUE

FTA Article.....	2
President's Message	2
Executive Director's Message.....	3
NATP Legislative Day	3
Leadership.....	4
Newsletter Deadline	4
Office Location	4
Statewide Training.....	5
Membership Information.....	6
Visit Us On the Web	6
Dates to Remember.....	6

FTA DRUG & ALCOHOL TESTING PROGRAM

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our rural public transportation programs for working to bring their drug and alcohol testing programs into compliance with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) regulations. Bill Ferguson, National Account Consultant with WPCI of Scottsbluff, NE, worked with the FTA Section 5311 transit managers to be certain all information relating to the drug and alcohol program is up to date, including testing policies.

As I am writing this, I am reviewing the Drug and Alcohol MIS report forms that are submitted to NDOR

by the rural transit systems for reporting in the federal DAMIS system. These reports assure the USDOT that Nebraska transit agencies are meeting the requirement that at least 25 percent of the random pool is drug tested and 10 percent of the random pool is alcohol tested. While reviewing the MIS report forms, I am seeing that several of our rural transit systems are sending prospective employees for both pre-employment drug and pre-employment alcohol testing. Federal regulations require pre-employment drug testing before hiring an employee in a safety sensitive position,

but they do not allow for pre-employment alcohol testing. If a transit program wants to conduct pre-employment alcohol testing, that testing must be done outside of the FTA required testing. Because NDOR pays for the FTA drug and alcohol testing, when the unnecessary pre-employment alcohol testing is done using FTA chain of custody forms, NDOR also has to pay for those tests. Annually, this amounts to several hundred dollars in needless testing costs.

Jerry L. Wray
Transit Liaison Manager
Rail & Public Transportation
Division
Nebraska Department of Roads

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings all,

I feel I have been out of touch with transit people since I wasn't able to attend the Manager's Workshop or Legislative Day this past year; and I MISS you.

Recently, I was informed that Bob Duer, who was acting as our Executive Director from Advanced Association Management, had to return to his home in Georgia, and has left the firm. Kathi Schildt, who was co-owner with Bob, is now sole proprietor and has taken over the position of Executive Director. She has had to jump in "mid-stream", but is very capable, and with support from the Board of Directors, Georgia and others, I believe we can help her get through this time. Kathi is preparing for the fast approaching regional Driver Training, and I have seen a first draft of a very attractive and colorful flyer that will soon be coming to you so you can register your drivers for the training.

Most of you had a visit from John Pirruccello from AMR this last fall. I know I found it very helpful and informative, and I hope it was for you as well. Many of us

are feeling the pinch of losing our DHHS passenger revenue since the majority of them are not using the system currently in place to schedule their transportation. Knowing we can regain some of that revenue by reporting it as local matching funds was incentive for me to promote use of the call center to those DHHS clients.

There will be a Board of Directors meeting the first week of March and we will be discussing plans for the training at the Managers Workshop and also will be having a goal setting session. If any of you have ideas for the kind of training you would like to see at the workshop, please let Kathi, me or one of the board members know. Also, we would like ideas on what goals you would like the Association to have over the next few years. Your suggestions are very important to us, so please speak up.

We will have time set aside for NDOR and FTA at the workshop, and you will have an opportunity to ask questions of them.

I want to wish all the drivers who are going to the National Rodeo in Baltimore the best of luck as they

represent Nebraska, and I hope you all just HAVE FUN! It is such a great time to meet drivers from other states and share stories and ideas.

Don't forget the TRB Rural Conference coming up in October which will be in Salt Lake City. There are a couple of scholarships available, and we will select managers from letters of application that describe your reasons for attending. You can send the letters to me for consideration. This is a good conference because it is geared for rural transit.

Nebraska Transit is making some baby steps toward change. We have some good opportunities to shape it like we need it for our transit dependent citizens. I know when the time comes for me to need public transportation, I want it to be affordable, accessible and reliable. And I want it to be AVAILABLE!!

See you soon,

Carol Maxson
NATP President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Hello from your NATP headquarters, Advanced Association Management. I am excited about serving the Nebraska Association of Transportation

Providers as your Executive Director. In addition, I am the Owner and President of AAM and delighted that NATP has selected us to serve your Association. So far our involvement with NATP has been a learning experience. That will continue as the year progresses. The Department of Roads has been very helpful, as well as the members and Board of Directors of the association that we have been involved with.

While we don't currently have a crystal clear vision of the Association, we are committed to meeting and exceeding the needs of the Association members, and Board of Directors. We will continue to engage with the membership to better understand our role and duties, as well as

utilizing our many resources to further the objectives of the Association.

We have worked with Georgia Janssen to acquire information she has gained over the years to our new management company. Georgia has been most helpful with sharing her insight, and knowledge regarding the association and its membership.

I look forward to the events of 2012, and will do my part to help with the continued success in the years to come. NATP, like most associations, put together key individuals to move your association forward. It takes an enormous amount of time by all involved to keep associations running. I have great respect for your profession and the leaders of NATP. As we continue with the transition to your management company by conducting many more tasks in the months to follow, the leaders are playing a key role in this effort. Every single thing each of you do for this association is making a difference. Please take time to thank them for volunteering their time and assistance to Joni, Tiffany and me as we move ahead.

We represented NATP at the NACO convention held December 14-16 at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney. We had our booth and gifts available to participants and the response was so well received we utilized all of our gifts in the very first day. The consistent question was "do we as an association provide service in specific regions of the State." Dr. Tom Osborne was the keynote speaker and gave a tremendous oration of his teams involvement with the youth of Nebraska.

In this issue, there is a list of members who joined us for the Legislative Day - this was a great way to allow you time to network with your Senator and other NATP members from around the state.

The NATP Board will meet at the office on Thursday, March 8 to develop the work plan for 2012-13. This plan will provide the framework for the association.

We look forward to meeting you at the upcoming events in 2012!

Kathi Schildt
NATP Executive Director

NATP'S 2012 LEGISLATIVE DAY



A very important part of any Association is the relationships with Senators and the legislative effort of the members. Taking the time to sit down with Senators is important, so NATP members invited Nebraska Senators to join them at a Legislative Luncheon on Wednesday, January 25 at the State Capitol. Numerous Senators attended, and several NATP members took time out of their busy schedules to have one-on-one time with these legislative leaders.

Each Senator wants to know their constituents, so they can build relationships for

future dialogue when bills are moving through the Legislature.

Watch for future details about the 2013 NATP Legislative Day and mark your calendar and plan to spend the day with other NATP members, learn more about legislative issues in Nebraska and meet face-to-face with the representative from your district.

Thank you to the following members who attended:

Scott Bartels
Saline County Transit

Carol Meyerhoff
Lancaster County

Charles McGraw
RYDE Transit

Sue Chipman
McCook Public Transit

Doug Kessler
Deuel County Mini Bus

Denise Smith
Phelps County Public Transit

Jeff Baker &
Denny Carr
Seward County Pub. Transit

Laura Lindgren
Saunders County Transportation

Larry Vortherms
Avera Creighton Hospital

Vicki Goeken
Norfolk Public Transportation

Marilee Hyde
City of North Platte

NATP 2012 LEADERSHIP

BOARD MEMBERS

Western Region
Carol Maxson
PRESIDENT
411 East 2nd
Ogallala, NE 69143

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

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

Eastern Region
Scott Bartels
Box 412
Western, NE 68464

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kathi Schildt
NATP Office
kschildt@youraam.com

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Larry Ossowski
1901 Court Street
Beatrice, NE 68310

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

Curt Simon, Secretary
222 Cuming Street
Omaha, NE 68102

City of Lincoln - STARTRAN
Larry Worth
710 "J" Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

NATP OFFICE

6201 S. 58th St., Suite B
Lincoln, NE 68516

General Email: info@youraam.com
Phone: 402-420-0031
Fax: 402.489.0336
www.neatp.org

Next newsletter deadline is
June 18, 2012

Please send your articles and pictures for the Nebraska Transit Trends newsletter to the NATP office by **June 18, 2012**.

We want to know what all of our members are doing throughout the state. Submit your typed articles via email (as a word document) to the NATP office at info@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 appear in the next newsletter.

Visit Us On The Web!
www.neatp.org



Dates To Remember

March 2012

- 21 NATP Drivers Training
Norfolk
- 22 NATP Drivers Training
Grand Island
- 27 NATP Drivers Training
Beatrice
- 30 NATP Drivers Training
Kearney

April 2012

- 03 NATP Drivers Training
Gering
- 04 NATP Drivers Training
Ogallala

May 2012

- 20 - 25 CTA National
Rodeo/EXPO
Baltimore, MD

June 2012

- 12 - 14 NATP Managers' Workshop
Kearney - Hampton Inn &
Younes Conference Center

September 2012

- 18 - 19 NATP Drivers' Training/
Rodeo, Kearney
Holiday Inn & Nebraska
Safety Center

October 2012

- 14 - 17 20th National Conference
on Rural Public and Intercity
Bus Transportation
Salt Lake City, Utah



2012 STATEWIDE TRAINING SCHEDULE

A CLOSER LOOK

Plan to join other NATP Transit Managers for the March - April Drivers' Training to be held across the state of Nebraska. Carsen Fitzgerald from the NE Safety Center will be the presenter for the NATP Spring Driver Training Session. Training topic details will be updated to this page next week. Don't miss out on this spring offering! If you have questions, please contact a member of the NATP staff via email or phone.

Questions? Contact the NATP Office
Phone: 402-420-0031

Fax: 402.489.0336
Email: info@youraam.com

NORFOLK WEDNESDAY MARCH 21, 2012

Senior Center
 307 Prospect Avenue
 Norfolk, Nebraska

GRAND ISLAND THURSDAY MARCH 22, 2012

Grand Generation
 223 East 3rd Street
 Grand Island, Nebraska

BEATRICE TUESDAY MARCH 27, 2012

ESU Office (Conf Room B)
 900 West Court
 Beatrice, Nebraska

KEARNEY FRIDAY MARCH 30, 2012

NE Safety Center
 1801 Railroad Street
 Kearney, Nebraska

GERING TUESDAY APRIL 3, 2012

Civic Center
 1050 M Street
 Gering, Nebraska

OGALLALA WEDNESDAY APRIL 4, 2012

City Offices
 411 East 2nd Street
 Ogallala, Nebraska



MARK WHICH SESSION YOU ARE ATTENDING

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> March 21
Norfolk | <input type="checkbox"/> April 3
Gering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> March 22
Grand Island | <input type="checkbox"/> April 4
Ogallala |
| <input type="checkbox"/> March 27
Beatrice | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> March 30
Kearney | |

AGENDA



NOTE: Topic details will be available next week.

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome & Introductions
 Kathi Schildt, NATP Executive Director
- 9:15 a.m. Presenter: Carsen Fitzgerald
 NE Safety Center
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch on your own
- 1:00 p.m. Presenter: Carsen Fitzgerald
 NE Safety Center
- 3:00 p.m. Adjourn

Name: _____

Transit System: _____

**RETURN YOUR REGISTRATION FORM
 NO LATER THAN MARCH 15TH.**

NOTE: Driver wages & travel expenses are eligible for RTAP reimbursement through NDOR.

FAX: Complete form and fax to 402.489.0336

MAIL: Complete form and mail with payment to:
NATP 2012 Statewide Training
6201 South 58th St., Suite B
Lincoln, NE 68516



Nebraska Public Transit

Moving Nebraskans to the Good Life.

Nebraska Association of Transportation Providers

NATP ~ Membership Information

Our goal is to provide adequate, safe and affordable transportation that is essential to the economic health and vitality of our communities, large or small. Public transportation is a major key to maintaining an independent and productive life for all members of our communities.

It is clearly in our State's interest to encourage the development and continuation of a balanced public transit system. It must be responsive to the needs and limitations of individual riders and each community. All human and financial resources must be used efficiently to do this.

Nebraska Association of Transportation Providers 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.

Access to medical, business employment, social and supporting services is fundamental to all of us. Public transportation is a key element in allowing Nebraska citizens to maintain their independence, dignity and self-respect.

As a member of NATP you will:

- Become a vital link in a statewide information exchange
- Actively promote the development and continuation of public transportation systems.
- Actively promote information sharing and coordination among Nebraska's transit systems.
- Assist in the development of a statewide platform to address transportation issues/needs.
- Professionalize the transportation industry in Nebraska.
- Actively promotes communication/cooperation among all

persons, professions, and organizations concerned with public transportation.

- Actively promotes better understanding and interest in the field of public transportation.
- Actively promotes and encourages professionalism in public transportation operators through research, training and educational opportunities.

Our Objectives:

- Maximize Federal/State resources in the development and expansion of public and specialized transportation systems in Nebraska.
- Promote the development and coordination of these systems to ensure maximum use of all resources.
- Educate the public about the importance of public transportation systems.
- Encourage local support, diversity and innovation in the delivery of transportation services.



Effective December 1, the NATP office has a new address! NATP joined the management company Advanced Association Management. Please adjust your records to reflect the following:

**Nebraska Association of Transportation Providers
6201 South 58th Street, Suite B
Lincoln, NE 68516**

Phone: 402-420-0031 Fax: 489.0336

**General Staff Email: info@youraam.com
Kathi's Email: kschildt@youraam.com**

