

National RTAP

*Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
National Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP)*

What's New:

January 2, 2005

Awards Presented at 2004 TRB Rural Conference

The National Rural Transit Assistance Program "Achievements in Rural Transit Assistance" awards were presented at the TRB Rural Intercity Bus Conference in Roanoke, VA on October 26, 2004. The awards were established to recognize RTAP State Programs, products and services that are benchmarks for the industry and are replicable by others. Two awards were given: "Outstanding Achievement for a RTAP State Management Program" and "Outstanding Achievement for a State RTAP Product or Service."

In addition, the "Roger Tate is Smiling" Award was presented to Dianne McSwain, Jon Burkhardt and Pam Ward for their passionate, innovative, and unswerving commitment to improving transportation service in rural America. See below for photos of the recipients.



Outstanding Achievement for a RTAP State Mngt Prog - PA Public Transp. Assoc/PennTRAIN

Pictured: Beth Denniston, Charlie Schmitt, Cindy Conaway, Louise Tinkler, and Mike Noel



Honorable Mention for a RTAP State Management Program - Delaware Transit Corporation
Pictured: Ken Bock, Robert Morris, Beth Denniston, and Larry Brokenbrough

Honorable Mention for a RTAP State Management Program - Indiana RTAP (Not Pictured)



Outstanding Achievement for a State RTAP Product or Service - Minnesota DOT
Pictured: Beth Denniston and Barbara Quade



Honorable Mention for a State RTAP Product or Service - Kansas RTAP

Pictured: Beth Denniston and Pat Weaver



"Roger Tate is Smiling" Award

Pictured: Dianne McSwain, Jon Burkhardt, and Pam Ward

New Additions to Bus Transit Safety Resource Guide Website

Several new documents were recently added to the Bus Transit Safety Resource Guide Web Site. See below for links to the new resources and visit www.cutr.usf.edu/bussafety to see all the resources available.

State Policies and Plans - [Indiana Comprehensive Safety Response Plan](#) - Indiana Comprehensive Safety Response Plan is a compilation of sample policies, procedures and forms, to help Community Transportation Systems to construct a System Safety Program Plan (SSPP) to meet its unique safety needs.

Best Practices - [Minnesota - Transit System Safety/Security Workbook](#)

Safety Data Acquisition and Analysis - [Texas - Safety Data Acquisition and Analysis Guide](#)

Driver/Employee Training - [PennSCORE- Operator Training Manual](#)

Security - [Immediate Actions for Transit Agencies for Potential and Actual Life-Threatening Incidents](#) - (FTA Guidance Document)

DHS Announces Grants to Secure Bus Travel

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will provide 55 grants totaling approximately \$9.9 million to improve security for operators and passengers by providing operator training and physical enhancements to bus company and industry association facilities and assets. The grants will provide for vehicle and facility security enhancements, as well as security equipment for over-the-road buses.

Grant funding will be used to augment the investments of system owners and operators in a number of areas including driver protection, tracking and communication systems, security assessments and/or development of security plans, and training for transportation personnel to recognize and respond to criminal attacks and terrorist threats. Grants also will pay for physical security enhancements such as fencing, lighting, and surveillance equipment at terminals and maintenance facilities.

For more information, visit www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=3997.

NEW! National RTAP Training Resource Catalog NEW!

The National RTAP Program is proud to unveil the National RTAP Training Resource Catalog. You can access the catalog by using the link on the left side of this page or go to:

<http://www.nationalrtap.org/ResourceCatalog/>

The catalog is an excellent resource when you're looking for the latest training available. The catalog provides you with the ability to search more than 650 training resources. You can search by resource name, type, subject, author, agency, or keyword. The output of your search will tell you about each resource (i.e. how to access the resources, how much it might cost etc). You also have the option to update the materials in the catalog. So be sure to search through the catalog and find your own resources that might be available and make sure all the information is correct.

In order to keep the catalog up to date and relevant we vitally need your help. You have the capability to add new resources to the catalog. We hope you will take the time to add any resources that you might have available. The intent of this catalog is to keep it as a living document – ever growing in size and relevance. So be sure to come back often as new resources will be added.

FTA Emphasizes *United We Ride*

United We Ride -- a new five-part initiative-- to break down the barriers between programs and set the stage for local partnerships that generate common sense solutions and deliver A-plus performance for everyone who needs transportation.

The *United We Ride* initiative includes:

- *A Framework for Action*. Created by a panel of experts from around the country that convened in August 2003, this publication is a self-assessment tool that States and communities can use to identify areas of success and highlight the actions still needed to improve the coordination of human service transportation.
- *State Leadership Awards*. These initial awards have recognized a select number of States that have accomplished significant progress in human service transportation coordination.
- *National Leadership Forum on Human Service Transportation Coordination*. This conference, held in late February 2004, brought together Governor appointed senior leadership teams seeking to raise the visibility of the issue among State leaders and secure commitments to action. The forum was used to provide technical assistance, as well as to recognize those States that have already taken significant steps to improve human service transportation services.
- *State Coordination Grants*. States participating in the United We Ride National Leadership Forum will be eligible to submit an application for State Coordination Grants, to address gaps and needs related to human

service transportation in their geographic regions.

- *Help Along the Way.* This ongoing technical assistance program will build on the work of the Community Transportation Assistance Program (CTAP), the Rural Transportation Assistance Program (RTAP), Easter Seals Project ACTION and other stakeholders to provide hands-on assistance to States and communities in the development and delivery of coordinated human service transportation programs.