

# Nebraska Transit Trends

## NELIGH PARADE OF LIGHTS

Neligh had a Parade of Lights to kick off the Christmas season on Sunday, December 1st. Three of the Dial-A-Ride drivers sported Santa hats and drove the bus decked out in holiday lights through the parade, joined by a couple of new companions....a penguin and minion.



## NATP HOSTS BOOTH AT NACO CONFERENCE

NATP hosted a booth at the Nebraska Association of County Officials' (NACO) 125th Annual Conference. The event took place December 11-12 at the Younes Convention Center in Kearney.

Board President, Scott Bartels and Executive Director, Jennifer Eureka were on hand to talk about the importance of public transit and answer questions from county officials and staff from across the state. We had over 300 people visited the NATP booth. NATP also provided a giveaway prize at the end of the event.

If you have ideas for events that NATP should be participating in, please contact the office.



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## NATP PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings Transit Friends,

I hope everyone had a joyous and uplifting holiday break. Welcome to 2020! It has been relatively quiet the last couple months with fewer events than usual since the Roadeo and training were moved into August and the Midwest/Southwest conference and NATP annual meeting have already been reported. None the less, Jennifer Eurek and the Board of Directors are quite busy preparing for future events and striving to find ways to improve our association.

We are planning the Legislative Day event in March, but are still waiting for the Governor's proclamation schedule to set dates. We will also schedule a NATP special membership meeting during this time. There will be a couple important items of business on the agenda. One which involves a change to the bylaws; which will require at least twenty voting members to be present for quorum. Please plan ahead so that your schedule will allow you to attend.

I also want to remind everyone that Public Transit Week is April 5-11, 2020. Tara Grell will be updating us on promotional items available and how to order them.

Jennifer Eurek and I represented NATP at the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) conference held in Kearney December 11-12. We were able to visit with many county officials and express how important transit services are to their communities and their residents. Most were well aware of transit services provided in their region, but often didn't recognize it as "public transportation." Upon further discussion we would get a response like, "oh, the handibus" or "the senior bus", etc.

As transit managers, we have a lot of educating to do. I believe this is a never ending process due to turn over in elected and appointed positions. This may be a difficult task for some, because it requires a little bit of boasting about our services to the elderly, physically challenged, economically disadvantaged, and EVERYONE who doesn't fall into any of these categories. I suspect we often fail to emphasize the last group mentioned. While it is always good to stress the economic benefits associated with keeping residents in their own home longer through transit independence, thereby reducing potential expenses of long-term care at nursing home facilities; we must also stress the social and health benefits of providing economical transportation to those who "need" it. It is just as important to emphasize the economic generator that is created when a household can secure a second source of income without the expense and immediate cash outlay involved in purchasing a vehicle, paying the sales taxes and licensing fees, and insurance premiums in order to make employment a feasible option. This is an important point for employers – especially in a tight labor market – and therefore it is vital to our communities and county government for economic growth. There are also obvious ecological benefits through reduced air and noise pollution, and reduced traffic and parking congestion.

So don't be shy. When you have the opportunity to speak to your elected representatives, do a little bragging and tell them, tell EVERYONE about the great transportation services that you offer.

Until next time, safe travels everyone.

Scott Bartels

## NDOT TRANSIT STAFF UPDATE

NATP wishes Frank Faughn well in his retirement; which became official December 20, 2019. Kari Ruse, NDOT Transit Manager, announced Ken Rouch has accepted the position and was able to work with Frank for several weeks during the transition. Ken comes to transit from the NDOT Controller Division.

Welcome, Ken! Ken Rouch contact information - 402-479-3185 - [Ken.rouch@nebraska.gov](mailto:Ken.rouch@nebraska.gov)

## 2020 CCTA ROADEO AND EXPO



The CTAA Rodeo and EXPO will take place at the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville, Kentucky from May 30 through June 4, 2020.

The 31st International Community Transportation Rodeo will take place on May 30 and 31st. NATP will have four drivers participating again this year.

Per the CTAA's website, the EXPO will keep attendees up to date with innovative technology, workforce development, communication strategies, funding, and regulations. The EXPO also features a trade show with all of the latest community transportation goods and services.

View information about the Rodeo and EXPO at [ctaa.org/expo-2020/](http://ctaa.org/expo-2020/).

## LAUNCH OF PTASP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

The FTA has launched its Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Technical Assistance Center (TAC) to support transit agencies and States in meeting PTASP regulation requirements by the July 20, 2020 compliance deadline. The TAC will provide targeted technical assistance on the development and implementation of Agency Safety Plans (ASP).

The TAC offers this support through three engagement methods: an online PTASP Community of Practice to facilitate information sharing and peer-to-peer support; remote support from FTA to address PTASP questions and provide feedback on draft ASP content; and on-site assistance to provide training and ASP development support.

The TAC will provide a variety of resources, tools, and examples to help agencies tackle obstacles and meet the compliance deadline. The TAC also will maintain and update the PTASP resource library on FTA's website. For ease of access, the TAC organizes these resources by user type: Small Bus Transit Provider, Bus Transit Provider, Rail Transit Provider, State Department of Transportation, and State Safety Oversight Agency.

Here are ways you can take advantage of the TAC:

- The TAC resource page and link to the PTASP Community of Practice can be accessed at: [transit.dot.gov/PTASP-TAC](http://transit.dot.gov/PTASP-TAC).
- The TAC help desk can be reached at 1-877 PTASP AID (1-877-827-7243) between 9:00am and 8:00pm Eastern time.
- Questions, issues or concerns, or requests for ASP reviews or technical assistance can be directed to the TAC inbox at [PTASP-TAC@dot.gov](mailto:PTASP-TAC@dot.gov).

## HELP NEEDED!

I am in the process of making a quilt using State and National Transportation t-shirts, and found I am missing two. They are from the National Transportation Rodeo's in Philadelphia, PA (2003) and in Providence, RI (2009). If someone has either of these and is willing to part with them you would be greatly appreciated. My quilt is at a stand still.

You can email me at [necitytransit@gmail.com](mailto:necitytransit@gmail.com) - Thanks so much, Bobbi Lechner, Nebraska City



# NEBRASKA SAFETY CENTER UPDATE

The Nebraska Safety Center had a busy 2019 with training over 400 drivers, including 62 courses across the state, with 66 agencies participating! We introduced online training courses in 2019 as well!

Our 2020 Calendar of Training is now live on the portal, so log in today to see when training is being offered this year. We hope to make driver training more exciting by offering a variety of courses in 2020, including special sessions on Pre/Post Trip training and ADA Hot Topics. At the same time, we've partnered with Alabama DOT to bring their driving simulator all the way to Nebraska this summer! The simulator, called RIDE (Real-Time Instruction for Driver Education), will provide hands-on training for anyone who comes to these special training courses coming for one week only in July 2020. Look out for more information regarding this special training in the coming months!



Also new in 2020 is the hiring of our new trainer! Mitchell Locken is the new Lead Trainer for the Nebraska Safety Center. Prior to joining the Nebraska Safety Center, he worked as a Store Manager and before that, was involved in non-profit development. He graduated from the University of South

Dakota in 2005 with a Bachelor of Business Administration. He enjoys spending his time woodworking in his small garage-shop, cooking to feed his family and anyone that happens to stop by at dinner, as well as being an active volunteer with the Boy Scouts of America. We welcome Mitchell as he started just after the New Year and are excited to get him out to meet all of you!



In October 2019, we welcomed Carrie Bartholomew as the new Event Planner and Outreach Coordinator. Carrie graduated from UNO in 2017 with a degree in Journalism-Creative Media. Since then, she spent the last two years serving as an AmeriCorps member with a nonprofit called College Possible in Omaha. After moving to Lincoln, Carrie has enjoyed getting to know the ins-and-outs of the Lincoln community, and she is looking forward to learning more about rural public transportation in the state of Nebraska.

If you have any questions regarding upcoming training, please reach out to any of us.

Carrie - [bartholomewc@unk.edu](mailto:bartholomewc@unk.edu)

Mitchell - [lockenm@unk.edu](mailto:lockenm@unk.edu)

We hope you have a wonderful 2020 and we look forward to seeing you at training!

Kaitlyn Richardson  
Rural Transit Manager  
Nebraska Safety Center  
[richardsonke@unk.edu](mailto:richardsonke@unk.edu)  
(402) 480-6859



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE NATP 2020 LEGISLATIVE DAY

NATP will host their 2020 Legislative Day event on Monday, March 9, 2020 in Lincoln. The day begins with a Senator breakfast and Governor's proclamation of the 2020 Public Transit Week. We will also hold a NATP special membership meeting to vote on bylaw changes and finish the day with training.

Register for the event at [neatp.org/calendar](http://neatp.org/calendar).

There is no cost to attend the event, but you must pre-register. Hotel rooms will be available at the Courtyard Marriott on Sunday night, March 8, for those traveling more than sixty miles. You can reserve your hotel room through NATP when you register online or email [jennifer@youraam.com](mailto:jennifer@youraam.com). Hotel rooms must be reserved by February 19th.

### MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2020

7:45 – 9:00	Senator Breakfast at the Ferguson House
9:00 – 10:00	NATP Membership Meeting at the Ferguson House
10:00 – 10:30	Relocate to the State Capitol
10:30 – 11:30	Governor Proclamation ceremony at the State Capitol
11:30 – 12:00	Relocate to Courtyard Marriott
12:00 – 12:30	Welcome and lunch
12:30 – 1:00	Presentation – U.S. Census Bureau
1:00 – 2:30	Presentation – DHHS Medicaid Transportation Brokers
2:30 – 2:45	Break
2:45 – 3:30	Presentation – Kari Ruse update
3:30	Adjourn

## NEBRASKA PUBLIC TRANSIT WEEK

Mark your calendars!

Nebraska Public Transit Week is April 5-11.

Order your promotional items from January 6-24, 2020.

Below is the link to the planning webpage where you will find additional information and downloadable materials.

Planning Webpage:

<http://nebraskatransit.com/index.php/resources/nebraska-public-transit-week/nptw-planning/>  
Password: NPTW20TM

You will receive additional emails with reminders and notifications of new things posted on the webpage in the coming months through the rural transit providers listserv.

Contact Tara Grell with questions at [tgrell@unomaha.edu](mailto:tgrell@unomaha.edu) or 402.554.5963.



**APRIL 5-11, 2020**

# SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING TO BE HELD

Date: Monday, March 9, 2020

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: The Ferguson House, 700 South 16th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

A special membership meeting has been scheduled for Monday, March 9th at 9:00 a.m. at the Ferguson House in Lincoln, Nebraska. The NATP Board of Directors scheduled this special meeting to vote on changes to the bylaws. We need at least 20 NATP members in attendance to meet quorum to carry out the business of the meeting. Mark your calendars to attend.

The two changes to the bylaws are outlined below in red.

## ARTICLE IV - ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1. The Association shall be governed by a Board of Directors elected by the membership which shall not exceed nine (9) voting members.

SECTION 2. There shall be an Executive Director employed by the Board of Directors who will be paid a salary, or contracted amount determined by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 3. Advisory, non-voting board members shall be appointed by the President based on the need of the Board of Directors for certain expertise, including, but not limited to education, research, regulation or professional practice and shall serve as a liaison between the organization or institution the individual is associated and the board. An advisory, non-voting member would serve no longer than a two (2)-year term, with option of reappointment.

SECTION 3 4. Directors shall be elected for a two-year term by the Association membership at the annual meeting. Directors may be re-elected for a second two-year term. A Director may be elected to additional terms following a one-year time interval.

SECTION 5. In matters related to the election of the Board of Directors, the vote may be taken by mail, e-mail or fax ballots. The Board Secretary shall file a tabulation of the results of the ballots with the minutes of the Annual Meeting.

\*The full version of the current bylaws can be found at [neatp.org/membership](http://neatp.org/membership)

# NATP MEMBER APPRECIATION



The Association is purchasing stainless steel water bottles to show appreciation to our members' public transit employees. Managers are encouraged to host an appreciation event for public transit employees during Public Transit Week or during another special event. You are encouraged to submit photos to the NATP office of how the water bottles were distributed to employees at [jennifer@youraam.com](mailto:jennifer@youraam.com). You can order your water bottles, at no cost, by filling out the form at the end of the newsletter and returning to the NATP office by February 19.

Limit quantity ordered to public transit employees only. For Public Transit Week promotional items visit the Nebraska Public Transit website (Public Transit Week Planning page) or contact Tara Grell at [tgrell@unomaha.edu](mailto:tgrell@unomaha.edu).

The water bottles will be available during the Legislative Event, at the NATP office, or at a board member's office near you.

## Dates to Remember

March 9, 2020  
NATP Legislative Day and Training

April 5-11  
2020 Public Transit Week

June 23-25, 2020  
NATP Manager's Workshop  
Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center  
Kearney, NE

May 30 - 31, 2020  
CTAA Roadeo Louisville, Kentucky

May 31 - June 4, 2020  
CTAA EXPO, Louisville, Kentucky

June 24-25  
NATP Manager's Workshop  
Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center  
Kearney, NE

October 18-22  
2020 National RTAP Rural and Intercity  
Bus Transportation Conference  
Charleston, South Carolina

## NATP 2018-2019 LEADERSHIP

### BOARD MEMBERS

Western Region  
Coletta Clouse, Treasurer  
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Grand Island, NE 68801



[www.facebook.com/NEATP](http://www.facebook.com/NEATP)

**Next newsletter  
deadline is  
March 20, 2020**

Please send your articles and pictures for the Nebraska Transit Trends newsletter to the NATP office by July 15, 2019.

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 [jennifer@youraam.com](mailto:jennifer@youraam.com). You may include pictures if you like, 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)

# NATP Member Appreciation

## ORDER FORM

To order tumblers, complete the form and mail to NATP, PO Box 10, Milford, NE 68405; fax to 402.761.2224; or email to [jennifer@youraam.com](mailto:jennifer@youraam.com)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**25 oz  
Stainless Steel  
Water Bottle**



### NATP Members

Employee Appreciation Tumblers\*

*\*Limited quantities available. Please provide to public transit employees only.*

# \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Arrange for pick up at closest board member's system
- ☐ Arrange for pick up at NATP event or office
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Return form by February 19, 2020**

Managers are encouraged to host an appreciation event for public transit employees during Public Transit Week or during another special event.

Please submit photos to the NATP office of how the water bottles were distributed to employees.

Questions? Call (402) 761-2216 or email [jennifer@youraam.com](mailto:jennifer@youraam.com)