



Issue

117

October 2021

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The TSA sessions were very informative; Marketing shared his approach for transit agencies; Transit Agency Consolidation brought new ideas to the plate; FTA reported on the latest updates; CTAA spoke on covid and how it affected transit; Fare Collection introduced new technology and RTAP presented an overview of eLearning.

As you read through this edition of the Tidbit, you will find many articles on each topic. There will be a continuation of articles in the November Tidbit.

I hope by putting these articles in the Tidbit those who attended will have their memory refreshed and those who were unable to attend will be able to place themselves at the conference even for a few minutes.

2021 DTA Board Members

President - Terry Hoffman, Watertown, SD
Vice-President - Adam Sharkey, Pierre, SD
Secretary - Karrie Mikkelsen, Langdon, ND
Erin Humphrey, Dickinson, ND
Brian Horinka, Minot, ND
Kathy Holman, Sisseton, SD
Megan Gould, Rapid City, SD



New DTA Board Member **Megan Gould** Division Manager Rapid Transit System - Rapid City, SD



I was born and raised in Rapid City, SD and raising my daughter, 16 years old, in the same great City!

I have been working for the City of Rapid City for 7 ½ years, but directly under Rapid Transit System for almost 5 years.

I started as the Operations Coordinator overseeing Rapid Transit System's day-to-day operation.

In October of 2018 I was promoted to the Division Manager and continue with this position.

I never thought my career would be in transit, but am very happy I have landed in this field.

TSA Security Outreach Programs

Terry Hoffman, Co-Director
Community Transit of Watertown-Sisseton Inc. - Watertown, SD

Security in the workplace continues to become a focus for mass transit in this country. While we as administrators and our employees may feel we are safe in our little corner of the world, the truth is anything can happen anywhere, and we need to be prepared.

“Our goal is not necessarily to come out here and slam you with rules and regulations for your buses and in your facilities,” said Transportation Security Administration Inspector Erica Zizzo. “What we do is educate about the outreach programs available to all mass transit projects and their employees. Our goal is to get all of you thinking about security in your systems and hopefully taking steps to increase and improve that security in a cost effective manner.”

Zizzo and her team kicked off the Dakota Transit Association Conference Monday, providing an overview of the outreach programs that TSA offers to transit stakeholders free of charge. These programs include security assessment, tabletop exercises, employee training opportunities and vehicle inspection.

Several transit project members in the Dakota’s have already taken advantage of the TSA outreach programs. The TSA provides a wealth of information for most any category of security and by the time Zizzo was finished with her presentation, others appear geared to take the leap of bolstering their security.

“After examining your company any policies you may have in place, we will issue a report providing results, findings, suggestions and resources to hopefully improve the security at you project,” said Zizzo. “You are not contractually bound to use any of the information we provide or institute and changes we suggest. The information we provide you is yours to do with as you choose.”

A Baseline Survey appeared to have been the most popular TSA program accessed by North and South Dakota providers according to those in attendance. The Baseline Survey is broken into 17 sections and a total of 100 questions. The Baseline interview is generally a 3 to 4 hour exercise and is usually done on site in one or more segments. Zizzo and her staff collect basic information and policies from the agency.

This information is then thoroughly dissected and a report is produced with findings and suggestions. “The Baseline Survey is designed to assist you the stakeholder in identifying your strengths and weaknesses,” said Zizzo. The TSA offers many other areas of expertise on security training, inspections, creation of applicable policy and the methodology to put an improved plan into action.

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Security

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Tabletop exercises are a valuable tool for larger groups and the team can provide an un-ending list of scenarios from which to work.

“This can be done with multiple agencies involved or just your project,” said Zizzo. “Just know we are here to assist you in making your project the safest it can possibly do.”

2021 DTA Vendor Show

Barb Cline, Executive Director Prairie Hills Transit - Spearfish, SD

This year’s Trade Show was one of our most successful ever. We had twenty-nine companies who purchased booth space, advertised and sponsored awards, meals and breaks. These funds are a huge part of making the DTA Budget whole and providing both ND/SD funding for their lobbyists. This year it was exciting to see the Grand Total hit about \$21,575.00.

I recently reached out to the Vendors and thanked each of them for attending and supporting our Trade Show in so many ways. It was great to see them, meet them or reconnect as the case may be. I let them know we really appreciated the additional sponsorships for awards this year. It added to the fun and got their company names out there even more. I know many of you received great door prizes and gift cards donated by our Vendors.

As I begin planning for the Trade Show next year I asked for feedback from them regarding the show, the time they have to exhibit and if they felt the exhibit time and booth fees were reasonable. I have tried for many years to balance their family time (weekends) and then travel and show time. Their investment to be at our Show is significant and appreciated.

A big thank you goes to Linda Freeman for all of her help and support in working with the Vendors. She did a wonderful job making sure our sponsor boards got set up for the event each Vendor sponsored.

Brian Horinka, we appreciate you engaging us all in a moment of silence for our friend and colleague Eric Pearson. Eric, who worked for BraunAbility, was a big part of our Trade Show and conference each year. His presence was so missed.

Thanks to all of you for attending, engaging with the vendors, and hopefully finding products that will work for your companies. Please let me know if there are any other companies, you’d like to learn more about. My work started soon, and my contact list builds from the middle of November on.

DTA Roadeo Overview

Adam Sharkey, Roado Marshall River Cities Public Transit - Pierre, SD

Roadeo Securement Training

Friday night Q-Straint/Sure-Lok sponsored the Roadeo Securement Training. Normally, this is presented by Lisa Nippolt the Western Region Manager for Q-Strain/Sure-Lok. Sadly Lisa was not able to attend this year so Adam Sharkey assisted by Andy Sharp presented the Roadeo securement.

All roadeo drivers were in attendance: some 30-35 drivers. In the beginning, drivers were given a chance to ask any questions about issues they have experienced at their agencies. Adam & Andy did their best to give each driver the best possible solutions/answer to their questions.

The class continued with Adam going through the wheelchair securement test and point sheet. Once all of the questions were completed the class ended with a wheelchair securement presentation and hands-on training.

Roadeo Competition

Saturday morning started off the 2021 Roadeo Competition. After the drivers enjoyed an amazing breakfast they went through the first event of the competition, the driver's written test.

After an hour, Judges were positioned at their stations while the drivers participated in a walkthrough of the course conducted by Adam and Brian. The walkthrough gave them all a chance to see the course and ask questions.

Once completed the circuit competition began. Each driver completing a wheelchair securement, pre-trip inspection, and driving course to gain the most possible points.

Security Pre-Trip

On Saturday morning, in addition to the standard driving competition, a new stage was added, a TSA pre-trip security stage. This stage was administered by Dr. Shane Langerud and Erica Zizzo and they had the opportunity to educate every driver on the importance of performing pre-trips and what to look out for during the operation of the bus.

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Roadeo

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Examples included paying attention to the vehicle's wires/wiring, notice when passengers board the bus with a backpack and exit without the backpack and keep an eye out for any suspicious packages. Erica, amazed by all the drivers, ended her training by jumping into one of the course busses and tested her skills. Afterward, Erica said her outlook on what a driver was going through on that day was shocking and amazed at how awesome they all were.

Roadeo Banquet

After an exciting day of competition, it was time for the roadeo banquet. Amazing food and drinks were had by all. Adam & Terry kicked off the banquet by thanking everyone for their hard work during the competition and roadeo setup. Once the thank you's were over, the presentations began to acknowledge the winning drivers. First up was the SD 1st through 5th awards then continued to do the ND 1st through 5th awards. In the end, all drivers were thanked for their hard work back home and around the states because they are the HEROS of transit.

SOUTH DAKOTA



Bryce Lambert---(Pierre, SD) River Cities Public Transit
Wambli Meeter---(Pierre, SD) River Cities Public Transit
Dan Voight---(Watertown, SD) Community Transit of Watertown-Sisseton
Doug Herr---(Watertown, SD) Community Transit of Watertown-Sisseton
Dave Chipman---(Spearfish, SD) Prairie Hills Transit

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Roadeo

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NORTH DAKOTA



AJ Agard---(Fort Yates, ND) Standing Rock Public Transit
Terry Comeau---(Fort Yates, ND) Standing Rock Public Transit
Randy Ulmer---(Dickinson, ND) Dickinson Public Transit
Kendall Meyers---(Minot, ND) Souris Basin Transportation
Terry Condon---(Fort Yates, ND) Standing Rock Public Transit

TSA Mass Transit Threat Assessment and IED Awareness Training

Terry Hoffman, Co-Director
Community Transit of Watertown-Sisseton Inc. - Watertown, SD

On the morning of September 11, 2001, nearly 3,000 people were killed in a series of coordinated terrorist attacks in New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia. The attacks resulted in the creation of the Transportation Security Administration, designed to prevent similar attacks in the future. Driven by a desire to help our nation, tens of thousands of people joined TSA and committed themselves to strengthening our transportation systems while ensuring the freedom of movement for people and commerce.

Most people think of airlines and airport travel when mentioning the TSA. Three members of the TSA program spent three days at the 2021 Dakota Transit Association Conference and Roadeo in Fargo, ND in September.

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TSA

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Their presence provided transit drivers and administrators with a wealth of information, resources and hopefully a heightened awareness of security in local transit projects across the Dakotas.

“We travel the Midwest providing people like yourselves with a better understanding of how secure their systems are, what areas to improve security and how to recognize potential threats,” said TSA Inspector Erica Zizzo. “My colleagues and I provide assessment of security and information and resources for you to put into action.”

Zizzo, along with TSA Field Intelligence Officer Joe Guagenti and TSA Explosives Specialist Dr. Shane Langerud, provided specialized training to the drivers during the Rodeo Saturday and again in a classroom setting on Sunday morning.

The weekend topics surrounded bus and facility inspections, training on the history of terrorism attacks using explosives, improvised explosive devices awareness, recognizing suspicious items and protective measures.

“Shane and Joe are the bomb guys and they spent time discussing the types of targets, how to recognize them and what to do if they discover suspicious items,” said Zizzo.

Hard and soft targets were among the subjects broached. Surface transportation is considered a soft target and easier to attack said Zizzo. Airports have stronger security measures like their own police making them a hard target for terrorist activities.

Surface transit providers were instructed on the different types of packages or items placed on buses and in facilities. Unattended and hidden packages or bags are considered suspicious by nature and should be brought to the attention of personnel designed to deal with such devices.

“Shane and Joe are involved mostly in field intelligence, identifying threats and making sure they are eliminated,” said Zizzo. “Most attacks are not in this country, but the threat is always there. These attacks don’t happen overnight; they are studied and planned for long periods of time.”

The TSA team said terrorist threats are usually done to gain notoriety, cause a disruption in lives and cause hardship to those targeted.

Training Update

Linda Freeman (701) 848-6480

lindaafreeman1@gmail.com

We have a set of classes set up in Fargo, ND for Thursday, October 28 and Friday, October 29. Classes will be held at: 1461 North Broadway in Fargo and are being sponsored by Valley Senior Services. Classes will be as follows:

PASS (2 day class) Day 1: October 28 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.
 Day 2: October 29 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at the latest.
PASS RECERTIFICATION: October 29 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at the latest.
DEFENSIVE DRIVING: October 28 from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

We are asking you to make your own room reservations at whatever motel you choose.

Our Dickinson class went well. As usual, a big “Thanks” to the staff for the setup and snacks. We always appreciate what the agency does for us to make our classes go well.

Below is a picture of the great group at the Dickinson class. Pictured are drivers from Dickinson Public Transit, GVB Council on Aging, Southwest Transit and Hill Top Home of Comfort. Not pictured is one driver from Northwest Transit in Willison.



IMPORTANT: Please contact me via phone or email if you would like to host a class during 2021 or 2022. 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 it was great seeing 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

Thought for the month of October 2021

***Wanting to be someone else is a waste of
who you are.***



**Jacque Senger
DTA Executive Director**

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