

## April 2024 Newsletter

Hello and happy April!

Thank you to everyone who attended the Legislative breakfast and training. It was nice to see so many people able to attend and our day was filled with interesting and informative presenters.

We have several events going on in the next few months. First, we have [Nebraska Public Transit Week](#) coming up April 21-27. Make sure you submit your photos for the contest and your scheduled activities for the week. Public Transit Week is a great way to acknowledge our employees and thank our riders. Next, we have the [CTAA Rodeo and Expo](#) in West Palm Beach, Florida, that will be held June 8-12. Good luck to all our Rodeo drivers participating!

The Nebraska Safety Center also has training posted on the [Nebraska Public Transit website](#). These trainings are held across Nebraska, so make sure you check them out!

Happy Spring!

**Cecelia Grotz-Moran**

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## 2024 NATP Legislative Event



The Nebraska Association of Transportation Providers (NATP) held its annual Legislative Event on March 18 in Lincoln, Nebraska. The event kicked off with a senator breakfast allowing attendees to visit with senators about public transit in their area.

Governor Jim Pillen signed a [proclamation](#) recognizing April 21-27, 2024 as [Nebraska Public Transit Week](#) to the NATP Board of Directors.

Following the proclamation signing and breakfast, the day was filled with informative presentations. To start off the training, Josie Schafer, Ph.D., director of the University of Nebraska at Omaha Center for Public Affairs Research (UNO CPAR) at the presented on leveraging data to support transit growth. Next Scott Bogren, executive director with CTAA, zoomed in to discuss the Washington, D.C., big picture for smaller transit agencies. To close out the morning, the three Medicaid Transportation Brokers provided overview presentations and answered questions.

After lunch, Tara Grell, public communications and creative coordinator with UNO CPAR presented on maximizing web presence and social media for transit agencies. Then Josie Schafer provided a second presentation on Title VI for fair and accessible transit solutions. To close out the day, we heard an update from Mitchell Locken, rural transit lead trainer with the University of Nebraska at Kearney Nebraska Safety Center; Bill Bivin, statewide mobility manager with UNO CPAR provided a Mobility Management; and Sarah Soula, Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) transit program manager, provided an NDOT update.

Thank you to everyone who attended the event!



## NATP Member Spotlight

Mitch Sump, Lancaster County Public Rural Transit, program coordinator

**Tell us a little of your transit system's background and history. How did the system start and where is it today?**

No one I have spoken with in county government can give me a certain answer other than the late 70s.

**How long have you served as the manager?**

Nine years

**How does your transit system serve the local community?**

We provide transportation throughout the entire county plus five border communities. Primarily we provide transportation into Lincoln from the smaller communities, but we have been advertising the services for Lincoln citizens to go out to visit friends and family with decent results.

**What are some highlights of serving your community?**

My favorite part is that special needs citizens, unable to drive, can use our service to come into jobs and volunteer positions.

**What are some challenges you see facing both your transit system and the industry as a whole?**

Drivers! Drivers! In our program the drivers are unclassified and part-time so attracting good drivers has always been the challenge.

**How does being a member of the Nebraska Association of Transportation Providers benefit your system?**

We have a readily available source of information and experience to draw on when needs arise. We are also able to speak with one voice on matters that affect us all.

**What do your riders think of your transit system?**

Many riders let us know that they don't know what they would do without our services.

Learn more about [Lancaster County Public Rural Transit](#).

