

Nebraska Transit Trends

October 2010

Last month, our state transit staff participated in the NATP Statewide Para transit Rodeo in Keamey. As always, it was an enjoyable event. Nebraska has some very good rural transit drivers and this event gives them an opportunity to display their talents. This year's Rodeo was very successful as evidenced by the number of drivers participating and also by the number of managers and other volunteers that assisted in judging the event. An event such as this cannot run as smoothly as this one did without a great deal of advance planning. Georgia Janssen, NATP Executive Director, spent many hours planning the event and working with the NATP Rodeo Committee and many others to assure that this event was a success. I congratulate Georgia and the Rodeo Committee - Terry Rippen, Laura Lindgren, Denise Smith, Wayne Masek, Carol Maxson, Cindy Sanders, and Charles McGraw for making this year's event such a rousing success.

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

Calendar of Events 2010

October 24-28 **19th National Conference on Rural & Intercity Bus Transportation Conference**
Burlington, Vermont

December 8-10 **NACO Conference**, Lincoln

December 9 **NE Public Transportation Coalition Meeting**
10 am - 3 pm

January 26 **Legislative Day**, Lincoln
Meet at the Capitol for Dutch Lunch

February 2 **Snow Day for Legislative Day**

April **NATP Drivers Training 6 sites across Nebraska**
Dates to be announced: The sites will be the
Gering Civic Center, Ogallala City Offices, Kearney, NE
Safety Center, Norfolk Senior Center,
Grand Island Senior Center, Beatrice ESU

May 22-27 **CTAA National Rodeo/Expo**
Indianapolis, Indiana

June 14-16 **NATP Managers' Workshop**
Fairfield Inn & Suites, Grand Island

September 20 & 21 **NATP Drivers' Training and Statewide Rodeo**



Drivers and Managers (judges) were awaiting the NATP Rodeo results at the Awards Banquet.



Carol Graham, Blue Rivers AAA, was the winner of the Van Division and was also the Driver of the Year with the most accumulated points. She is shown accepting the Traveling trophy from NATP President, Carol Maxson. 2nd place was awarded to Mike Frederick, Richardson County transit.



Brenda Guilliams, Richardson County Transit, was the winner of the Small Bus Division at the 18th NATP Rodeo, and is shown accepting the travelling trophy from Carol Maxson, NATP President. 2nd place went to Kelly Durbin, Kimball County Shuttle.



Drivers competing at the Rodeo awaiting their turn to drive!

All photos by Charles McGraw



Judges Carol Maxson, Frank Faugh, and Jeff Baker discussing score sheets.



Charles McGraw, RYDE Transit Manager, was presented the Rookie Manager of the year award at the summer Managers' Workshop. Shown are Abe Anshasi, Jerry Wray and Cindy Terwilliger.

Carol Sez...

Greetings from the President's Desk:

I want to apologize to the people from NDOR for not recognizing them at the Rodeo awards banquet because they play a large part in producing our annual state Driver's Training and Rodeo. Jerry Wray, Wayne Masek, George Gallardo and Frank Faughn are key in providing physical and financial support for the Rodeo. Thanks to all of you for your participation in making the Nebraska State Rodeo a success.

I appreciate ALL of the 25 drivers' participation in our Rodeo. It takes courage to get out there and display your skills. Congratulations to all of the winners! I hope you will have good success and a good time at Nationals in Indianapolis.

Yes, we are still waiting... and waiting... and waiting for the software RFP to come up on the NDOR website.. .but we are close! The holdup has been because DHHS and the Medicaid brokerage AMR had some issues to work out before their contract could be made, but it looks like that has been done. This was an important component of the RFP, thus, the delay.

The respondents for the Mobility Manager will be given consideration internally by NDOR and a decision should be forthcoming by the end of November.

If all goes as projected, we should be back on track for the transportation coordination project after the first of the year.

There will be a Nebraska Public Transit Coalition meeting at the AARP meeting room in Lincoln on December 9th. Please attend if you have any interest in these pending projects. We hope to have more information to pass on following this meeting.

I expect that all of you who are attending the TRB Rural Conference in Burlington, Vermont will come back with new ideas and a renewed drive to move things forward in your service areas. There are many who need our services that do not have access. We need to keep growing and improving to change that. I know the people we do serve really appreciate having rural public transit. Have a great time at the conference and enjoy the beautiful fall colors of Vermont!

Carol Maxson
NATP President

From Georgia's Desk:



What a gorgeous fall we have had and we so deserved it! Thank you all for the lovely plant, cards, phone calls, emails and visits following my hospitalization. THANK YOU Charles McGraw for the great pictures! I so appreciate everyone's cooperation to make the Drivers' Training and Rodeo successful! I missed seeing all of you! I'll be back!

NATP will have two scholarships available to attend the CTAA EXPO in Indianapolis. This scholarship, (Manager-at-Large) will be from May 24-27, 2011. If you are interested and either judged at the event or had a driver compete (or judge), you are eligible to apply. Please write several paragraphs describing why you would want to attend. This needs to be sent to me by November 15th. I will not be sending out any other notification. Please contact me with questions.

This will be the last printed newsletter. From now on, all newsletters will be online (www.neatp.org) only. Mailing costs are just too high!

Next week, three NATP Board members, Scott Bartels, Sue Chipman, and Charles McGraw, and three scholarship winners, Colleen Clayton, Central City Transit, Cindy Sanders, Guide Rock Transit, and Denny Carr, Seward County Public Transit will be attending the 19th TRB Rural Conference in Burlington, Vermont. Reports will be included in the next newsletter. It hardly seems like two years ago Nebraska was the host site! This is always a great conference and I'm looking forward to attending, as a participant.

Transit managers definitely have a tough job and so do your drivers. Thank you managers for allowing your drivers the time to attend, compete, and enjoy the September Drivers' Training and Rodeo! As your local transit manager, you serve many community members. Children, teens, students, working people, families and our 60+ population depend on public transit. The most remarkable aspect of Nebraska transit professionals (you & your drivers), is your ingenuity, flexibility, and resourceful ideas that work for your community!

Keep up the great job! Nebraska Public Transit - Moving Nebraskans to the Good Life!

Georgia Janssen, NATP Executive Director



Larry Ossowski, Blue Rivers AAA Director, was presented NATP Manager of the Year at the Lexington NATP Managers workshop. Pictured is Larry Ossowski; Abe Anshasi, NDOR Rail & Transit division Manager; Jerry Wray, Transit Liason Manager; Cindy Terwilliger, FTA Deputy Administrator, and Georgia Janssen, NATP Executive Director.

AAA recommends the following winter driving tips:

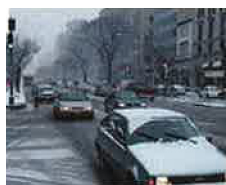
- Avoid driving while you're fatigued. Getting the proper amount of rest before taking on winter weather tasks reduces driving risks.
- Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.
- Make certain your tires are properly inflated.
- Never mix radial tires with other tire types.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze-up.
- If possible, avoid using your parking brake in cold, rainy and snowy weather.
- Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface (wet, ice, sand).
- Always look and steer where you want to go.
- Use your seat belt every time you get into your vehicle.

Tips for long distance winter trips:

- Watch weather reports prior to a long-distance drive or before driving in isolated areas. Delay trips when especially bad weather is expected if you must leave, let others know your route, destination and estimated time of arrival.
- Always make sure your vehicle is in peak operating condition by having it inspected by a AAA Approved Auto Repair facility.
- Keep at least half a tank of gasoline in your vehicle at all times.
- Pack a cellular telephone with your local AAA's telephone number, plus blankets, gloves, hats, food, water and any needed medication in your vehicle.
- If you become snow-bound, stay with your vehicle. It provides temporary shelter and makes it easier for rescuers to locate you. Don't try to walk in a severe storm. It's easy to lose sight of your vehicle in blowing snow and become lost.
- Don't over exert yourself if you try to push or dig your vehicle out of the snow.
- Tie a brightly colored cloth to the antenna or place a cloth at the top of a rolled up window to signal distress. At night, keep the dome light on if possible. It only uses a small amount of electricity and will make it easier for rescuers to find you.
- Make sure the exhaust pipe isn't clogged with snow, ice or mud. A blocked exhaust could cause deadly carbon monoxide gas to leak into the passenger compartment with the engine running.
- Use whatever is available to insulate your body from the cold. This could include floor mats, newspapers or paper maps.
- If possible run the engine and heater just long enough to remove the chill and to conserve gasoline.

Tips for driving in the snow:

- Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Applying the gas slowly to accelerate



is the best method for regaining traction and avoiding skids. Don't try to get moving in a hurry. And take time to slow down for a stoplight. Remember: It takes longer to slow down on icy roads.

- Drive slowly. Everything takes longer on snow-covered roads. Accelerating, stopping, turning - nothing happens as quickly as on dry pavement. Give

yourself time to maneuver by driving slowly,

- The normal dry pavement following distance of three to four seconds should be increased to eight to ten seconds. This increased margin or safety will provide the longer distance needed if you have to stop.
- Know your brakes. Whether you have antilock brakes or not, the best way to stop is threshold breaking. Keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use the bail of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal.
- Don't stop if you can avoid it. There's a big difference in the amount of inertia it takes to start moving from a full stop versus how much it takes to get moving while still rolling. If you can slow down enough to keep rolling until a traffic light changes, do it.
- Don't power up hills. Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads just starts your wheels spinning. Try to get a little inertia going before you reach the hill and let that inertia carry you to the top. As you reach the crest of the hill, reduce your speed and proceed down hill as slowly as possible.
- Don't stop going up a hill. There's nothing worse than trying to get moving up a hill on an icy road. Get some inertia going on a flat roadway before you take on the hill.
- Stay home. If you really don't have to go out, don't. Even if you can drive well in the snow, not everyone else can. Don't tempt fate: If you don't have somewhere you have to be, watch the snow from indoors.



The NATP Drivers Training PM session was held at the NE Safety Center. Lift questions, securements training, and driver techniques were on tap for the beautiful fall day.



Judy Price, the Box Butte County Public Transit director, displays the wheelchair lift feature of one of the three, new identical vans acquired by the County earlier this year. To accommodate for the size of these vans, at their last regular meeting, the Alliance City Council passed an ordinance allowing for two parking spaces on Fourth St., near Box Butte Ave. to be designated as a bus stop.

Photos by Trent Short/Times-Herald



This logo appears on the side of each of the three new transit vehicles. Recovery.gov is the U.S. government's website dedicated to providing access to the data related to

Recovery Act spending. These vans were provided to Box Butte County entirely through the Recovery Act and Reinvestment Act, signed by President Obama, Feb. 13, 2009.

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