

# KPTA

May  
2001

# NEWSLETTER

## KPTA/KyTC 2001 Conference to be held September 17-20 *"Innovative Transit Solutions for Kentucky"*

The 2001 KPTA/KyTC Conference will be held in Covington on September 17-20 at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel. The Radisson Hotel was previously the Clariton Hotel and now has a new look.

This year's conference is gearing up to be one of the best events in years. Many new vendors, speakers and activities are being planned.

The convention will kick off with the KPTA Rodeo on Monday and the annual golf tournament on Tuesday.

All transit providers are urged to have their drivers participate in the KPTA Rodeo. Also, volunteers are needed to assist with the Rodeo. Sue Jeffers with BUS and Beecher Hudson with Louisville American Red Cross WHEELS are co-chairs of the event. Give them a call and come join in on the Rodeo.

The conference committee is trying to schedule the FTA APTS Mobile Showcase for the conference.

Other activities being planned include a dinner on the Belle of Louisville and in the revolving dining room at the Radisson Hotel, and a Cincinnati Reds ballgame.

### **Vendors reserve your space for the KPTA Conference**

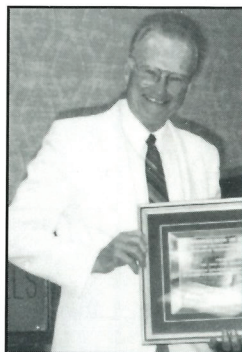
All interested vendors are encouraged to reserve their space for the upcoming conference soon.

If you did not receive a copy of the registration packet, please call Pam Shepherd at 859/233-0066 or email [ftsbshep@gte.net](mailto:ftsbshep@gte.net).

## Lassetter Retires after 22 years

Clarence Lasseter retires after 22 years of service to Northern Kentucky Transit (NKT).

Vickie Bourne, Manager for Public Transit in the Office of Transportation Delivery of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, said, "It is a rare privilege to work with a transit professional such as Clarence Lassetter. He is one of the best - going the extra mile to get the job done. As a



Clarence Lassetter

highly effective Coordinator for the Northern Kentucky area for the Section 5309, 5310 and 5311 Programs, he will be missed. The best to him and his family in his retirement."

Gail Mayeux, KYTC Project Manager for NKT, has worked with Clarence for 20 years. "He has always been a one-man show: he drove vehicles, he maintained the vehicles, he coordinated the vehicles, and he administered the grants to run the vehicles. His hard work, dedication, and grace will be missed by Kentucky transit. I wish him and his family the best of luck."

When asked about his retirement Lassetter said, "Old soldiers never die  
*Continued on Page 2*

**INSIDE INSERT**  
**KPTA Conference Registration Forms**  
**Rodeo Registration**



# Bus service expands in Madison, Estill

*Transportation to be given to those who don't have it in Richmond, Irvine and Berea*

Kentucky River Foothills has announced it will offer set routes on a regular schedule that will connect three cities.

Valerie McElhose, Kentucky River Foothills director of transportation, said the service is geared towards offering people with limited transportation a reliable service. She said a need has been proven for this type of service.

"We had the University of Kentucky Transportation Center to conduct a study and there is a need in this area," McElhose said. "There is a good solid number of people that live within the designated route that are low income residents and without vehicles they will likely use a service of this nature." McElhose made presentation to the Richmond City Commission on the proposed routes.

The first route to be added will be between the three cities. It is financed by a federal Job Access grant and will be called Trancity. The proposal will be financed through federal funds.

Dwight Arvin, Irvine County Judge-Executive, said he thought the bus route would be good idea for the surrounding community.

State figures released in March indicate Estill County's unemployment to be well above the other 17 counties included in the Bluegrass Area Development District. The district which includes Estill and Madison counties has an average unemployment rate of 3 percent - one of the lowest percent-

ages in the state. Irvine's unemployment rate is a 8.1 percent.

The secondstep will be providing a regular scheduled hourly bus service for Richmond.

Kentucky River Foothills operates a fleet of 28 vehicles, including seven buses, in a four county area. The seven buses are used by Richmond on an as-needed basis to provide trips to various locations in the city for those who have no transportation. The planned bus route will not effect the buses on demand. But the new route will call for a reduction of buses that now operate on the road.

"We might have some route changes, maybe some schedule changes but no position will be eliminated. "We will continue to provide the on need service," McElhose said.

*Taken from The Richmond Register, April 8, 2001, p. A-1.*

## Lassetter retires. ....

*Continued from Page 1*

just fade away".

He said he plans to learn to play a musical instrument or play the piano. Also, he would like to go to Northern Kentucky University and take some classes in biology, geology, or zoology.

Lasseter said it has been a joy to work with everyone. He last words to everyone is "keep the wheels rolling, it has been a great ride".

Our best to Clarence in his new endeavors.

# PATS celebrate 20th year of operation

The Paducah Area Transit System observed its 20th year of operation on February 14, 2001. The celebration was held at 850 Harrison St., the future home of the system's new headquarters and transfer station.

"This new building will provide passengers with a sheltered transfer point while providing us with office space and maintenance areas at one central location," said PATS General Manager Gary Kitchin.

After the building is renovated, the systems eight bus routes will converge at 9th and Harrison St., creating a new transfer point. A new trolley route will be added for the downtown area.

The anniversary observance included free bus rides for three days, free month-long bus pass, anniversary pens, and coffee mugs.



Gary Kitchin, General Manager of PATS, address the guests at the 20th anniversary celebration of PATS on February 14, 2001.



## Federal funds would put PATS 'under one roof'

"General Manager Gary Kitchin said that \$2 million in a federal transportation bill would allow Paducah Area Transit System to offer all services at one site.

Kitchin said that the funding will go to renovate the Old Wholesale Supply building at 805 Harris St. so the PATS offices central transfer center and bus storage area will be one location and not spread all over Paducah.

"Everything will be under one roof," Kitchin said.

Currently, PATS' main office is in the basement of City Hall. The central transfer center and bus storage is a few blocks away at the intersection of 3rd Street and Kentucky Avenue.

"The Paducah Area Transit System is faced with the huge challenge of accommodating passengers of

vastly varying needs," Sen. Mitch McConnell said. "The funding will allow the local transit system to better serve the people of Paducah."

Kitchin also plans to use the money to purchase two 30-passenger vans, four wheelchair accessible vans and another trolley replica bus to be used to move riders downtown. The additions would expand the fleet to eight heavy buses, four 20 passenger buses, 14 vans and two trolley replicas.

PATS will look at adding routes to areas in Paducah mainly populated by senior citizens and expanding the operational hours beyond 6 p.m. with the help of a separate work access grant.

*Taken from Paducah Sun by Jake Buress.*

## LexTran promotes Soybean Farmers and reduces air pollution

LexTran has joined with the Soybean Farmers and Griffin Industries to reduce air pollution and promote Soybean production. The program is one of several grant programs LexTran has in the works to reduce air pollution in Lexington as well as save money for LexTran.

Since April 1st, LexTran has been running on B20, a common blend of 20% biodiesel and 80% petroleum diesel, in its fleet of 46 city buses. Griffin Industries produces the soy-based biodiesel fuel. LexTran received a grant from the Soybean Grower's Association to finance the slight price increase of the soy-based biodiesel to run LexTran's buses. "The grant is part of an effort to create more demand so farmers can get better prices," said Debbie Ellis, executive director of the Kentucky Soybean Board Kentucky has 6,500 soybean farmers with average production yield of 42 to 44 million bushels of soybeans per year.

"We will be able to promote the product of our Soybean Farmers," said LexTran's Executive Director Stephen Rowland, "and LexTran will be able to save money from the displaced diesel fuel."

In addition to the grant with the Soybean

Grower's Association LexTran has received several CMAQ grants to reduce air pollution this spring and summer. First, LexTran will attempt to get a continuation of a CMAQ grant offering Public Transportation Free on Ozone Alert Days again. Another CMAQ grant program will allow LexTran to replace several engines. Replacing engines on LexTran's vehicles will save fuel and reduce air pollution.

Finally, a Federal Government Grant secured with the help of Representative Ernie Fletcher will allow LexTran to buy and rehabilitate the facility next door and thereby keep all LexTran buses under-roof when they are not on the road. Currently LexTran buses have to be kept running in order to be kept cool in the summer and warm in the winter. With the new facility gallons of diesel fuel will be saved and buses will be more comfortable for passengers.

According to Executive Director, Stephen Rowland "LexTran is always looking for ways to save money and be a good community citizen. Today's efforts will do both. We hope to help out farmers, cut our costs, and reduce air pollution. It's a win-win situation."



# KYTC introduces three new Public Transit staff members

## Della Davis

Della Davis has been employed by Kentucky State Government for seven years and came to the Office of Transportation Delivery (OTD) from the Operations Division of Transportation.

She works as a Grants and Contract Administrator in the Public Transit Branch.

Prior to that time, she worked at the National Southwire Aluminium in Hawesville, Kentucky for 24 years and resided in Tell City, Indiana.

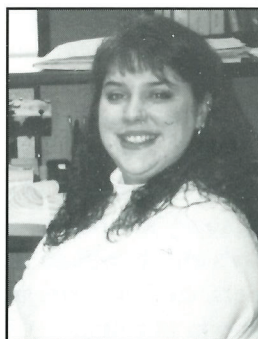
Della moved to Lexington in the spring of 1999.

She is the proud mother of three children, Steve, Terry and Kimberly and grandmother of eight. Della has two brothers and two sisters and enjoys yearly vacations with them. Her hobbies are playing the piano, sewing and exercising.



## Carla Alcorn

Carla Alcorn began working for Kentucky State Government in 1995. She transferred to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet from the Department of Corrections. During her tenure with the Department of Corrections she worked in a minimum



and a medium-security adult male correctional institution as a secretary and correctional officer.

Her duties with OTD began on November 1, 2000. She will serve as Administrative Specialist III for public transportation staff.

She enjoys spending time with her family and friends in her spare time.

## Jennifer Smith

Jennifer Smith is new to the Kentucky Transportation Delivery but has been employed with the Kentucky State Government for six years.

She will be the Grants and Contract Administrator for the Office of Transportation Delivery.

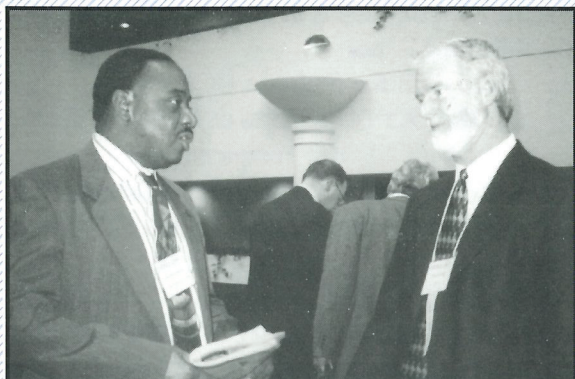
Jennifer will track statistics and maintain reports for various programs in public transit and HSTD. She will process MPO payments, DBE Coordinator and project manager for Cumberland Valley Area Development District.

Jennifer is married, with two children Jordan three and Madeline 10 months, and enjoys spending her time with her family.





# Kentuckians for Better Transportation Conference



Beecher Hudson (Louisville Red Cross) and Mark Donaghty (TANK)



Rajan Shah (GRITS), Bonnie Rhoads (Owensboro Transit) and Louis Lindsay (GRITS).

*Kentucky Transit  
Providers enjoy conversations with other transit providers.*



Ray Young (Maysville Transit) and Jim Seibert (TANK)



John Woodford (TARC), Sue Jeffers (BUS), Beecher Hudson (Louisville Red Cross WHEELS) and Mark Donaghty (TANK).



Pam Whittler (Henderson Area Transit)



## Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program Regulations 49 CFR Part 26 Unified Certification Program

In February 1999, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) issued new Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) regulations (49 CFR Part 26) which required, among other things, that all DOT recipients who receive funds from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) sign an agreement to establish a Unified Certification Program (UCP) for certifying minority and women owned firms in the State. One of the purposes of the UCP is to help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT-assisted contracts by providing "one-stop shopping." An applicant for DBE certification would only have to apply once for a DBE certification that will be honored by all USDOT recipients in the State.

The UCP agreement must be submitted to USDOT for approval by March 4, 2002. The agreement shall include an implementation schedule ensuring that the State's UCP is fully operational no later than 18 months following the approval of the agreement by the Secretary.

FTA recipients that receive \$250,000 or more in FTA planning, capital, and/or operating assistance in a Federal fiscal year must be partners in the formation of the UCP agreement.

The Office of Minority Affairs in the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) is leading efforts to developing the UCP agreement for all USDOT recipients in the State. A Steering Committee was formed in February 2000. The Steering Committee includes representatives from KYTC (FHWA and FAA), the Office of Transportation Delivery (FTA), the Transit Authority of River City (TARC) and regional Planning Agencies. The Steering Committee has met several times since February 2000. At the FTA UCP Forum in Atlanta held on March 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2001, other State's testimony indicated that Kentucky was far ahead of most states in the development of the UCP. An exception was Missouri who discussed their proposed UCP and distributed and e-mailed copies of the proposal program. Kentucky's delegation, which included representatives from the Office of Minority Affairs, the Office of Transportation Delivery, KYTC's General Counsel, TARC, the local FHWA representative, and the MPO from Owensboro, discussed where Kentucky was at and where we needed to go.

As discussed at the FTA UCP forum, Kentucky's

Steering Committee is in the process of addressing the following issues:

- 1) How will the State's a UCP work:
  - a) Will KYTC perform all DBE certifications for all USDOT recipients in the State (including airport concessionaires) with the participating entities perhaps providing on-site reviews of the firms; or
  - b) Will USDOT recipients, such as TARC, continue to do their own certifications and on-site reviews and submit all the completed information to KYTC. KYTC will be a "clearinghouse" of information and Directory. KYTC will provide the Directory in print as well as on the Internet.
- 2) Depending on the final form of the UCP, look at the funding, budget, and staffing.
- 3) Understand the legalities of the UCP and how it needs to be set up (statute, regulation, etc.).
- 4) Whether and how to grant reciprocity to other States' certification decision.

All eligible agencies in the State will be notified shortly about participation on the Steering Committee. If you do not receive the notice and feel your agency is eligible to participate or you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Smith of the Office of Transportation Delivery at 502/564-7433 or Ron Derricks of the Office of Minority Affairs at 502/564-3601.

*Article submitted by Jennifer Smith and Gail Mayeux of the Public Transit/Office of Transportation Delivery/KYTC.*

### Jaggers resigns her position

Keirsten Jaggers has resigned her position at Barren River Area Development District.

She began her new job with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet District #9 in Bowling Green as the Public Relations Officer.

Keirsten said, "I have enjoyed working with everyone for the last nine years and will miss you all. I am sure our paths will cross somewhere down the road. . . . Kentucky is not that big. Take care,"

Everyone wishes Keirsten well in her new careers with the highways.



## TARC names new Director of Transportation

*J. Barry Barker, executive director of the Transit Authority of River City (TARC), has named Alyce French-Johnson as Director of Transportation effective January 1, 2001. French-Johnson will replace Lea Rafferty, who retired December 31.*

*French-Johnson has served as president of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 1447 since 1993 and its business agent as well since 1996. She was the first woman, and the*



*first African-American, to run for and be elected to union office in the ATU Local 1447 chapter in Louisville. She joined TARC in 1977 as an Information Specialist and also served for 18 years as a driver. As Director of Transportation, French-Johnson plans, organizes, directs and oversees the daily activities of TARC's Transportation Department and a team of some 446 bus drivers.*

*A Louisville native, French-Johnson earned her degree in Communications with honors from Spalding University in May 2000 and was the recipient of Metroversity's Outstanding Adult Learner Award. She is member of the 2001 class of Leadership Louisville.*

*"Alyce French-Johnson has served TARC with distinction for more than 23 years," said Barker. "I am delighted that she has accepted this new challenge, and am confident that she will bring the same level of professionalism and commitment to her new duties as she has to her previous positions."*

## TARC Hires Laidlaw for System Operations

*The Transit Authority of River City in Louisville, Kentucky has signed Laidlaw Transit Services inc. to operate general public fixed route and paratransit services, began October 1.*

*TARC's three-year, \$ 18 million contract with Laidlaw includes TARC 2 fixed route services and door-to-door transportation for the TARC 3 paratransit program. The company operates 64 paratransit and eight fixed route vehicles for an estimated 172,000 service hours for each year of the contract, plus two one-year options. The Louisville-area chapter of the American Red Cross will operate a small (15,000 annual service hours) portion of the paratransit service.*

*Laidlaw announced that Inez Evans is the resident project manager for TARC operations. She previously served as paratransit project manager for the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority in Toledo, Ohio*

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## TANK's Web Site Gets a Face-Lift

*The Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky (TANK) has spent four months redeveloping their web site, focusing on ease-of-use for the visitor, providing current information and improved color and graphics.*

*Located at [www.tankbus.org](http://www.tankbus.org), the site offers valuable information about TANK, including time points and schedules, route maps, bus pass and fare information, special event service and information on special happenings and employment opportunities at TANK.*

*The site also links the visitor to sections such as history of TANK, an area with children's games and trivia questions, information on TANK's transit subsidy program and much more. Visitors to the site can fill out a survey about TANK, complete a "Preferred Customer" application and e-mail our communication/customer service department directly.*

*Still to come on the site will be a virtual tour of the TANK facility and a system map.*

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## LexTran Facility Improvements

*LexTran to close on its purchase of the former Greyhound Bus facility located on Loudon Ave. The facility is adjacent to the current LexTran administrative offices and garage on Loudon.*

*Two Federal grants have enabled LexTran to make this project possible. An initial grant of \$1.2 million will be used to purchase the site and architectural and engineering work. A second grant for \$3.5 million will be used to upgrade the former facility and rehabilitate the existing building. Matching funding of 20% will come from local and state funds.*

*Once completed the rehabilitated facility will provide indoor garage space for the entire LexTran fleet. The project should be completed in Spring of 2002.*



**Call FTSB  
if you have  
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859/233-0066  
Fax 859/233-1668.**

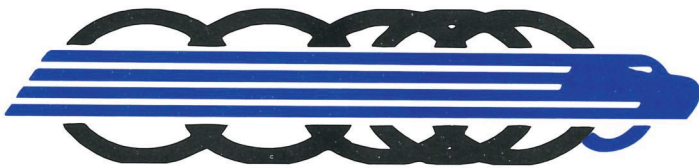
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## **Thought for the Day**

*"A bus is a vehicle that runs twice as fast when you are after it as when you are in it."*

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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 Office of Transportation Delivery and Rural Transit Assistance Program. Any comments or suggestions should be addressed to Pam Shepherd, FTSB, 694 New Circle Rd., NE, Suite 33, Lexington, KY 40505.



**Federated Transportation Services of the Bluegrass  
694 New Circle Rd., NE, Suite 33  
Lexington, KY 40505**