

# Nebraska Transit Trends

## 2016 TRANSIT MIDWEST CONFERENCE

The 2016 Transit Midwest Conference was another great success for the NATP. This is the second time Nebraska has joined forces with the transit associations of Kansas, Missouri and Iowa to provide a three-day event. The four states first joined together in 2013 for the inaugural event.

This year's event was held August 14-16 at the Westin at Crown Center in Kansas City, Missouri. The planning committee spent many hours coordinating this event. Nebraska was in charge of the exhibitors and sponsors. We actually had to turn down some exhibitors because we ran out of space! Thank you to the exhibitors and sponsors for their support and helping make the conference happen.



There were over 400 attendees and 66 exhibitors that filled the exhibit hall and overflowed into the foyer. A Bus Expo that featured 13 vehicles was offered just outside of the property on Grand Boulevard. Participants could visit the indoor and outdoor vendors throughout the day.

Twenty NATP managers attended the event. Some attendees utilized the transportation provided that started in Ogallala and made stops in North Platte, Grand Island and York.



The event kicked off Sunday evening with a welcome reception in the exhibit hall. Most exhibitors were set up and ready to visit with attendees. Attendees then had the evening to explore Kansas City on their own. Many Nebraska attendees were able to enjoy some authentic KC Barbeque at Gates Bar-B-Q.

The NATP Board met Monday morning for a quarterly meeting. All attendees then gathered for an opening session with a welcome from Region 7 FTA Administrator Mokhtee Ahmad. Matt Welbes, Executive Director for FTA, provided a keynote address. The first general session included panelists Richard White (American Public Transportation Association), Bud Wright (American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials), and Scott Bogren (Community Transportation Association of America). The second general session was provided by Congressman Emmanuel Cleaver. The last general session included information and updates from Homeland Security.

Following the morning session, attendees then had time to visit with exhibitors. Lunch followed with a welcome from

## IN THIS ISSUE

NATP President's Message .....	2
Rebranding Your Service .....	3
Hall Co. Public Transportation News ..	3
Nebraska State Fair .....	5
Panhandle Trails Ribbon Cutting .....	6
NATP Executive Director Message .....	6
Rodeo Brochure .....	7
Dates to Remember/Board .....	10

# NATP PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings to all,

As fall sets in, much like the early morning fog, children are returning to school and routes that may have slacked into dormancy are now bustling once again, whereas trips to the park or the swimming pool fall quiet. As the seasons change, so too do the transit needs of our passengers.

One thing remains constant though. Our passengers continue to want, and even expect, prompt, courteous, safe and efficient transportation. Fortunately, public transit in Nebraska has many resources to help us provide such qualities in a desirable service.

I was recently privileged to attend the Transit Midwest Conference held in Kansas City, MO for the Federal Transportation Administration's Region VII states of Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas. It was three days filled with exhibits, buses, transit tours, NATP and NDOR meetings, and speakers that ranged from FTA's Executive Director, Matt Welbes, and Region VII Director, Mokhtee Ahmad, to Homeland Security officers. I also attended an early session held Sunday concerning the Rides To Wellness initiative sponsored by FTA and the National Center for Mobility Management. Other topics covered during breakout sessions included funding sources and safety management systems and best practices. NDOR included an outline of their goal to define regional transportation and planning boundaries,

establish permanent statewide and regional committees with rotating members, and place mobility managers in each region. Compliance site visits, vehicle and lift maintenance and vehicle disposition procedures were also discussed. And, of course, there was the announcement that the 2017 RTAP Conference will be held in Omaha, Nebraska!

Another great opportunity to learn and network is just around the corner! The NATP Driver's Training and Rodeo provides your drivers with classroom learning and hands-on skills training that will increase their level of knowledge and ability to handle the many challenges they face each day on the job. Also, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each division win cash prizes, while 1st place winners and their managers earn a scholarship to the National CTAA Rodeo and EXPO in Detroit, Michigan next June!

One more very important event to emphasize is the NATP membership meeting to be held at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 20 at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center in Kearney.

Because too few members were able to attend the annual meeting held in Kansas City during the Transit Midwest Conference, there was not a quorum to conduct a business meeting. As a result, we will hold elections for the NATP Board of Directors at the September meeting, provided that we have a majority of the membership present. This requires an effort on the part of each member to schedule appropriately so that you may attend the meeting and have your voice be heard. While the Board of Directors is a dedicated group, they still

need the support from the membership in order to take action and continue providing the services and networking opportunities that we have all become accustomed to.

Finally, congratulations to Beth Siegfried on receiving the Rookie of the Year Award!

And thank you to Tiffany Fougeron and Charles McGraw for spending a full day at the NATP booth at the Nebraska State Fair.

Until we meet again, safe travels everyone.

Scott Bartels  
NATP President

## NATP BOARD POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The NATP will have three board positions open in 2016. Positions include the Western, Eastern and At-Large positions. If you are interested in serving or would like to nominate someone, please contact the NATP office. Current nominees:

Denise Smith: At-Large  
Coletta Clouse: Western  
Scott Bartels: Eastern

## REBRANDING YOUR SERVICE

A common concern voiced by transit managers is the lack of awareness that the service you provide is open to the general public. Scottsbluff County recently rebranded their service by removing "handy bus" and changing the name of their system to Scottsbluff County Public Transit. Removing all references to handi van or handi bus on vehicles and marketing materials could aid in changing the perception that your service is only for the elderly and disabled.

The expense to update your marketing tools is reimbursable at 90% through your monthly, online invoice submittal. For more information and ideas

about how you can rebrand your service, please contact Kari Ruse at 402-479-4694 or email kari.ruse@nebraska.gov.



## HALL COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION NEWS

Hall County Public Transportation (HCPT) participated in Central Community College's Welcome Week. HCPT along with other service agencies joined together to showcase all the wonderful opportunities and services that Grand Island has to offer CCC students.

informational materials were distributed to students and faculty as they passed through the hallways promoting HCPT.

Dustin Butler  
Hall County  
Public Transportation



A booth was set up in the hallway of the main building that was staffed by Dustin Butler and Theresa Engelhardt of HCPT. Promotional and

## BIG RED EXPRESS

Heading to Lincoln this year for a Husker football game? Be sure to utilize StarTran's Big Red Express. You can ride to and from all UNL Husker home football games from any of these six lots:

- Municipal Service Center (I-80 Airport Exit #399. NW 12th and W Bond)
- Southeast Community College (88th & O)
- Holmes Lake (70th & Normal)
- Gateway Mall (61st & O)

- SouthPointe Pavilions (27th & Pine Lake)
- North Star High School (6 block east of North 27th & Folkways)

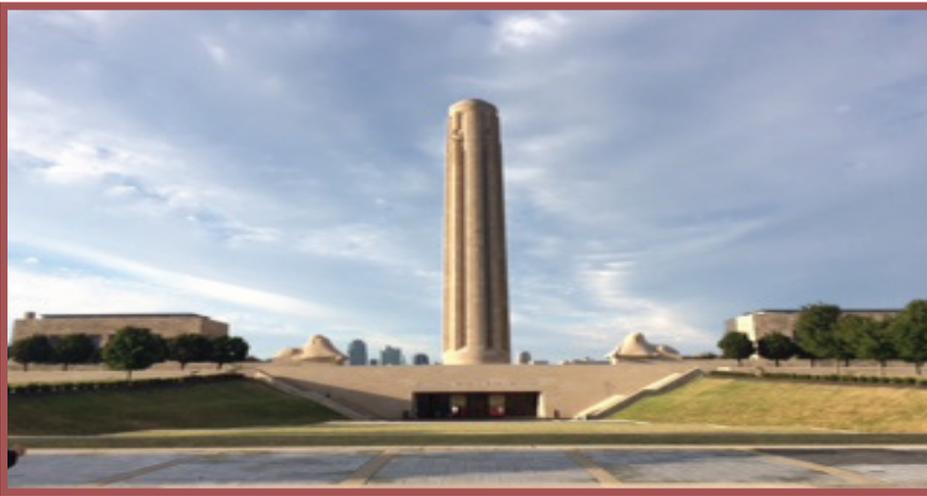
Shuttle service begins two hours prior to kickoff with the last bus leaving the lots 45 minutes prior to kickoff. Stadium unloading and loading location is on "R" Street, between 12th & 14th Streets. Buses return to the lots immediately after the game. Passengers will need

exact change when boarding the bus.

Season tickets only \$50 or \$5 each way/\$10 round-trip.

Visit StarTran's website for more information.

# TRANSIT MIDWEST CONFERENCE (CONTINUED)



Kansas City mayor Sly James. The afternoon featured numerous breakout sessions including a State Public Transit Association Leaders Round Table, Rides to Wellness Summit, Simulator and Compressed Natural Gas facility tour and a Kansas City Streetcar facility tour.

After the final sessions, everyone gathered into the main ballroom where exhibitors drew names for their booth prizes. Many Nebraska members came home with some great items!



Denise Smith won a prize from the Nebraska Safety Center staff: Mick Anderson and William Bivin

A Social Network Event was held Monday evening at the National WWI Museum. Conference attendees were provided transportation to and from the event. Dinner and dessert were served and then everyone was able to tour the

museum until closing.

On Tuesday, numerous



Larry Vortherms and Scott Bartels check out a display at the WWI Museum.

sessions were offered throughout the day including the Nebraska Rural Network Session. Kari Ruse provided the members an update on transportation statistics in Nebraska. In the last fiscal year:

- 2,854,291 vehicle miles traveled
- 676,308 passenger boardings
- 458 vehicles (273 public, 185 private).

Kari also discussed the Mobility Management Project.



The Statewide Coordinating Committee has met several times over the past year and regional committees are starting to form as well. There are six "pilot projects" taking places across the state. They are working on a proposal to introduce to the legislature to establish regional coordinators. This would give NDOR the authority to create regional boundaries, establish a committee, hire mobility managers, etc. Kari also discussed the Statewide Vanpool Project which is eligible for federal subsidies.

Kari also discussed FTA programs including Transit Asset Management which is established to keep transit properties in a state of good repair, manages vehicles and facilities, and a state TAM plan that is in production (systems can adopt the state plan or develop their own). Safety Management workshops are planned for 2017 which will help systems develop safety plans.

Kari also announced that the 2017 National RTAP Technical Assistance Program will be held in Omaha. NDOR will be looking to NATP members to volunteer on a planning committee and during the event.

Kari also spoke during the State DOT Best Practices Summit where she provided information on the new dashboard system that was developed in Nebraska.

NATP held an association meeting on Tuesday afternoon. Since there was not a quorum, no business could be held and elections were not conducted. President Scott Bartels provided a recap of NATP activities from the past fiscal year. Treasurer

*continued on page 5*

# TRANSIT MIDWEST CONFERENCE (CONTINUED)

Jeff Baker provided a financial update on the association. Congratulations to Beth Siegfried who was presented with the Rookie Manager of the Year Award.



Scott Bartels presented the Rookie Manager of the Year Award to Beth Siegfried.



FTA Executive Director Matt Welbes presented FTA Awards to NATP members, starting at top left, clockwise: Cindy Sanders, Carol Prince, Dustin Butler, Diane Bertrand and Curt Simon.



The NATP Annual Membership Meeting has been rescheduled for September 20 in Kearney. Please make plans to attend.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Transit Midwest Conference!



# 2016 NEBRASKA STATE FAIR - OLDER NEBRASKANS DAY

For the second year, the NATP hosted a booth at the Nebraska State Fair during Older Nebraskans Day on August 31. The booth was located inside the Bosselman Conference Center.

Over 650 people viewed the NATP booth and over 100 registered for the giveaway prize. The winner of the giveaway basket was Irene A. of Grand Island.

Numerous people asked for and received contact information for transit agencies in their area. NATP gear and brochures were handed out as promotion.

This was once again a great event for NATP as we reached out to a targeted demographic.

On hand to assist with the booth was Charles McGraw (RYDE Transit), Dustin Butler (Hall County Public Transportation) and Tiffany Fougeron (NATP).



# PANHANDLE TRAILS HOLDS RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

Panhandle Trails, a new intercity bus service, is now open in the panhandle.

Eighteen different communities across eight counties have access to this service. The system operates with limited stops over fixed routes connecting urban and rural areas.

The new system currently has one vehicle with room for twelve passengers.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on June 13 in Alliance.



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE



Hello everyone!

I hope the end of summer treated you well and you're ready for fall.

I want to thank everyone who was able to attend the Transit Midwest Conference in Kansas City. I know it can be difficult to get away from the office. I called managers to encourage them to attend. I remember that someone indicated that they are "just a small system and don't need to attend." I disagree! I think every manager, no matter the size of system they operate, can learn a thing or two from

the educational events that NATP offers. Along with the educational opportunities, there are numerous networking opportunities - which are sometimes a better way to learn about your job. So when you receive a registration form for the Rodeo, Managers Workshop, Legislative Event or other opportunity - sign up!

I enjoyed meeting some of our newer managers and appreciate their enthusiasm for their new role in transportation.

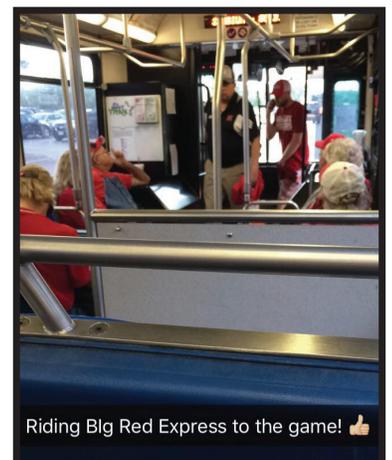
As mentioned earlier, I was able to attend the Nebraska State Fair on Older Nebraskans Day. I'm so glad NATP started attending this event. It's such a great way to meet people from across the state and spread our message. Are there events in your area that you could attend?

Lastly, I like to utilize public transportation when I have the opportunity. On Saturday, I took the StarTran Big Red Express from the SouthPointe shopping mall all the way

to Memorial Stadium for the football game for only \$5. I avoided traffic, didn't have to drive around looking for a spot (then walking a mile), and enjoyed some great conversation with other passengers. I highly recommend it if you plan to attend a Husker game this year!

I hope to see you ALL at the NATP Annual Meeting on September 20 and the Rodeo on September 21 in Kearney.

Tiffany Fougeron  
Executive Director



# NATP 24th Annual Statewide Drivers Training and Rodeo

## Site Details - Lodging

LaQuinta Inn  
108 3rd Avenue  
Kearney, Nebraska

Need lodging? NATP has received a block of rooms. [All section 5311 Manager's rooms will be direct billed to the Department of Roads. Any incidentals will be YOUR responsibility.]

Room reservations are based on room availability so reserve your room today! Last day for the guaranteed room rate is September 2. (Rooms may still be available after this date.)

You will need to call the NATP office by September 2 and indicate what nights you need a room, how many rooms, who the room is for, etc.

Call the NATP office at (402) 761-2216 or email [tfougeron@youaraam.com](mailto:tfougeron@youaraam.com) for a room today!

## 2016 NATP Rodeo Committee

Jeff Baker, Co-Chair  
Cindy Sanders, Co-Chair  
Scott Bartles  
Wayne Masek  
Denise Smith  
Corrina Duckworth  
William Bivin  
Tiffany Fougeron



You are cordially invited to attend the 2016 NATP Annual Drivers Training & Statewide Rodeo Competition!

*The all day drivers training will be held Tuesday, September 20 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center. This training and Tuesday's lunch is provided at no cost to attendees. This year's training will help your drivers meet their continuing education requirements. Courses include a PASS Refresher, Fire Extinguisher/Emergencies, Advanced Wheelchair Securement and Defensive Driving Refresher.*

**Registration for Drivers Training needs to be completed at [www.nebraskatransit.com](http://www.nebraskatransit.com)**

*The NATP 24th Annual Statewide Rodeo will be held on Wednesday, September 21. This year we are having a 70's theme. Prizes will be given for the best dressed! Drivers can attend the Rodeo & BBQ event without competing in the Rodeo. There are four components of competition at the Rodeo.*

- A Written Test
- Pre-Trip Inspection
- Wheelchair Securement
- Driving the Obstacle Course

*Complete rules will be emailed to you before the competition. To be eligible for a full scholarship to the National CTAA Rodeo, drivers must spend at least 50% of their time driving for their transit system and must drive for a 5311 system. Individuals may not receive scholarships for more than two consecutive years. The fee to compete is \$50. The Rodeo is an outside event - snacks will be provided. Please bring a lawn chair. An appreciation BBQ will be held at 3:00 p.m. following the Rodeo. There is no cost for the BBQ and everyone is invited to attend, even if you don't compete in the Rodeo.*

*The 1st place winners from each division (mini-van & small bus) will win \$250, 2nd place winners will receive \$150 and 3rd place will win \$100. First place winners from the two divisions will earn a scholarship to compete at the National CTAA Rodeo in Detroit, Michigan, June 11-16\*. The winning drivers' managers will also earn a scholarship to attend the EXPO! If you have a driver competing, someone from your agency must volunteer to judge. This is a requirement. We hope to see you in Kearney!*

*\*Must be 5311 service to be eligible for scholarships.*

## NATP OFFICE

521 First Street, PO Box 10  
Milford, NE 68405

Phone: (402) 761-2216  
Website: [www.neatp.org](http://www.neatp.org)

# SCHEDULE

## Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2016

8:00 - 8:15 am Opening Session  
 8:15 - 10:15 am PASS Refresher  
 Fire Extinguisher/Emerg.  
 Adv. Wheelchair Secure.  
 Def. Driving Refresher  
 10:15 - 12:30 pm Fire Extinguisher/Emerg.  
 Adv. Wheelchair Secure.  
 Lunch On Site  
 12:30 - 1:30 pm PASS Refresher  
 1:30 - 3:30 pm Def. Driving Refresher  
 Adv. Wheelchair Secure.  
 Written Test for  
 3:30 - 4:30 pm Roadeo Contestants  
 & Judges Meeting

Roadeo Contestants: The written test will be given by the Roadeo Committee @ 3:30 pm or as soon as classes conclude on Tuesday (at the Holiday Inn Convention Center). The judges meeting will run during this time.

## Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2016

NE Safety Center:

8:15 - 8:30 am Course Walk-Through  
 8:30 am NATP Roadeo  
 3:00 pm Awards Luncheon  
 & BBQ Event

**DIRECTIONS TO THE NE SAFETY CENTER:**  
**1801 Railroad Street.** Turn Left on 11th Street until 5th Avenue. At 5th Ave., turn Right and head North - crossing the railroad tracks until Railroad Street. Then turn West (left) and go .9 of a mile to the NE Safety Center.

# NATP 24th Annual Statewide Drivers Training & Roadeo September 20-21, 2016

Holiday Inn Convention Center & Nebraska Safety Center  
 Kearney, Nebraska

Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Transit System: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ T-Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_

Yes No  
  I am a 2016 Member of NATP.

Yes No  
  This driver has been accident free for 12 months.

Manager's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### Registration for Competing in Roadeo:

Early Member Registration (postmarked by September 14) includes t-shirt \$50  
 Late Member Registration (postmarked after September 14) includes t-shirt \$60  
 T-Shirt (Fee for drivers NOT competing in Roadeo) \$10

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### I plan on attending:

- Help Judge \*\* (T-Shirt Included)
- Attend Roadeo without Competing\*\*\* (T-Shirt not Included)
- Attend Appreciation BBQ (T-Shirt not Included)
- Compete in Small Bus Division (Fees apply) (Please complete enclosed Profile Page & submit with registration)
- Compete in Mini-van Division (Fees apply) (Please complete enclosed Profile Page & submit with registration)

(\*\*This is mandatory for managers with a driver competing. All managers, drivers, and spouses are welcome.)

\*\*\* Drivers can attend the Roadeo portion for free to view the course and participate in activities without competing. T-Shirts would not be included, but are available for \$10.

Others can attend the Roadeo and BBQ event for free. Please indicate all attendees on the form.

Entry deadline is September 14, 2016. Specific information will be emailed to the drivers competing after registrations are received. Please bring a lawn chair if you attend the Roadeo/BBQ event.

(NOTE: 5311 Agencies - Check with the Department of Roads regarding items eligible for RTAP reimbursement through the NDOR.)

## FUN - NETWORKING - LEARNING

That's what the Nebraska Statewide Roadeo is all about. Come out to Kearney and enjoy yourself, catch up with friends, and become a better driver for your transit system and the riders that you serve.

Please submit registration and check payable to NATP to:  
 NATP, 521 First Street, PO Box 10, Milford, NE 68405

**NATP 2015-2016 LEADERSHIP**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Western Region  
Carol Prince  
1825 10th Street  
Gering, NE 69341

West Central Region  
Charles McGraw  
PO Box 2288  
Kearney, NE 68848-2288

East Central Region  
Jeff Baker, Treasurer  
320 S 14th Street  
Seward, NE 68434

Eastern Region  
Scott Bartels, President  
Box 412  
Western, NE 68464

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Tiffany Fougerson  
tfougerson@youraam.com

**MEMBERS AT LARGE**

Marilee Hyde  
1520 North Jeffers  
North Platte, NE 69101

Jonnie Kusek  
816 Flack Ave.  
Alliance, NE 69301

Omaha Metro  
Curt Simon  
222 Cuming Street  
Omaha, NE 68102

City of Lincoln - STARTRAN  
Mike Davis  
710 "J" Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508

**NATP OFFICE**

521 First Street, PO Box 10  
Milford, NE 68405

Phone: 402-761-2216  
Fax: 402.761.2224  
www.neatp.org



**Next newsletter deadline is November 23, 2016**

Please send your articles and pictures for the Nebraska Transit Trends newsletter to the NATP office by **November 23, 2016**.

We want to know what all of our members are doing throughout the state. Also, if you see something newsworthy, be sure to let the office know. Submit your typed articles via email (as a word document) to the NATP office at **tfougerson@youraam.com**. You may include pictures if you like, but be sure to save them as a .jpeg file or they may not be included in the newsletter. Documents received after the deadline will appear in the next newsletter.

Visit Us On The Web!  
[www.neatp.org](http://www.neatp.org)

*Dates To Remember*

**September**

20 NATP Annual Membership Meeting  
20-21 - Drivers Training & Rodeo Kearney

**October**

2-5 - TRB Conference Asheville, NC

**December**

14-16 - NACO Conference Kearney

**March**

TBD - Legislative Event Lincoln

**April**

9-15 - Public Transit Week

**June**

11-16 - CTAA Expo & Rodeo Detroit, MI  
20-22 Managers Workshop Scottsbluff

**3RD NATIONAL RTAP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONFERENCE**

The Third National RTAP Technical Assistance Conference will be held in Omaha, Nebraska, in October 2017!

Stay tuned for more details as we will be asking NATP managers to volunteer!

