



SURTC: A Review and Preview

Advisory Board Meeting
September 13, 2007
Fargo, North Dakota

Small Urban & Rural Transit Center
Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute
North Dakota State University



Vision

- Develop a Center of Excellence that addresses the transportation needs of the public in small urban and rural locations.



Mission

- Assist small urban and rural transit systems and other transit entities by conducting relevant research and offering outreach and training.
- Provide for and facilitate the exchange of information on planning, operating, and technologies.



Goals

1. Enhance public transportation systems in small urban and rural communities.
2. Improve accessibility and mobility in small urban and rural communities.
3. Foster and facilitate information exchange among transit stakeholders and decision-makers in public transportation.
4. Contribute to the body of knowledge in transit.



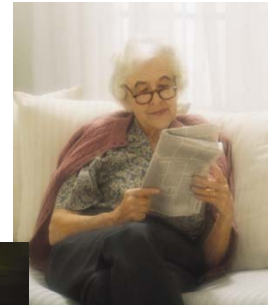
Fifth Anniversary Celebration

- Federal Transit Administration – Ron Hynes and Lisa Colbert
- Greetings from Senators Dorgan and Conrad, and Representative Pomeroy
- Approximately 50 people attended
- Tour of Transit System in Valley City



Recent Completed Research

- Mobility of Elderly Women Living in Rural and Small Urban North Dakota
- Residential and Travel Choices of Elderly Residents: A Case Study
- Importance of Transit Access in Apartment Dwellers' Home Choices in Small Urban Areas
- SDSU Campus Transit
- School Bus Routing
- Evaluation of the Small Bus Supply Chain in the United States





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Ongoing Research

- Definition of Rural and Small Urban
- Indian Reservation Transit Needs Assessment
- Longitudinal Behavior of College Students and Transit Use
- City of Brookings: Transportation Gap Analysis
- Advanced Small Vehicle Development
- Bio-diesel Use in MAT Buses
- Relative Desired Mobility of Elderly Women
- Organizing Transit in Rural and Small Urban Locations



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Training

- **Development of Introduction to Transit Management Course**
- **PASS (Passenger Service and Safety) Certification**

Goal (Established September 2005) - To have the majority of bus drivers in North and South Dakota trained and certified within 24 months.

Status - The goal was met ahead of schedule. Currently, 303 drivers in North and South Dakota have been certified. Additional trainings are scheduled as needed.



Training

- **Tribal Transit Coordination Workshop** – Bismarck, ND
- **Fundraising and Local Match Workshops** – Bismarck, ND; Salt Lake City, UT; Breckenridge, CO
- **Human Resource Management** – Salt Lake City, UT
- **NDDOT Mandatory Training for Transit Projects** – Bismarck, Valley City, Devils Lake and Minot, ND



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Training

- **How to Develop a Business Plan for Your Transit System** – Tribal Transit Conference, Cabazon, CA
- **Putting Together a Transit Development Plan** – Tribal Transit Conference, Cabazon, CA
- **Quality Assurance Approach** – CTAA Expo, Reno, NV
- **Keys to Developing a Vendor Show** – URSTA, Moab, UT



Training

- **Telephone Courtesy** – Nebraska Association of Transit Providers, Grand Island, NE
- **Managing People Effectively: Solving Human Resource Management Problems** – DTA, Dickinson, ND
- **Roles and Responsibilities of Transit Board Members** – DTA, Dickinson, ND
- **School Transportation Efficiency Training** – ND Department of Public Instruction



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Outreach

National, Regional and Statewide Participation

- National Transit Institute (NTI) Advisory Board
- Transit Cooperative Research Program Oversight Project Selection (TOPS) Committee
- Transportation Research Board (TRB) 2008 Rural and Intercity Bus Conference Planning Committee
- Transportation Research Forum (TRF) 2008 Annual Meeting Planning Committee
- ND Statewide Human Service Steering Committee



Outreach

- National Bus Safety and Security Program Working Group for FTA
- AARP National Planning Conference “The Role of Transportation Planning in Creating Livable Communities”
- CTAA State Delegate for ND
- National Quality Assurance Committee on Community Transportation Mutual Insurance
- Steering Committee for Generating Public Involvement in Transportation Policy and Funding Decision Making Processes



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Outreach

➤ **Transportation Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) Panels**

- J-7 Committee, Selection of APTA Research Projects
- F-12 “Employee Compensation Guidelines for Transit Providers in Rural and Small Urban Areas”
- SF-12 “Paratransit Managers’ Skills, Qualifications, and Needs”
- B-32 “Understanding How to Motivate Communities to Support and Ride Public Transit”
- F-13 “Driver Recruitment, Retention and Performance in ADA Paratransit Operations”
- B-35 “A Handbook for Planning and Operating Flexible Public Transportation Services”



Outreach

Vendor Shows

- MN/WI Transit Conference, La Crosse, WI
- CTAA, Reno, NV
- National Rural Public and Intercity Bus Transportation Conference, Stevenson, WA
- DTA, Dickinson, ND; Oacoma, SD
- CASTA, Estes Park, CO
- NATP, Grand Island, NE
- MTA, Bozeman, MT
- URSTA, Salt Lake City, UT
- WYTRANS, Riverton, WY



Outreach

- **Transportation Glossary and Resource Manual**
- **Training and Safety Reviewer Certification**
- **Expansion of Contacts with State Departments of Transportation and Transit Associations Not Currently in SURTC's Service Area**
 - ✓ Colorado
 - ✓ Nebraska
 - ✓ Alaska