

Nebraska Transit Trends

2020 NATP ROADEO

The Nebraska Association of Transportation Providers held its Annual Statewide Roadeo at the Nebraska Safety Center in Kearney on August 26. The theme was "Superheroes".

Thank you to:

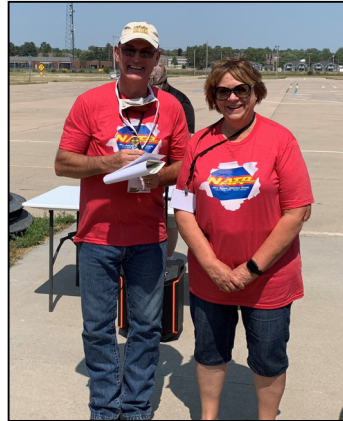
- all the drivers, volunteers and staff who participated in the event
- the Nebraska Safety Center who donated the use of the driving range, bus and tents for the event
- CRANE Public Transit, York Public Transit, Tri-Valley Public Transit, Saline County Area Transit and Cedar County Public Transit for the use of your vehicles for the event

The Roadeo competition consists of a written test, pre-trip inspection, wheelchair securement, and a driving skills course.

Following the Roadeo competition, all attendees gathered for an awards luncheon. Drivers from the minivan division were introduced and presented with certificates for their participation.

The first-place winner took home a \$250 check and an engraved clock. The second-place winner received a \$150 check along with an engraved key ring. The third-place winner was presented with a \$100 check.

2020 ROADEO continued on page 3...



Ron Wall, Kimball County Transit Services, First Place Minivan Division



Paul Lowell, CRANE Public Transit, Second Place Minivan Division



Traveling Trophy for Minivan Division



Dave Hickman, Kimball County Transit Services, Third Place Minivan Division



Drivers in the Minivan Division



NATP President, Beth Siegfried speaking to the group. Jeff Baker served as Roadeo Marshall for the event.

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NATP PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings,

I look forward to the next year as your new president. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any comments or suggestions. What a crazy year 2020 has turned out to be with many challenges we never dreamed we would face. It seems like we had Legislative day and then our world changed overnight. Being a transit manager is never dull or boring; I think we could all write a book. Thank you to all who have renewed their memberships and please reach out to others to join NATP.

I want to acknowledge our outgoing president Scott Bartels, who received the Friend of Transit Award, who has served as a board member for 10 years and as your president for 8 years. Also congratulations to Curt Simmons, our Pioneer of Transit Award recipient. He also has served on the board for many, many years. I know Curt and Mike in Lincoln face unique challenges in the urban areas. Enjoy your retirement Curt. Congratulations to Cecelia Grotz as Rookie of the Year.

Congratulations to our new Board member, Cliff Lindell, and our returning Board members, Denise Smith and Coletta Clouse.

What a great Managers meeting in Kearney. We had a great turn out both virtually and in person. As always it was great to see everyone and network. Hopefully you gained knowledge. It was a huge commitment for the vendors who presented. Many of them had to go home and quarantine for two weeks. Be sure and connect with those who you choose as your top picks if you have additional questions. It will be interesting to see who everyone decides to go with. Kari always has great information for us and thank you to Bill for his updates. One of the most exciting aspects of the two day conference was to get to see the new 12 passenger Ford Transit Van. This has been much anticipated and very much welcomed. I think it will be a great addition to many of our Transit Systems. There are limited funds so hurry and get your applications in.

I talked to Kari this week and she mentioned she might have come up with an affordable option for all of us to sanitize our vehicles, so keep your eyes open for that e-mail. Hopefully we will get more information on a simplified Medicaid contract in response to the expanded Medicaid happening this fall.

Until next time!
Beth Siegfried, NATP President

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.



Rodeo judges meeting

2020 ROADEO continued...

The first and second place drivers and their managers are eligible to attend and compete in the CTAA National Rodeo in Richmond, Virginia, June 12-17, 2021.



Driver training participants

Winners of the mini-van division include, Ron Wall, Kimball County Transit Services, first place; Paul Lowell, CRANE Public Transit, second place; and third place, Dave Hickman, Kimball County Transit Services.



Drivers doing a walkthrough of the course

The first-place winner, Ron Wall, took home the traveling trophy to be displayed at his agency until next year's Rodeo.

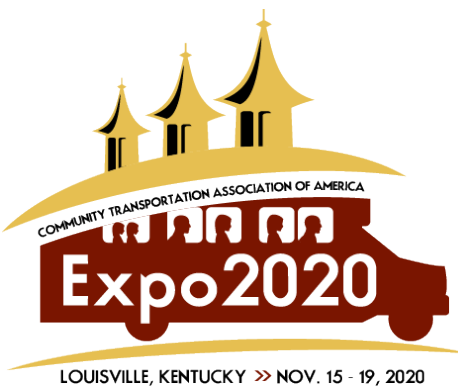


Drivers doing a walkthrough of the course

The Driver of the Year Award went to Ron Wall of Kimball County Transit Services who had the highest score of the day. Ron received a \$50 gift card as a prize

Thank you to everyone who participated.

2020 CTAA ROADEO & EXPO



The 2020 CTAA Rodeo and EXPO has been canceled.

NATP will plan to send our four drivers from the 2019 Nebraska Rodeo to the 2021 CTAA Rodeo to compete.

Note from CTAA:

The continuing crisis in relation to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus

(COVID-19) has made it necessary for us to cancel the 2020 Community Transportation EXPO. Coming to this decision has not been easy, but the concerns for the health and safety of our attendees left us no other choice. Please accept our sincerest apologies for any inconvenience this may cause. We are looking forward to hosting you in Richmond, Va., June 13 - 17 2021, once the global health pandemic passes.

View information about the Rodeo and EXPO at ctaa.org/expo-2020/.

Dates to Remember

CANCELLED

November 14 - 19

CTAA Rodeo and EXPO

Louisville, Kentucky

2021 CTAA Rodeo and EXPO

June 12 - 17

Richmond, Virginia

2021 RTAP Conference

October 18-22

Charleston, South Carolina

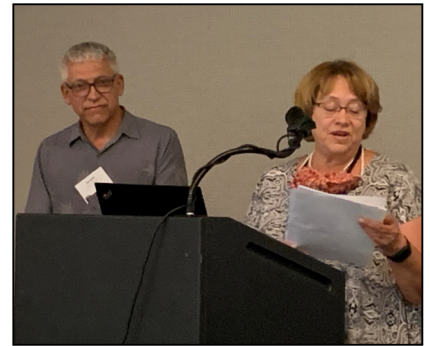
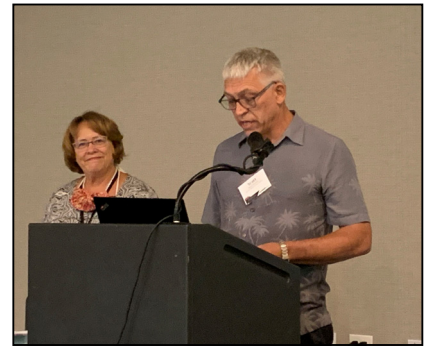
2020 NATP MANAGERS WORKSHOP

The Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center in Kearney was the host for the 2020 NATP Manager's Workshop and Technology Fair on August 5 & 6. The event was also available virtually through Zoom. We had more than sixty people attend; over thirty attended in-person and another thirty people attended virtually.

On August 5, an innovative technology fair was held with eight NDOT pre-approved transit software vendors on hand to demonstrate their system capabilities and answer questions. Attendees were able to learn more about how affordable technology solutions can help agencies with scheduling, dispatching, fare collection and data reporting.



The NATP Annual Meeting was held the afternoon of August 5 and the banquet was held that evening.



NATP honored three transit managers for their service and commitment with the following awards:

- Rookie Manger of the Year: Cecelia Grotz, CRANE Public Transit
- Pioneer: Curt Simon, Omaha Metro
- Friend of Transit: Scott Bartels, Saline County Area Transit

On August 6, Kari Ruse, NDOT Transit Manager provided an all-day training. Topics included:

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, was also 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



Thank you to everyone who attended the workshop.



NEBRASKA SAFETY CENTER TRANSIT DRIVER TRAINING COURSES

The Nebraska Safety Center was excited to begin instructing in-person transit driver training courses again starting in July. Precautions are being taken to ensure the safety of course attendees and our trainer. Current measures in place include: social distancing attendees from different agencies, providing masks and requiring mask wearing throughout courses, wiping down tables and chairs after each training session, and taking attendee temperatures at the door and having them fill out a wellness questionnaire.

Although, if a driver does not feel comfortable attending an in-person course, we will be providing a virtual option to attend courses via Zoom. The only courses that a virtual option will not be offered are Advanced Wheelchair Securement and Child Passenger Safety. Attendees will register for courses as normal. A week out from a registered course, transit managers will receive a reminder email and the option to attend virtually will be presented. Email Carrie (bartholomewc@unk.edu) back if you wish to attend virtually, and the Zoom link and other details will be sent to you.

If you have any questions about training courses being offered the rest of the year or current precautions in place, please feel free to reach out to Carrie or Mitchell (lockenm@unk.edu) at the Nebraska Safety Center.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

August 5, 2020 - Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center, Kearney, NE

President Scott Bartels called the NATP Annual Membership meeting to order at 4:24 p.m. Roll call was taken; a quorum was present.

Bartels thanked everyone for attending. He highlighted events from the annual program listing of the 2019-2020 NATP Activities; including the NATP Roadeo, CTAA National Roadeo, Legislative Event, and Public Transit Week.

A motion to approve the minutes from the 2019 Annual Meeting and the 2020 Special Membership Meeting held in March was made by Curt Simon; and seconded by Beth Siegfried. Motion carried.

Coletta Clouse provided the membership with a Treasurer's report. She indicated the Association is doing well and provided information about the checks and balances in place. A copy of the annual Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement was provided to the members. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Nikki Pinkelman and seconded by Cecelia Grotz. Motion carried.

President Bartels ask for any new business. Siegfried requested NATP book a larger room for the Drivers Training later this month as the Nebraska Safety Center's registration is closed due to space. Jennifer Eurek replied the hotel contract has a room reserved for up to fifty people. Nebraska Safety Center replied they would re-open registration next week.

Awards were then presented. The Rookie of the Year Award was presented to Cecelia Grotz of CRANE Public Transit. The Pioneer award was given to Curt Simon of Omaha Metro. The Friend of Transit award was given to Scott Bartels of Saline County Area Transit.

Secretary Siegfried reported per the bylaw change made in March, the NATP Board of Directors election was held electronically. Applications were received during the nomination period from Coletta Clouse, West Region; Cliff Lindell, East Region; and Denise Smith, At-Large Director. The election period was open from July 16 through July 30. The election results are:

West Region Director – Coletta Clouse; 30 votes – 1 abstain

East Region Director – Cliff Lindell; 30 votes – 1 abstain

At-Large Director – Denise Smith; 29 votes – 2 abstain

Bartels thanked the membership as this would be his last meeting on the Board of Directors. He encouraged the membership to participate on the Board and consider membership in the national organization of CTAA.

Having no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Curt Simon and seconded by Larry Vortherms. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Eurek, NATP Executive Director

2020-2021 NATP LEADERSHIP

BOARD MEMBERS

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

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

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

Eastern Region
Cliff Lindell
103 Eastside Blvd
Beatrice, NE 68310

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Phone: 402-405-1278
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MEMBERS AT LARGE

Nikki Pinkelman, Secretary
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



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**Next newsletter
deadline is
December 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. 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



2020 NATP Annual Meeting

Wednesday, August 5, 2020 - 4:30 p.m.
Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center, Kearney, Nebraska

2019 - 2020 Activities

For the third time, NATP joined forces with the transit associations of Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri to host the 2019 Midwest/SW Transit Conference. This time the Southwest Public Transit Association also participated. This year's event was held September 11-13, 2019 at the InterContinental Kansas City at the Plaza in Kansas City, Missouri.

Attendees hailed from twenty-nine different states plus the District of Columbia and British Columbia. Nebraska had thirty-seven participants at the event.

An FTA Town Hall meeting and award presentation was held on September 12 hosted by Region VII FTA Administrator Mokhtee Ahmad. Cedar County Transit was presented the Award of Excellence for the highest percentage increase in ridership for rural transit providers with over five vehicles for 2017-2018. York County Public Transportation was presented the Award of Excellence for the highest percentage increase in ridership for rural transit providers with under five vehicles for 2017-2018. City of Lincoln Transportation and Utilities - StarTran was presented the Award of Excellence for the highest percentage increase in ridership among Nebraska urban providers and the highest ridership increase in FTA Region VII for 2017-2018.

The NATP 2019 Annual Meeting was held during the Midwest/SW Transit Conference with award presentations, election and business conducted.

Awards were presented at the NATP Annual Meeting. Connie Trautwein was given the Friend in Transit award and Frank Faughn was presented the Pioneer award. Cindy Sanders was awarded the In Appreciation award. Two managers were honored for their service and commitment to public transportation. Nikki Pinkelman of Cedar County Transit was awarded the Rookie Manager of the Year and Christy Warner of Kimball County Public Transit was awarded Manager of the Year.

The present officers are Scott Bartels, Saline County Public Transit, President; Coletta Clouse, Ogallala Public Transit, Treasurer; Beth Siegfried, McCook Public Transit, Secretary; Curt Simon, Omaha Metro Area Transit; Mike Davis, StarTran; Cecelia Grotz, CRANE Public Transit; Brenda Sherwin, Fillmore County Transit; Nikki Pinkelman, Cedar County Transit; Denise Smith, Phelps County Public Transit and Bill Bivin, Statewide Mobility Manager, Advisory Member. Congratulations NATP Roadeo Committee for another successful event.

Agenda

- Welcome
- Approve 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes
- Treasurer's Report
- New Business
- Awards
- Election Results
- Adjourn



2019 Awards



Proclamation Signing & Legislative Day



The 27th Annual NATP Roadeo was held August 20-21 in Kearney. Nineteen drivers competed in the event and thirty judges volunteered on the course. The Driver of the Year Award went to Ramona Daniels who had the highest score of the day. The Spirit Award was presented to Denny Carr of Seward County Transit.

Winners of the small bus division were Diane Schaepe, Seward County Transit, first place; Jon Kruse, Seward County Public Transit, second place; and Ken Baldinger, Seward County Public Transit, third place.

Mini-van division winners included, first place, Ramona Daniels of Saline County Area Transit; second place, Mindy Manning, Florence Home; and third place, Karen Lammers, Cedar County Transit.

These drivers received cash awards and first and second place winners received a scholarship to compete at the National CTAA Roadeo in Louisville, Kentucky.

For the fourth year, NATP hosted a booth on Older Nebraskans Day during the Nebraska State Fair on August 26, 2019. Over 600 people viewed the booth, and many stopped to visit and pick up informational brochures and giveaways.

NATP hosted a booth at the League of Nebraska Municipalities Conference held September 19-20 in Lincoln. Jennifer Eurek was on hand to share information with the over seventy-five city officials and staff from across the state that visited the booth.

NATP was represented at the Nebraska Association of County Officials' (NACO) 125th Annual Conference which was held December 11-12 in Kearney. Scott Bartels and Jennifer Eurek were on hand to visit with the over 300 officials who visited the booth.

"I Love Public Transit" water bottles were designed and ordered for managers to hand out to their employees to show appreciation.

A Legislative Event was held on March 9, 2020 in Lincoln. A half-day training event was held along with a breakfast with Senators and proclamation signing with Lieutenant Governor, Mike Foley which declared the second week in April as Public Transit Week.

A special Membership meeting was held in conjunction with the Legislative Day events. Two bylaw changes were introduced and approved at the meeting. Elections can now be held via electronic means and a non-voting advisory member can be appointed to the Board of Directors.

The sixth annual Public Transit Week was recognized in Nebraska on April 5-11. Transit systems from across the state canceled their celebratory events in the wake of the coronavirus restrictions

The 2020 CTAA Roadeo and EXPO to be held in Louisville, Kentucky the first week of June has been postponed until November due to the coronavirus pandemic.

NATP placed promotional advertisements in the Nebraska Health Care Association's Keeping You Connected publication.

Membership support was provided via phone, mail, quarterly newsletters, Facebook, website (www.neatp.org) and recognition for all NATP members. A dedicated webpage was developed for coronavirus resources.

Staff participated in conference calls hosted by RTAP, CTAA, FTA, FTA Region VII, and coordinated several multi-state Zoom calls with Missouri, Kansas, and Iowa related to coronavirus resources and response.



2019 NATP Rock'n Roll Roadeo

