



# TRANSIT TIDBITS

**Issue  
116**

**August 2021**

**What DTA Means to Me**  
Karrie Mikkelsen  
Cavalier County Transit - Langdon, ND

1. Networking with others.
2. Exchanging ideas.
3. Problem solving.
4. Socializing.
5. Learning something new.
6. Motivation.
7. Getting out of the office.
8. Different places to go out and eat.
9. Seeing familiar faces and making new friends.
10. Relaxation.

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# What Does DTA Means to Me

Dale Bergman  
Cities Area Transit - Grand Forks, ND

It is not a question of what it means to me, but rather what it does for our organization and myself. It is the classes, training, the DTA conference, and the networking with others.

The training of staff for the PASS certification and the bus rodeo are just some of the things. The conference with the networking and learning from others and what they are also doing in their agencies for vehicles, staff, and services provided. The discussion of what we can do to help out each other on projects, maintenance, and guidance of policies.

These items are in valuable, and we all work together to make the job and days go better. I have attended a lot of conferences over the years and there is always more to learn and new folks coming into these positions that need assistance or guidance like I did when I started.

The more involved we get the more we learn from each other and assist others. DTA is an invaluable organization for the bi-state area.

Let's get involved and be surprised what it means to you.



## Dakota Transit Association Fall Conference and Rodeo

Jacque Senger, DTA Executive Director

**ANOTHER REMINDER-----**The Dakota Transit Association Fall Conference and Rodeo will take place September 17<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> in Fargo, ND.

Sleeping rooms are being held through August 17<sup>th</sup> at a total amount of \$95.47 per night. PLEASE use the link FARGO DELTA MARRIOTT that is on your Registration Form for a more convenient way of getting through to the Marriott.

Registration for the Rodeo and Conference are due to DTA, PO Box 973, Devils Lake, ND 58301 by August 30 2021. You can email me all your information if you choose.

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# **What Does DTA Mean to Me**

Terry Hoffman

Community Transit of Watertown-Sisseton Inc. - Watertown, SD

What does the Dakota Transit Association mean to me? When asked by DTA Executive Director Jacque Senger to pen a short story for this publication I said sure, no problem.

Putting my thoughts to paper on the meaning of the DTA and how it has affected me and my career is not as simple as it first sounded. Belonging to the DTA has many advantages, but being an active participant and board member brings the impact this organization has made on me personally to another level.

Networking with other transit professionals, re-kindling old friendships while forging new bonds and sharing ideas and issue with peers are all part of the makeup of any conference or training session we attend. These moments and memories are treasured by many, me Included, but the meaning of belonging to the DTA runs deeper.

During my time on the board of directors, some things have become very evident. The DTA is an extremely valuable entity to public transit – if you choose to let it be. I can honestly say the men and women who have served the board during my tenure have definitely had a “what’s best for public transit” attitude and carried on their work as such. None of the boards have been perfect by any means and we have had differing opinions along the way, but the what’s best for public transit motto has always prevailed in the end.

Traveling to and from quarterly meetings and spending the better part of a week in a host city hotel for the annual fall conference may seem excessive and counterproductive to many in the general membership. My thoughts after my initial board meeting at a hotel/casino west of Mobridge were just that. Eventually, I found my place at the table and realized the value of the work we were doing. Along with that realization came the development of relationships with fellow board members and eventually other transit providers and their staffs in both states.

Many of us talk about our “transit families” and those feelings are very true. For me, I feel as if I have three branches sprouting from the family tree. My fellow DTA board members and those we work with closely on a regular basis are one extension while my Community Transit family is another. The relationships built with members of the SD Department of Transportation and all who attend our state meetings comprise the third branch. Those relationships are all unique and strong in varying ways, but the most special to me over time has been the DTA family. Change can be difficult, and each year brings new challenges, but this group never misses a beat.

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# DTA

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Enough about relationships, what about the actual benefits the DTA provides you as a transit provider, a dispatcher, a driver, a mechanic?

The Dakota Transit Association was officially formed in South Dakota in 1984 and North Dakota would join forces a couple years later. The mission of the DTA was to promote and support public and specialized transportation programs in the Dakotas with a vision of providing unified leadership in an everchanging transportation environment. The plan emphasized training, legislative advocacy, education of the public, funding, promoting coordination national involvement and recognition of member agencies, their staff and transit supporters.

I feel we provide excellent support to members of the organization in all the above categories. Promotion of public transportation and its value to the infrastructure of our service areas is something all transit providers do on a daily basis. Leadership, training, legislative advocacy, public education, coordination, national involvement and recognition of member agencies, staff and supporters of our industry are still focus points for the DTA.

The annual fall conference is our time to shine and bring all these elements to the table for the benefit of our members. Planning the annual event takes time, effort, coordination and sometimes out-of-the-box thinking. Planning a conference with something for everyone and providing training pertinent to today's needs and objectives is challenging, but a challenge my fellow board members and I look forward to attacking.

Last September, we were able to introduce a new twist to the Rodeo by providing a block of training on Human Trafficking. The additional session was a hit, and this fall the Transportation Security Administration has been brought in to provide what we anticipate will be a well-received training session during the Rodeo. TSA will provide additional training on Sunday morning following the awards breakfast.

The challenges brought to the DTA board to maintain an impactful and affordable conference each September have been met with enthusiasm by members and will continue on that same path moving forward.

In conclusion, I think everyone involved in public transit should eventually consider serving the DTA in some fashion whether it be as a board member, a trainer, providing and sharing information on policy and procedure to the general assembly or by simply attending the conference and partaking in all that is offered. I feel to totally appreciate the organization and its virtues, you need to live the experience.

Let's all get involved and make this year's conference another to remember.

## Training Update

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The Bowman class went very well, but I have to say it was the “hottest” class I’ve done since I began training. Temperature was over 100°F by the time we finished the securement training and that was before noon! A big thanks to Tamara for arranging for the use of the Development Corp. meeting room which was air conditioned and a fantastic place to hold the class. My apologies for not remembering to take a picture of the group!

We also held a securement training for Northwest Public Transit who took the on-line version of the class on August 10 which went well.

**Ft. Yates** August 26-27, 2021. *\*Registration deadline for Ft. Yates is August 10, 2021.*

Day 1 PASS 8:00 am until 2:00 pm Defensive Driving 2:00 pm until 5:30 pm.

Day 2 PASS along with PASS Recertification 8:00am to about 4:30 pm.

Classes will be held at the college campus in Ft. Yates. Prairie Knights Casino is available for rooms, but we are asking you to make your own reservations. Phone number is 701-854-7777.

**Dickinson** October 8-9, 2021 *\*Registration deadline for Dickinson is September 27, 2021.*

Day 1 PASS 8:00 am until 2:00 pm and Defensive Driving 2:00 pm until 5:30 pm

Day 2 PASS along with PASS Recertification 8:00am to about 5:00 pm.

All classes to be held at Dickinson Public Transit - 361 26<sup>th</sup> St. East in Dickinson. A block of rooms at state rates has been set up under the name Dakota Transit Association for the nights of October 7 & 8, 2021 at the Dickinson Comfort Inn. Call 701-264-7300 by September 20<sup>th</sup> to make reservations under the block.

You may register for classes on the DTA website.

**IMPORTANT:** Please contact me via phone or email if you would like to host a class during 2021. Thank You!

Keep in mind that your PASS certifications are now only good for two years rather than three years.

Thanks to all for all you do for others and I am anxious to see you all in Fargo.

## Tidbit Articles

Please contact me with articles for your Transit Tidbit.

## Recycle

Please share your Transit Tidbit with your staff and any interested person(s).



## Address

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](http://www.dakotatransit.org)

# Thought for the month of August 2021

*No one is you and that is your  
**SUPERPOWER***



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