

# Nebraska Transit Trends

## 2020 LEGISLATIVE EVENT

NATP held its annual Legislative Event on March 9 in Lincoln. The event kicked off with a Senator Breakfast at the Ferguson House. Attendees were able to visit with Senators about public transit in their area.

NATP then held a special membership meeting to discuss and vote on bylaw changes. The minutes of this meeting are available on page 6 of this newsletter. After the meeting was adjourned, members spent time networking with peers until it was time to relocate to the State Capitol.

Lieutenant Mike Foley presented a proclamation recognizing April 5-11 as Public Transit Week on behalf of Governor Ricketts.



Following the proclamation signing, lunch and an afternoon of training were held at the Courtyard Marriott. The training

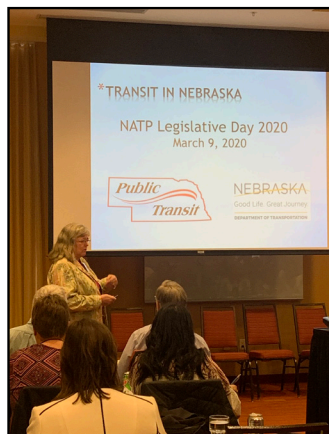
started with a presentation from Blanca Ramirez-Salazar about the 2020 Census. Next, each of the three Medicaid Transportation Brokers provided an overview presentation and answered questions. The

brokers included National MedTrans with UnitedHealthcare, IntelliRide with WellCare and MTM Transit with Nebraska Total Care. To end the day, Kari Ruse provided an NDOT update and had a question and answer session.

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Thank you  
to everyone  
who attended  
the event!



# NATP PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Transit Friends,

It has been a long, arduous April. I was just reading an article from Scott Bogren, Executive Director of CTAA, in which he focuses on the "Transit Re-Start." I know many State Governors are actively preparing to "open for business" but it seems to me that Nebraska has about a 4-week lag on their prospective timeline. For weeks, I read about the terrible coronavirus and its devastation on both health and economy in foreign countries, parts of the United States, and on cruise ships. But here...nothing. If not for our famed UNMC National Quarantine Unit taking patients in from other infected areas, you may have believed our isolated rural world would escape unscathed. But NOW, when all those states plan to open and feel they have already gone through the worst of the Covid-19 pandemic, I speak to our county emergency manager and district public health director and am told our battle here is just beginning and likely won't peak for 2-4 weeks.

As a result, we are once again reducing service routes in an attempt to keep passengers, staff and others within the community safe and healthy. At this point, routes being cut are down to only about a half-dozen passengers. Making certain they could find other means of transportation to and from work became our main priority prior to cutting the service.

And now the lull. The wait and see period. Wondering when our area will be able to relax restrictions and how long after that before the public is comfortable with being near one another again – without fear or trepidation.

So, in the meantime, like Scott Bogren, I try to think positively about our circumstance. Take this opportunity to review route performance. What can we refine to provide greater service more efficiently and economically? Are there routes that should be cancelled permanently to free up resources to create a better, more user-friendly transit system? Often, I have a common sense or gut feeling approach to what routes to offer but it would be nice to have data, statistical reports, etc. to reinforce that decision-making process.

Well, many transit managers will have the opportunity to secure the dispatching and record keeping technology that can help guide such operational decisions and help their transit system to operate more efficiently and effectively to improve service; all while being more user-friendly. I hope you will all try to adjust your schedule to attend the NATP Managers' Conference August 5th and 6th. You will have the opportunity to view vendor demonstrations, compare products, ask questions and see how technology may be the best answer to how to bring improved service to your community.

So, until we have the pleasure of meeting again in person, stay safe, stay healthy, and safe travels everyone.

# COVID-19 RESOURCES

The NATP website has a dedicated webpage with COVID-19 resources. Check back frequently as the webpage continues to be updated as new information and resources become available. You are able to access the page via a link on the NATP homepage at [neatp.org](http://neatp.org).

## SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2020 NATP MANAGERS WORKSHOP

As you know, the NATP Board has been monitoring the developments with regards to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the current restrictions for gatherings, the decision has been made to postpone the 2020 Managers Workshop, scheduled for June 24 and 25. In working with the Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center, ***we have rescheduled to Wednesday, August 5 and Thursday, August 6.***

Registration information will be sent next month. You will be able to register for Wednesday only, Thursday only or both days. Plan to bring additional staff for all the great topics to be covered.

On August 5, Kari Ruse, NDOT Transit Manager, the NDOT Transit Team and our partners at the University will provide an all-day training and answer your questions. Topics will include the following:

1. COVID 19/CARES Act update
2. Protecting civil rights during a pandemic
3. Vehicle applications
4. Transit facility construction applications
5. Future funding
6. Dashboard updates

Bill Bivin, the Statewide Mobility Manager, will be on hand to give updates including:

1. Current projects, including technology, intercity bus projects, Northeast region coordination and Norfolk Flexroute
2. Statewide Public Relations
3. Statewide Mobility Manager
4. Future projects
5. Understanding your systems data

The NATP Annual Meeting will be held the afternoon of August 5 and the banquet will take place that evening. During the banquet, we will present the annual awards.

On August 6, join us for an innovative technology fair.

- Do you want to schedule a ride with 2 clicks?
- Want to reduce no shows and late cancellations with an automated phone call reminder system?
- Interested in replacing on board fare collection by scanning pre-paid fare cards?
- Would you like to run a download one spreadsheet with all your monthly operating statistics instead of collecting paper logs from your drivers to track and report vehicle revenue miles and hours of service?

If you answered YES to any of these questions, then plan to attend the NDOT/NATP Technology Fair!

NDOT has pre-approved transit software vendors who will be on hand to demonstrate their system capabilities and answer your questions. Learn more about how affordable technology solutions can help your agency with scheduling, dispatching, fare collection and data reporting. Whether you have 2 vehicles or 20, technology can help you save time and improve efficiencies.

Managers, drivers and dispatchers are strongly encouraged to attend this exciting event and take advantage of this opportunity! The Managers Workshop is a great time for learning, but more importantly, it is a time for networking. Catch up with old friends and meet newer managers.

More information, including the registration brochure, will be sent in June. See you in Kearney!

## 2020 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Renewals for the 2020-2021 NATP membership year will be emailed and mailed in late May. Payment will also be available online – watch for details. NATP works hard to promote professionalism in public transportation operators through research, advocacy and educational opportunities. The association also works to educate the public about the importance of public transportation in Nebraska.

***Outreach - Promotion - Information - Networking - Education***



# NEBRASKA PUBLIC TRANSIT WEEK - APRIL 5-11

Due to gathering restrictions in place related to the COVID-19 pandemic, most transit agency events were postponed or canceled.

On March 9, Lieutenant Governor Mike Foley presented a proclamation signed by Governor Ricketts proclaiming the week of April 5-11 as Nebraska Public Transit Week.

Nebraska public transit had over 6.5 million riders in 2019 traveling over 10.6 million miles. Public transit options, in both rural and urban communities, are a vital connection to medical care, education, and jobs for thousands of Nebraskans.

Local providers can be found on the Nebraska Public Transit website at [nebraskatransit.com](http://nebraskatransit.com). The website includes an interactive map for finding public transit providers, details on events during Public Transit Week, and information for riders.

Nebraska Public Transit Week is a celebration and promotion of public transit across Nebraska organized by the Nebraska Association of Transportation Providers (NATP), the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), and Advance Innovation and Safety in Transit in cooperation with Nebraska's public transit providers.



## NATP AWARD NOMINATIONS

NATP understands and appreciates the need to recognize key individuals and companies who have helped us to achieve our mission to promote effective, efficient public transportation throughout Nebraska. Complete a nomination form included in this newsletter by June 19, 2020. Anyone can nominate someone for an award except for persons nominating themselves.

### ROOKIE MANAGER OF THE YEAR

- o NATP membership is not required, but preferred
- o Employed as Transit Manager for 5 years or less
- o Demonstrates dedication, positive attitude and contributions to the transit system.

### PUBLIC TRANSIT MANAGER OF THE YEAR

- o NATP membership is not required, but preferred
- o Displays leadership while providing transportation service that is integral to the community
- o Creates a vision for the system that has the support from both within and outside of the organization

### PIONEER

- o Uses innovative concepts, strategies, procedures and policies to provide support and advance the transit organization (local or statewide)
- o Developed a solution to a difficult existing problem effectively and productively or improved overall effectiveness through a new method or approach.

### FRIEND OF TRANSIT

- o Communicates transit system concerns and issues at the local, state and/or national level.
- o Advocates for public transportation at the local, state, and/or national level

### IN APPRECIATION

- o Served or is currently serving public transportation.
- o This award usually provided to retired public transportation workers

**As COVID-19 continues to impact our communities, we acknowledge your dedication, admire the innovation, and applaud the extra efforts you make. We notice.**

**Today, we'd like to say**

***Thank You!***

### NATP Award Recipients

#### Rookie Manager of the Year

2019 – Nikki Pinkelman  
2018 – Christy Warner  
2017 – Mitch Sump  
2016 – Beth Siegfried  
2015 – Corrina Duckworth  
2014 – Jonnie Kusek  
2012 – Marilee Hyde  
2011 – Jeff Baker & Denny Carr

#### Public Transit Manager of the Year

2019 – Christy Warner  
2018 – Denise Smith  
2017 – Cindy Sanders  
2015 – Jeff Baker  
2014 – Charles McGraw  
2012 – Carol Meyerhoff  
2011 – Scott Bartels  
2010 – Larry Ossowski

#### Pioneer

2019 – Frank Faughn  
2015 – Scott Bartels  
2014 – Cindy Sanders  
2012 – Lee Meyer

#### Friend of Transit

2019 – Connie Trautwein  
2015 – Charles McGraw  
2011 – Mark Intermill

#### In Appreciation

2019 – Cindy Sanders  
2017 – Carol Prince  
2015 – Vicki Goeken  
2015 – Penny Vollbracht  
2015 – Glee Rising  
2015 – Carol Meyerhoff  
2014 – Larry Worth  
2014 – Sue Chipman  
2012 – Jerry Wray  
2012 – Georgia Janssen  
2012 – Carol Maxson  
2012 – Laura Lindgren

# SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

March 9, 2020 - Ferguson House, Lincoln, NE

President Scott Bartels called the NATP Special Membership meeting to order at 9:19 a.m. Roll call was taken; a quorum was present with twenty-four member agencies present.

Bartels thanked everyone for attending. Today's business includes two proposed changes to the NATP bylaws. Members received a copy of the current bylaws, the two proposed changes, and a ballot during roll call. We will discuss the two changes and then vote via ballot to approve or reject each change.

The first bylaw change addresses the addition of a non-voting Advisory Board member to the Board of Directors. It was discussed that there may be expertise that the Board would feel is helpful to have as a resource. This person would be appointed to a two-year term as a non-voting Board member. One such person could be Bill Biven, in the new position of the Statewide Mobility Management Coordinator, he could provide updates to the Board as NDOT has launched Mobility Management Phase 3.

## **Proposed Language:**

*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.*

Discussion included having the Board of Directors ratify any appointments made by the President. A motion to amend the proposed bylaw change to include the language, "shall be appointed by the President and ratified by the Board of Directors based on the need..." was made by Lori Byers; and seconded by Nikki Pinkelman. Motion carried.

The second proposed change addresses updating the NATP bylaws to include mail, email or fax voting for Board of Directors. The current bylaws state the election shall be held at the annual meeting with a quorum of 20 members present to carry out the business of the meeting. The last few elections it has been difficult to meet this quorum requirement. This gives us the option of holding the election outside the annual meeting, so all the membership has the opportunity to participate even if they are unable to attend in-person.

## **Proposed Language:**

*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.*

Discussion included potentially using other electronic means besides email such as Survey Monkey or other apps. Discussed including a photo and bio with the notice of election so people knew more about the candidates. Also including which transit agencies are in which NATP District when nominations are solicited.

A motion to amend the proposed bylaw to change the word "email" to "electronic" by Lori Byers; and seconded by Tammy McConnell. Motion carried.

President Bartels then called for members present to cast their ballot. Voting to approve or reject each proposed change. Ballots were collected and counted by Secretary, Beth Siegfried and Executive Director, Jennifer Eureka.

Secretary Siegfried announced both proposed changes were carried by the majority voting (23-1). President Bartels accepted the tabulation into the minutes and announced both proposed changes carried and were approved.

Having no further business, President Bartels adjourned the meeting at 9:56 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted - Jennifer Eureka, NATP Executive Director



## 2020 ROADEO



### 2020 Roadeo and Drivers Training August 25 & 26 - Kearney, Nebraska

The annual NATP Roadeo and Training will be held August 25 and 26 in Kearney.

On Tuesday, August 25, a driver's training will be held at the Holiday Inn Conference Center. The training will include refresher and elective courses. Directly after the training, the Roadeo driver testing and judge's orientation will be held at the conference center.

The Roadeo will be held on Wednesday, August 26 at the Nebraska Safety Center with an awards luncheon following.

Registration and additional details will be available in July.

## NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR NATP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors send an email with your nomination and a short bio to the NATP office at [jennifer@youraam.com](mailto:jennifer@youraam.com) by July 10, 2020.

In 2020, three officers will be elected. One officer will be elected from the NATP Western region and one officer from the NATP Eastern region. One at-large officer will be elected and may reside in any of the four regions.

Visit the NATP website to view the region structure and the membership directory for agency listings.

To serve on the NATP Board of Directors, you must be a current member and a transportation provider. A transportation provider is defined as a public transit operator operating one or more vehicles.

The western region includes the counties of Arthur, Banner, Box Butte, Chase, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Dundy, Garden, Grant, Keith, Kimball, Morrill, Perkins, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, and Sioux.

The eastern region includes the counties of Burt, Cass, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Dodge, Douglas, Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson, Saline, Sarpy, Saunders, Thayer, Thurston, Washington, and Wayne.

The duties of the Board of Directors shall be to represent the best interests of the Association's membership, and to promote the Association's goals and purposes.

The NATP Board typically meets four times a year. Meetings are held in conjunction with a NATP event if possible; otherwise, meet via conference call for those not able to attend in-person. Meeting typically last one to two hours depending on the agenda items needing discussion.

Consider serving on the Board yourself or talk with a colleague to encourage them to submit a nomination.

**NOTE:** With the NATP bylaw changes, effective March 9, 2020, all nominations and ballots will be handled electronically this year.

April 15 – July 10	Nominations will be accepted
July 13	Nominee information and online ballot link will be sent via email
July 13 – July 28	Ballots will be collected via Survey Monkey
July 28	Ballots are due to the NATP office
August 5	Election results will be filed by the Board Secretary at the Annual Meeting

***If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors send an email with your nomination and a short bio to the NATP office at [jennifer@youraam.com](mailto:jennifer@youraam.com) by July 10, 2020.***

## NATIONAL SAFETY CENTER

Due to the COVID-19 crisis that our nation is currently facing, the Nebraska Safety Center has decided to postpone all April and May transit manager and transit driver courses. Those courses, along with late March courses that were postponed, are currently being rescheduled for later in the year. Transit managers should be on the lookout for emails regarding new dates for these courses. Anyone previously registered for postponed courses will remain registered once a new date is set. If you have transit drivers that require training in the meantime, we do offer four online classes: New Driver Training (not a substitute for the 16 hours of training required for new drivers) ADA and Emergencies in Transit, Generations and Riders' Needs, and Passengers and Service in Transit. Two of the four hours that drivers need annually can be fulfilled by participating in an online course. Links to the courses can be found on the Nebraska Transit website along with instructions on how to create an account and register for a course. Any questions about online courses or course postponements can be directed to [bartholomewc@unk.edu](mailto:bartholomewc@unk.edu).

The Nebraska Safety Center is also excited to bring two exclusive classes for one week only this July! Due to popular demand for the RIDE Simulator & Total Safety Check and Evacuation Strategies course, we have added a morning class in addition to the afternoon class, but the morning course is limited to 10 seats. We encourage anyone interested in attending this course or ADA Hot Topics to register ASAP! Times, specifics, and more information for both courses are located on the manager portal.

Carrie Bartholomew, Program Assistant/Event and Outreach Planner  
Nebraska Safety Center

## 2020 CTAA EXPO



### **CTAA Roadeo & Expo - November 14-19, 2020 International Convention Center - Louisville, Kentucky**

The CTAA Roadeo and EXPO has been postponed. The event will now take place at the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville, Kentucky from November 14 through November 19, 2020.

The 31st International Community Transportation Roadeo will take place on November 14 and 15th. 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 Roadeo and EXPO at [ctaa.org/expo-2020/](http://ctaa.org/expo-2020/)

## *Dates to Remember*

**August 5 & 6**

**Manager's Workshop at  
Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center  
Kearney, NE**

**August 25**

**NATP Drivers Training at  
Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center  
Kearney, NE**

**August 26**

**NATP Roadeo  
at Nebraska Safety Center  
Kearney, NE**

**November 14 - 19**

**CTAA Roadeo and EXPO  
Louisville, Kentucky**

**2021**

**October 18-22**

**2020 National RTAP  
Rural and Intercity Bus  
Transportation Conference  
Charleston, South Carolina**



## 2019-2020 NATP LEADERSHIP

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Western Region  
Coletta Clouse, Treasurer  
411 East 2nd  
Ogallala, NE 69153

West Central Region  
Beth Siegfried, Secretary  
1312 West 5th Street  
McCook, NE 69001

East Central Region  
Brenda Sherwin  
1320 G Street  
Geneva, NE 68361

Eastern Region  
Scott Bartels, President  
Box 412  
Western, NE 68464

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Jennifer Eureka  
jennifer@youraam.com  
521 First Street,  
PO Box 10  
Milford, NE 68405  
Phone: 402-405-1278  
www.neatp.org

### **MEMBERS AT LARGE**

Nikki Pinkelman  
PO Box 47  
Hartington, NE 68739

Denise Smith  
416 Garfield St.  
Holdrege, NE 68949

Omaha Metro  
Curt Simon  
222 Cuming Street  
Omaha, NE 68102

City of Lincoln - STARTRAN  
Mike Davis  
710 "J" Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508

CRANE Transportation  
Cecelia Grotz  
1016 Diers Ave, Ste. 119  
Grand Island, NE 68801  
William Bivin, Advisory Member  
Statewide Mobility Manager  
2021 Transformation Drive  
Ste. 1250-4  
Lincoln, NE 68508



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

**Next newsletter  
deadline is  
July 1, 2020**

Please send your articles and pictures for the Nebraska Transit Trends newsletter to the NATP office by July 1, 2020.

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)

Date:

## Nominee Information

Name	Job Title
Agency	Email

Work Address

Work Phone

## Nominator Information

Name	Job Title
Agency	Email

Work Address	Relationship with Nominee
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Work Phone

## Award Categories: Please mark the category for nomination

**Rookie Manager of the Year**

- Employed as Transit Manager for 5 years or less
- Demonstrates dedication, positive attitude and contributions to the transit system.

**Friend of Transit**

- Communicates transit system concerns and issues at the local, state and/or national level
- Advocates for public transportation at the local, state and/or national level

**Public Transit Manager of the Year**

- Displays leadership while providing transportation service that is integral to the community
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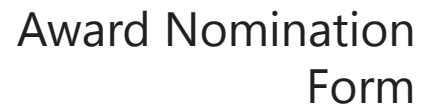
**In Appreciation**

- Served or is currently serving public transportation
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**Pioneer**

- Uses innovative concepts, strategies, procedures and policies to provide support and advance the transit organization (local or statewide)
- Developed a solution to a difficult existing problem effectively and productively or improved overall effectiveness through a new method or approach

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Date

email: [jennifer@youraam.com](mailto:jennifer@youraam.com)  
fax: 402.761.2224