

2018 DTA Fall Conference

Just a friendly reminder that our 2018 Conference is in the planning stages.

Our host hotel is the Hampton Inn and Suites, 605-697-5232 and our alternate hotel is the Fairfield Inn and Suites, 605-692-3500.

Please go ahead and make your reservations early.

Our registration forms and TENTATIVE conference agenda are on the DTA Website.

Jacque Senger,
DTA Executive
Director



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Why You Need To Come To The DTA Conferences

Terry Hoffman, 2018 DTA President

Watertown Area Transit, Inc. - Watertown, SD

Training, sharing of technical knowledge and the education and promotion of public transit are but a few of the many reasons those associated with public transportation in North and South Dakota must attend the Dakota Transit Association annual conference every fall.

The 2018 event, slated for September 17-19 at the Swiftel Center in Brookings, SD will feature the usual collection of educational and technical training seminars, plus a variety of other events sure to make the trip to Brookings a memorable one.

For those who are new to transit in the Dakota's, the DTA is a coalition of public agencies and private organizations that promote and support public and special passenger transportation programs within the Dakotas. Formed in 1985, DTA exists for the purpose of unified leadership in an ever-changing transportation environment.

The weekend proceeding the conference belongs to the drivers beginning with securement training on Friday evening. The Bus Rodeo, driver's banquet, awards breakfast and dance are all part of the opening weekend festivities.

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Conference

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Always a popular event, the Roadeo is billed as a training event delivered directly to transit drivers. The event offers hands-on securement training, peer-to-peer networking, skills development and statewide recognition of driver excellence. Participants take away improved safety and passenger relation skills as well as enthusiasm of their profession.

National representatives from the Federal Transportation Association (FTA) and Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) often attend the conference, making your presence even more important to your individual projects. What an awesome opportunity to experience firsthand what is happening at the state and national levels of transportation. Those encounters provide a potential opportunity for rural transit providers like you to make your voice heard at the highest level.

Being an active member of the DTA can assist in achieving the clout required to address the need for funding at the state and local level. Remember there is strength in numbers, and transportation is vital to all human services as well as to commuting workers.

As a member of the DTA board, I sincerely urge you to consider attending the conference and encourage your staff to become active participants in the Roadeo, as a judge or by attending the trade show and other training sessions on the agenda. Brookings has been a wonderful host in the past and will certainly provide an enjoyable backdrop for the 2018 event. Make plans now to attend.



And the Winner Is...

Ali Rood, Mobility Manager
Cities Area Transit - Grand Forks. ND

DTA recognizes Driver of the Year, Above & Beyond, Support Staff of the Year, Innovative Agency, and Friend of Transit award winners at the fall conference. Nominations are due by July 13, 2018. Please take the time to honor those deserving of an award by nominating them for an award. Nomination forms and instructions are available at www.dakotatransit.org.

There's a twist! This year we are introducing some friendly (but fierce) competition to the DTA Awards arena: **Which state's members will submit more award nominations – North Dakota or South Dakota?** What's at stake? You'll find out at the fall conference in Brookings!

Another Change for our Conference

Transit Directors—

Please ask your roadeo drivers to wear their agencies (logo) shirts for the roadeo.

DTA Awards

I would like to inform all DTA members that as of today, I have received 2 awards for the DTA Conference; one from each state.

I know we have many individuals deserving recognition for the outstanding work they do in the transit field.

Please show your appreciation by acknowledging your co-workers and supporters who make your job a little easier. **The due date is July 13, 2018.**

Training Update - Linda Freeman, PASS Coordinator

Phone: 701-848-6480 E-mail: lindaafreeman1@gmail.com

First of all, a big “Thank You” to Spearfish and Williston for hosting classes.

The following classes have been set up. Please go to dakotatransit.org to register or call Linda if you have any questions:

Dickinson, ND: August 30, 31, and September 1, 2018 with classes to be held at Public Transit in Dickinson—361 26th Street East.

PASS Class Day 1—Thursday, August 30: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Day 2—Friday, August 31: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

PASS Recertification Class— Friday, August 31: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

MALTREATMENT AWARENESS CLASS—Saturday, September 1 from 8am to noon.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING CLASS—Saturday, September 1: 1:00pm to about 4:00 pm.

** Special Note: All times are Mountain Time.

Deadline for Registration: August 17, 2018.

A block of rooms has been set up at the Dickinson Comfort Inn for the nights of August 29, 30 and 31 under the name: Dakota Transit Association. Please make your own reservations by asking for that block and you will get state rates of \$79 per night.

Hope everyone is having a great summer!

Drug & Alcohol Program Conference

Shellie Baumgart, Finance & Administration
River Cities Public Transit - Pierre, SD

Ron, Shellie, Brett, Monte, and Mallory attended the 13th Annual Federal Transit Administration Drug & Alcohol Program National Conference in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. This conference was free to attend and RCPT received RTAP (Rural Transit Assistance Program) funding to pay the travel and lodging expenses.

The conference lasted three days and covered all the complexities of FTA's drug & alcohol policies and compliance issues for employers and employees. The first day was a Beginner Drug and Alcohol Program Manager course that Brett, Mallory, and Monte attended. Ron and Shellie attended an Advanced DAPM course. Some of the other breakout sessions we attended were "Unpredictable Testing Patterns", "Reasonable Suspicion Testing Determination: A Train the Trainer Course", "Post-Accident Testing Thresholds and Scenarios", "Employee Onboarding under Part 655", "Beating the Cheaters", "Collection Site Review and Mock Collection", "DOT Test Refusals", and "The FTA-compliant Drug and Alcohol Policy".



Mallory and Monte took time out to mingle with the local wildlife.



The Dakota's were represented at the conference by Brett, Ron and Shellie from River Cities Public Transit; Darlyne from Groton Community Transit in Groton, SD; Monte, Mallory and Darrell Francis with Souris Basin Transportation in Minot, ND.

The keynote speaker for the conference was Patrice Kelly. She has been the Director of the Office of Drug and Alcohol Policy and Compliance (ODAPC) in the Office of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) since late 2017. ODAPC's mission is to enhance public safety within transportation industries across the United States by issuing regulations to prevent alcohol misuse and illegal drug use in transportation systems and ensuring that DOT's drug and alcohol policies are implemented in a consistent, fair and efficient manner. She talked about the updates to Part 40. The Department of Transportation has amended its drug testing program regulation to add hydrocodone, hydromorphone, oxymorphone, and oxycodone to its drug-testing panel.

This was a very informational conference and we brought back useful information that we were able to put to use immediately to make sure RCPT is in compliance with current regulations. We also will be revising the RCPT Drug & Alcohol policy to include the new regulations.

Transit Updates

Lisa Manning, Director

Spink County Transit - Redfield. SD

Hello to all you transit friends, just letting you know a little bit that's been going on Redfield with Spink County Transit. The year didn't start out so great, we lost 2 buses in less than a month. One bus was totaled and the other one is being fixed as we speak. Had to buy a bus which we really like.

Our ridership in the winter is pretty busy. We have a lot of kids to take where they need to go during the school year. Summertime always slows down, but we do have kids that we take for different parks and rec activities.

We have a mother and son we take on the bus, her son had another stroke so he can't drive right now. His mother said I don't know what we would do if we didn't have transit because she doesn't drive and her son would take her everywhere. She was so grateful for the service. We have a lot of people here in Redfield that wouldn't be able to get to Dr. appointments or do any shopping or even come to the senior center for lunch if we didn't have this service.

On July 4th I will be driving our bus in the parade and throwing out candy. Great advertising for our transit service.

Can't think of anything else that's going on so hope you all have a wonderful and safe summer.

2018 Rodeo Guidelines

Jacque Senger, DTA Executive Director

The 2018 Rodeo Guidelines are on the Dakota Transits Association's website.

Go to the Home Page, DTA Annual Conference and click on Rodeo Guideline.

2018 Fall Conference

The 2018 Fall Conference and Rodeo will be held a 2018.

- September 14th Check in
- September 15th Rodeo and Rodeo Banquet
- September 16th Rodeo Breakfast and Awards
- September 17th thru 19th DTA Conference

[Rodeo Guidelines \(PDF\)](#)



[Awards Information & Nominations](#)

Robby Vee Son of Bobby Vee

Robby Vee will be our entertainment at the Roado Banquet September 15th in Brookings, SD. I was able to meet him at the Devils Run Car Show in Devils Lake, ND. He put on a wonderful show celebrating the rock and roll era and the music of his dad, Bobby Vee, a musical Legion.



Thought for the Month of June...

“Whatever you do, do it well.”

DTA
Dakota Transit
Association

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Directors, please check with your bookkeepers as well as the rest of your staff  to assure they have the correct DTA mailing address.

Thanks to all!

- Jacque

www.dakotatransit.org