

1997 KPTA/ITA Conference:

Transportation: The heart of the community

Kentucky-Indiana Conference to be held Sept. 9-11

A new face will join the bi-annual KPTA Conference in Louisville this year. The Indiana Transportation Association (ITA) has joined forces with KPTA to bring new ideas from a neighboring state.

This year's conference is gearing up to be one of best events in years.

Many new vendors, speakers, and activities are planned.

The convention will kick off with the KPTA Rodeo at Bashford Manor Mall and the Golf Tournament at the Covered Bridge Golf Club in Sellersburg, Indiana on Tuesday.

William Millar, President of American Public Transit Association is slated as the keynote speaker for Thursday afternoon.



Several other interesting sessions will include topics on Transportation Technology Applications, Media Relations and Advocacy, Maintenance Management, ISTE/NEXTEA

panel discussion, Making the Transition from Paratransit to Fixed Route Service, Welfare to Work, and special presentations from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and Indiana Department of Transportation.

The Annual Dinner on Wednesday night will include ITA and KPTA awards and a special presentation to 5th District Representative Hal Rogers from Kentucky.

Transportation Delivery Update

Employees from four State cabinets familiar with transportation issues and services are designing and beginning implementation of a new transportation delivery system. The new system will extend service to areas of the state currently under-served and will provide transportation alternatives to more people.

This redesign changes the way that transportation providers are paid for services to a payment system that encourages efficiency and discourages fraud and abuse. Payments for transportation services needed by Medicaid and K-TAP (formerly JOBS) will be made directly to the contracting provider on basically a flat fee basis (a per recipient, per month payment).

A small staff of state employees will coordinate the provider contracts, and will monitor both the quality of service and

fiscal operations of regional transportation providers through computer interaction and state-of the art telephone information and referral systems.

The coordinated system will benefit all the cabinets' customers including those who are trying to move from welfare to work under the federal welfare-reform law, as well as other citizens of the Commonwealth who may want to make use of this new transportation network.

Citizens will see their tax dollars used more efficiently because the four cabinets (Health Services, Families and Children, Workforce Development and the Transportation Cabinet) will share one new design, rather than each operating its own system. Transportation providers will benefit from the ability to

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From the Desk of the President

Dear KPTA members:



The 1997 KPTA/ITA Conference will be held in Louisville, Kentucky, September 9-11, 1997, at the Galt House/Galt House East. For the very first time the Indiana Transportation Association and the Kentucky Public Transit Association are combining forces in a joint conference. I would like to thank John Woodford, Barry Barker, Glenda Berry and Kent McDaniel (Executive Director of ITA) for making this joint conference into a reality.

As we approach the conference my two-year term as President of the KPTA is almost over. I want to thank the Executive Board, officers and members for your superb cooperation over the last two years as we have worked on many pertinent projects together. Special thanks to the Transportation Cabinet for being willing to work with us in so many endeavors as we truly have a unique partnership. Thanks to our general counsel Ollie Barber for his dedication and support of the association.

When I look back over the last two years we have opened an important dialogue with our General Assembly in advocating and educating our legislators to the importance of Community Transportation. On February 7, 1996, we had an impressive first time Transit Rally at the State Capital that was well attended by members and constituents. We have just completed a very impressive marketing video and with a new brochure that will be distributed at our conference. Even though we have accomplished a lot, we still have a lot of hard work ahead of us.

I cannot emphasize enough how important it is for you and your local transit supporters to be heard from as you spread the message to Local, State and Federal officials on the importance of public transportation.

See you in Louisville!

Beecher Hudson, KPTA President

Director WHEELS Transportation

Louisville Area Chapter, American Red Cross

TARC'S New Night Owls Fly all night

On May 11, TARC began an innovative transportation option called Nia Night Owl Job Link to meet the needs of late night workers who either live or work in the Louisville Empowerment Zone.

TARC's Night Owl shuttle buses (20-passenger capacity) transport pre-registered passengers directly between their homes to their place of employment. The Night Owls operates 7-days a week between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. Night Owls are designed not only to provide new transportation links in support of welfare to work programs, but also to afford greatly increased reliability to late night workers who may rely on other employees for transportation.

Initially, Night Owl service will serve individuals living

or working in neighborhoods surrounding TARC's new Nia Travel and Jobs Center located at 29th and Broadway. If the Nia Owls prove successful and additional funding can be secured, TARC hopes to expand this service to include residents of other neighborhoods throughout the Greater Louisville area.

Local employers are excited about the Nia Night Owl service. Cindy McAlister, human resource manager of Futura Plastics located in Bluegrass Industrial Park, stated that: "Finding late-night employees with reliable transportation has been one of our most difficult challenges. "TARC's Night Owl service offers a tremendous opportunity for us to attract new employees and potentially to expand our business."

House, Senate Pass Increases in '98 Transit Budget

Will Reconcile Funding Levels, Operating Aid

The U.S. House and Senate each approved significant overall funding increases for the federal transit program next year before adjourning for their August recess.

The House passed on July 23 its version of the FY 1998 Transportation Appropriations Act, which sets federal transit spending at \$4.84 billion, a \$455.5 million, or 10.4 percent, increase above its current level of \$4.38 billion. The measure passed by 424 votes to 5.

Full Senate action came on July 30 with the 98-to-1 passage of a \$4.68 billion federal transit program. Although short of the House's funding levels, the Senate bill provides an increase of 6.9 percent over current funding.

The House and Senate are expected to meet in conference committee in September to reconcile differences in their funding levels and operating assistance.

In the House-passed bill, operating assistance is reduced by half, from the current year's level of \$400 million to \$200 million. The entire cut is placed on transit systems operating in areas above 200,000 population. For these systems, operating assistance is cut 65.2 percent, shrinking from \$307 million to \$107 million. Operating aid for transit systems in areas below 200,000 in populations would remain at \$93 million.

The Senate's version zeroes out funds for transit operating assistance. However, the bill changes the definition of an allowable formula capital transit expenses to include preventive maintenance and financing the operating cost of transit systems in urbanized areas with populations of less than

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200,000. Unlike previously reported, the changed definition of an allowable formula capital expense would not include contract services to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The House increases the overall transit formula program to \$2.5 billion, a 16.3 percent hike; the Senate to \$2.4 billion, up 11.7 percent. In both bills, the rural and the elderly and disabled formula programs see increases.

Both bills set discretionary grants 5.3 percent higher, hiking the total program from \$1.9 billion to \$2 billion. In the Senate version, new starts and rail modernization each grow by 2.6 percent, from \$760 million to \$780 million; the bus program, with a 15.8 percent boost, increases from \$380 million to \$440 million. The House plan, however, gives equal 5.3 percent increases in each category.

In the Senate spending bill, planning and research is cut nearly 10 percent, from \$85.5 million to \$77.3 million. The reduction is achieved by eliminating funding for the Transit Cooperative Research Program. In the House bill, each planning and research category is given a slight increase of .6 percent and the current level of funding is preserved for TCRP.

The House and Senate both keep university centers even at \$6 million. Federal Transit Administration administrative line item stays at \$41.5 million in Senate plan, while the House allocates an additional \$4 million. The Washington, D.C. Metrorail system receives \$160 million from the Senate, down from its current \$200 million. The House retains the \$200 million.

Last February, the Administration proposed keeping federal transit spending at the current level of \$4.38 billion, but making significant changes in the way transit systems could use federal funds. Under the plan, the entire transit program next year would be funded with money from the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund. No general fund revenue would be used to fund transit programs. The Administration's plan would eliminate operating assistance, but it would also provide transit operators with greater flexibility in how they spend what are now defined as capital funds.

Taken from Passenger Transport Volume 55, Number 31, p. 1.

Transportation Delivery....

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coordinate transportation necessary for the different programs, and from the reduction in the number of State agencies to whom the providers will be required to report.

The Transportation Delivery team has completed the first critical step in the implementation of the project, which was to establish the transportation regions. This was not an easy decision since each of the participating programs utilizes a different regional map for service delivery. The new regional map, known as the Kentucky Human Services Transportation Regions map, divides the state into sixteen regions.

The team charged with implementation of the process has also spent a considerable amount of time meeting with transportation companies to provide information on the proposed network and to get their input into the process. These individuals and firms have been very helpful to the team.

In the coming months, the team will work to finalize the payment system under which this network will operate. They will also be soliciting for contracts with transportation providers who will provide services locally. The first demonstration region of this project is expected to begin operations in early 1998.



Transportation The Heart of the Community 1997 KPTA/ITA Conference

Schedule of Events

September 9-11

Galt House/Galt House East

Tuesday, September 9

7:00 - 7:45 a.m.

Continental Breakfast
(for KPTA Rodeo participants)

9:00 a.m.

KPTA Rodeo
Bashford Manor Mall

1:00 p.m.

Golf Tournament
Covered Bridge Golf Club
Sellersburg, IN

6:30 p.m.

Opening Reception & Dinner
(KPTA Rodeo & Golf Awards)
Union Station, Headquarters of
Transit Authority of River City

9:00 p.m.

Vendor Suite
Galt House/Galt House East

Wednesday, September 10

7:00-7:45 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

Concurrent Training Sessions

8:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

1. "Transportation Technology Applications"
Carol Schweiger
National Transit Institute (NTI)

8:00 a.m.-9:45 a.m.

2. (a) "Media Relations & Advocacy:
Building Blocks to Marketing Your
Transit System"
**Jenny Williams, Dir. of Marketing/
Sales**
Transit Authority of Lexington, KY

**Perry Jacobs, Dir. of Marketing &
Planning**
Transit Authority of River City,
Louisville, KY

10:00-11:30 a.m.

- (b) "Maintenance Management"
**Halsey King, Manager of Fleet
Consulting**
DAVE Transportation Services

12 noon - Lunch Galt House East

ISTEA/NEXTEA Panel Discussion

Panelists:

Susan Schruth, Regional Director
FTA Region IV, Atlanta, GA

Joel Ettinger, Regional Director
FTA Region V, Chicago, IL

William Millar, President
American Public Transit Assoc.

2:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Vendor Exhibition
Galt House East





4:00 - 4:30 p.m.

KPTA Election of Officers &
Executive Board

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Reception, Galt House East

6:30 p.m.

Annual Dinner
ITA & KPTA Awards
Presentation to Rep. Hal Rogers
5th District, Kentucky

8:30 p.m.

Vendor Suite, Galt House

Thursday, September 11

7:00-7:45 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

8:00-9:45 a.m.

"Making the Transition From
Paratransit to Fixed Route Service"
**Clementine Morris Ph.D., Director
of Training**, Transit Authority of River City

Jeffrey Pulis, Ph.D.
McDonald Transit Associates

10:00-11:45 a.m.

"Welfare to Work"
James Hmurovich, Indiana Family &
Social Services Administration

Joel Ettinger & Doug Gerleman
FTA-Region V, Chicago, IL

10:00-11:45 a.m. cont.

J. Barry Baker, Executive Director
Transit Authority of River City

12 noon-Lunch @ Galt House East

Keynote speaker:
William Millar, President
American Public Transit Assoc.

1:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
Indiana Dept. of Transportation

Location: Galt House/Galt House East
140 North 4th Avenue
Louisville, KY 40202-4205
502-589-5200 for reservations


Dress: Casual Business Attire

Optional Activities In and Around Louisville

- Falls of Ohio Interpretive Center
Jeffersonville, IN
- Louisville Science Center
- Kentucky Derby Museum
- Oxmoor/Mall St. Matthews/River
Falls Mall
- Louisville Zoo
- Louisville Slugger Museum

*(These activities are on your own.
Check at the registration desk for
additional information or directions.)*

For further information please contact Glenda Berry,
TARC 502/561-5116.



Parker Retires after 27 Years of Service

Flo Parker is retiring from her position as Grants and Contract Administrator for the Transportation Cabinet's Division of Multimodal Programs after 27 years of service. The Multimodal Programs staff and the public transportation providers around the state are going to miss her tremendously. Flo has devoted a large portion of her life to public transportation and her efforts have been appreciated.

Everyone wants to wish Flo all the best as her and her husband, Charlie, begin a new life of leisure.



RTEC Expands Transportation into Monroe County

Rural Transit Enterprises Coordinated (RTEC) expands its operation to 12 counties with the acquisition of Monroe County.

Shirley Cummins, Executive Director of RTEC, is very pleased with the new expansion into Monroe County.

The expansion into Monroe County began on May 7, 1997 with its new driver, Gary Netherton. Transportation is being provided five days a week in Monroe County. Netherton is providing transportation to dialysis clinics in Glasgow and other forms of public transportation.

A promotional campaign is underway with distribution of RTEC brochures in the area.

The current counties RTEC services include: Knox, Laurel, Rockcastle, Whitley, Bell, McCreary, Pulaski, Wayne, Cumberland, Clinton, Russell and Monroe.

KPTA/ITA Conference September 9-11

Local Couple Ties the Knot with Tank

What a beautiful day for wedding! A Northern Kentucky couple were married, much like many other couples in the month of June in Northern Kentucky churches.

This particular couple, Dan Williams and Lisa Bailey, met five years ago in 1992 on their way to work. They met on TANK's #1 Florence route to Cincinnati. The two spoke for several months, and Ms. Bailey, 28 year old legal secretary, finally invited Mr. Williams, a 35 year old loan officer, out for a date.

On June 28, five years and many dates later, TANK participated in their nuptials, by driving the wedding party from St. Henry Church, Erlanger, to Devou Park, Covington, for photographs. Jimmy Taylor, the driver of the #1 Florence route that they rode together five years ago, drove for them again on this special day. The couple wanted TANK to be part of their wedding, since TANK had such a large part in their first meeting.

The new Mrs. Williams has been riding TANK to work for 10 years from her Northern Kentucky home. In fact, Mrs. Williams' and her entire family grew up riding TANK. She highly recommends riding TANK to anyone having trouble finding that someone special!

The couple resides in Ft. Mitchell with children, Sean and Kristi Bailey.



TANK bus driver, Jimmy Taylor, in front of the bus with Lisa Williams and her sisters; they all ride Tank.

TANK Receives Prestigious National Award

The Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky has been awarded the prestigious 1997 Minority and Women Advancement Award by the American Public Transit Association (APTA).

This award is given annually to the APTA member displaying meritorious accomplishments in the employment, promotion and training of minorities and women in professional and management positions within its transit system.

In the 1990 Fiscal Year, TANK's Board of Directors and Management Team made a commitment to producing and implementing a new Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Plan. In this plan, TANK set goals to

create a high quality, customer-oriented, and diverse workforce to lead TANK into the next century.

With the receipt of this award, TANK's EEO/AA goals are being realized. Currently, 14.9 percent of all employees are Minority employees, and 31.8 percent are Female.

"This is an impressive figure when you look at the big picture in this region. In Northern Kentucky, the total Minority Population is only 3.1 percent, while in Southwest Ohio this figure is 15.7 percent," stated Mark Donaghy, TANK General Manager. "This shows the great effort that was made to include the entire Cincinnati Urban area in our efforts to find quality candidates for employment."

Minority or Females currently hold positions of Director of Operations, Risk Manager, Manager of Marketing and Planning and Field Supervisor.

TANK will be honored for this achievement at APTA's Annual Conference, being held in Chicago, Illinois in September.



TANK's employees shown in front of one of their buses.

TARC opens new Corridor Service

TARC dedicated its new Dixie Manor Transit Center on Tuesday, August 12. Actual route service emanating from Dixie Manor began on August 17. The Transit Center is the focal point for TARC service in Southwest Jefferson County.

Seven new convenient neighborhood shuttle routes will meet the #18 Preston Street Route and #50 Dixie Express Route at the Center, making it easier than ever to get around town.

The new services in Southwest Jefferson County are a part of TARC's Showcase Corridor program—a two-year market test of new and improved service around the greater Louisville area. This past January, TARC introduced new Showcases Corridors service in Southern Indiana and in West Louisville

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RTEC Drivers are Honored

Rural Transit Enterprises Coordinated, Inc. (RTEC) recently held a banquet at the Kastle Inn Restaurant at Mt. Vernon to honor its drivers for safety.

During 1996, RTEC drove over one million miles in community transit service in a combination of local and interstate highway miles and assisted over 175,000 passengers with accessing community transit.

Twenty-one drivers were recognized for safety and others were presented certificates for participating in the Transit Rodeo.

RTEC representative Janice Vanzant presented the awards.

"Lots of people want to ride with you in the limo, but what you want is someone who will take the bus with you when the limo breaks down."

OPRAH WINFREY



LexTran Plans Fleet Improvements

LexTran has learned that they will receive \$1,080,000 through Section 5309 Federal Grant program for capital equipment. This money will be used along with LexTran's 5307 grant to purchase a total of nine new buses to upgrade the aging LexTran fleet. These new vehicles are expected to arrive in approximately two years.

Federal funding will also be used in the purchase of 40 bike racks to be installed on buses.

Funds from Section 5307 will also allow the purchase of five new LexVans vehicles by the end of this year.

Taken from Conveyance - Summer 1997

Thought for the Day

If you have a penny and I have a penny and we exchange pennies, you still have one cent and I have one cent.

But if you have an idea and I have an idea we exchange ideas, you now have two ideas and I now have two ideas.

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The KPTA newsletter is published for the Kentucky Public Transit Association by Federated Transportation Services of the Bluegrass with the financial support of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's Division of Multimodal Programs and Rural Transit Assistance Program. Any comments or suggestions should be addressed to Pam Shepherd, FTSB, 1460 Newtown Rd., Suite J, Lexington, KY 40511.



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