

ISSUE

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September  
2014

**DTA**  
Dakota Transit  
Association

# Transit Tidbits



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**2014 Fall  
Conference  
Sioux Falls, SD**

**September 20th  
and 21st  
Rodeo**

**September 22nd,  
23rd and 24th  
Transit  
Conference**

## Falls Overlook Café Sioux Falls, SD



At the August 2014 Board of Director's meeting, we had supper at the "Falls Overlook Café"... hence the picture to the left.

On our Conference Registration Forms we did not state the Monday night options clearly. Supper on Monday night (September 22<sup>nd</sup>) is at the Falls Overlook Café. This meal is included in your Conference Registration.

For those of you who stated "No" or put a question mark next to the box, I have reserved a spot for each of you.

Sorry for the confusion!

- Jacque

Picture—Left to right  
Jacque Senger, Ali Rood, Brenda  
Schweitzer and Lynette Hansen

# New Faces of Transit

Becky Hanson  
Section Program Manager  
ND Department of Transportation  
Bismarck, ND



The NDDOT hired Becky Hanson August 1, 2014, as the Section Program Manager for the Transit Section of Local Government, replacing Kim Adair. Many of you are familiar with Becky as she has worked at NDDOT for the past four years as a Transportation Management Officer. She is looking forward to continuing to work in the Transit Section in her new role.

Her contact information is as follows:

Becky Hanson  
Transit Program Manager  
Local Government Division  
(701) 328-2542  
Email [bhanson@nd.gov](mailto:bhanson@nd.gov)

Congratulations Becky!

## Smile! You're on Camera

Video surveillance being used to make Brookings buses, schools safer

By Eric Sandbulte, the Brookings Register  
Brookings, SD

*The buses at the Brookings Area Transit Authority (BATA) have been outfitted with new security systems. Resource Development Director, Travis Bortnem, shows where the cameras' electronic components are safely locked away in the bus. One of the buses cameras can be seen in the upper left corner of the picture. On the next page, Bortnem shows where one of the buses holds the electronic components in a locked, tamper-proof box.*

See SMILE, page 3



# Smile

## Continued from Page 2

As technology progresses and surveillance equipment becomes cheaper and more accessible, it's being embraced by many entities in Brookings in particular, the Brookings Area Transit Authority (BATA), the public schools and the police department.

BATA vehicles are being monitored from the moment they are turned on until they're turned off at the end of the day.

In late July, after receiving \$5,000 in grant money, BATA began installing audio and visual surveillance equipment in all of its 24 vehicles.

"Brookings isn't a small community anymore," Resource Development Director Travis Bortnem said. "And everybody, all walks of life, young, old are all susceptible to falling on our vehicles. It's a liability coverage is all it is."

"Safety is a key component on the federal funding we receive." Executive Director Brenda Schweitzer said.

With GPS systems, accelerometers, multiple camera angles in each vehicle, tamper-proof equipment, software (and accompanying updates), a high-resolution and decent frame rate, these devices mean safety and security to BATA, Schweitzer and Bortnem said.

Schweitzer remembered several incidents in the past where a surveillance device would have come in handy.

In particular, she remembered a time when a man realized his wallet was gone as he was leaving a BATA bus. He then accused the driver of stealing it.

"Of course, as you can imagine, for an employee, that's devastating," Schweitzer said. "So while we didn't have surveillance in our vehicle, that building had it, and it really protected our driver."

"I think for what we did, we've got a great system. And I hope we don't have to use it," Bortnem said. Schweitzer added that BATA isn't looking for "overkill" on its surveillance, but it is looking to protect its employees and passengers .

If anyone would like to read the entire article, please contact The Brookings Register in Brookings, SD.



# Good News for ND Veterans in Very Rural Areas

Ali Rood, Mobility Manager  
Grand Forks, ND

The North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (NDDVA) received a grant to pay for transportation for veterans in highly rural areas to medical facilities. Trips that will be funded by the NDDVA transportation grant will be scheduled by a Veteran Service Officer (VSO) in an eligible county. Veterans must go through their county VSO to schedule a ride to be covered by the grant. The grant covers transportation to *any* medical facility and is not arranged by the Fargo VA Hospital.

The program is scheduled to begin October 1, 2014. Additional information will be provided at the ND Transit Provider Meeting on September 24th in Sioux Falls, SD.

## PASS Training

Linda Freeman

### Upcoming Training Events:

**Dickinson, ND:** October 16-18, 2014

All four classes will be offered at this training. Registration deadline is October 1, 2014 and all information is available on the web site.

**Jamestown, ND:** October 27-29, 2014

Monday, 10/27 & Tuesday, 10/28: PASS Class

Tuesday, 10/28: PASS Recertification Class

Wednesday, 10/29: Maltreatment Awareness and Defensive Driving Classes.

Please go to [dakotatransit.org](http://dakotatransit.org) for more information and registration.

Valley City, ND is planning to hold a PASS recertification class in November and another in December. These classes will be held in conjunction with their own training on other subjects so there will be room for only two or three from other agencies. More information on these classes will be in the October tidbits.





## National RTAP

The National RTAP program has some fantastic FREE training webinars that everyone should take advantage of. Just go to the RTAP website for more information. You can also sign up to receive their e-news which keeps you up to date on all their scheduled trainings.



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Thanks to all!

- Jacque