

transactions

FALL 2003

A Message from State Transportation Director Gloria J. Jeff

Routing Slip

Managers
 Supervisors
 Mechanics
 Drivers



Please share the *Passenger TransActions* with other members of your staff. Don't let it get buried on your desk.

A Balanced Transportation System in Michigan is TEAM MDOT's Goal

It is wonderful to be back in Michigan and continue my career with MDOT. It is a great pleasure to address you through the *Passenger TransActions* newsletter. As you may know, I have background in public transportation. I worked for SEMTA (Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority) – the predecessor of SMART – for five years as a planner and program analyst in the late 70s.



Gloria J. Jeff

I am very excited about the opportunity to communicate directly with the transit community via this newsletter and it is my plan to be part of future issues. This newsletter provides an important tool for us to stay in touch – whether sharing information about precedent-setting policy, budget issues at the state or federal level, or your day-to-day challenges and accomplishments.

In a recent memo to MDOT staff, I laid out three primary goals for TEAM MDOT for 2003 and I would like to share them with you:

One – Obtain additional federal funding.

Reauthorization of the Federal Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century is critical to obtaining additional federal funds. MDOT is doing all it can to bring a greater return of federal highway and transit dollars to Michigan as a part of reauthorization.

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Due to FY03 budget constraints, the Summer issue of the Passenger TransActions was not published.

Message from Gloria J. Jeff (cont. from page 1)

Two – *Focus the investment of our transportation resources to preserve the multi-billion dollar asset that represents Michigan's transportation system.* Preservation will be balanced with capacity improvements in the expenditure of state dollars, and as more federal funds are brought back to Michigan. The 2003-2007 Five Year Road and Bridge Plan, approved by the State Transportation Commission in June 2003, demonstrates our commitment to preservation while acknowledging the critical importance of capacity improvement to safety, economic growth and quality of life.

Three – *Partner with other members of the transportation industry to provide a multi-modal, safe, efficient and economic growth-enhancing transportation system.* MDOT cannot deliver transportation alone – and please be assured that when I use the term transportation, I mean *all modes*. MDOT is a multi-modal agency, however, for some modes, such as transit, it is the efforts of local transit agencies and public and private service providers that take center stage.

To build on a foundation of partnership and assure Michigan's continued success, MDOT will host a Transportation Summit on Dec. 3 and 4, 2003, which is open to the public. The focus of the Transportation Summit will be to determine our collective vision for transportation in Michigan: how can transportation serve Michigan's economy; how can it improve our quality of life; and how can it help protect our environment? We will then collectively decide what needs to happen to begin making the vision a reality. Planning meetings are underway and will continue through the fall with the culmination of the summit in December. There are two representatives for public transit on the planning team: Clark Harder, executive director of the Michigan Public Transit Association (MPTA); and Lynn Lafler, MPTA president and manager of the City of Ionia Dial-a-Ride and the Ionia Transit Authority.

TEAM MDOT is built on a solid foundation comprised of expertise, knowledge, professionalism, integrity, experience, and an extraordinary commitment to serving the residents, citizens, visitors and businesses of Michigan. I am certain you have the same faith and enthusiasm for your transportation agency. I am honored to share that commitment with you.

MDOT's business involves more than highways. We are committed to making a strong, unified voice in support of a well-maintained, balanced transportation

system. Your business is about helping people lead fuller, more independent lives through public transportation. It's about helping the economy by helping people get around. It's about creating a cleaner environment. I support all those goals and will work with you to make our public transit systems the best we possibly can.

I look forward to our future communications!

MDOT Hosts First Transportation Summit

As mentioned in MDOT Director Jeff's article, the Michigan Department of Transportation will host its first Transportation Summit on Dec. 3 and 4, 2003, at the Lansing Center in downtown Lansing. The nine key issues will be: asset management; research and evaluation; land use; need for mobility options (urban and rural); communication, consciousness raising and public involvement; safety; commerce and trade; coordination, cooperation and connectivity; and funding.

"The primary objective of the Summit is to expand all participants' awareness and understanding of the issues," said Director Jeff. "The issues addressed will contribute to developing a vision for Michigan's transportation system that will support Michigan as a magnet for jobs, growth, people and economic activity."

Since August, the planning team has been holding sessions to explore each of the nine issues. Planning team comments, expert comments, and draft preliminary action plans for each issue are being posted on MDOT's Web site as they become available. To view the information and provide your comments, go to www.mdot.state.mi.us/summit2003.

New State Map Available

Need a new state map? Order it online today at www.michigan.gov/mdot - click on "Maps & Publications." The new map includes several upgrades: the first all-electronic map which can be updated instantaneously; new colors that are consistent with nationwide map standards; new bridge rates; new highways now complete; and a new symbol that indicates national forest recreation facilities.

MDOT's Reauthorization Efforts Continue

Behind-the-scenes work continues on the reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). Earlier this year, the administration presented a draft proposal, *The Safe and Flexible Transportation Efficiency Act of 2003 (SAFETEA)*. Various other proposals intended to help address some aspects of a bill have been proposed or discussed, but complete Congressional bills have not yet been presented.

The Passenger Transportation Division (PTD) met with a small transit agency work group to share information, discuss strategy, and gather input about our goals for reauthorization. In addition, our work continues with other states and interest groups in support of transit equity. Our goal is to increase federal funding to Michigan. Michigan transit agencies and interest groups that have communicated their support to Washington are commended.

MDOT believes that we have established a solid foundation for transportation investment in our country, but improvements can be made. MDOT's overall reauthorization platform includes: funding equity for transit and highways, predictable programs, funding guarantees and firewalls, greater flexibility, preservation of our transportation systems, more secure borders, a focus on safety and security, and increased funding.

Funding is the biggest stumbling block in the current legislative effort. Nearly everyone agrees that the Administration's proposed six-year \$247 billion funding level for highways and transit is too low. The six-year \$375 billion total funding level (\$300 billion for highways, \$75 billion for transit over the life of the bill) being discussed by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee would require an increase in the federal gas tax, which many believe would be politically problematic. The Senate proposal being discussed falls somewhere in between the two (\$250 billion for highways over six years, no specified amount yet for transit).

Some means to resolve the dramatic differences in funding levels have not yet been found, and Congress approved a short-term extension of TEA-21 to March 1, 2004. MDOT is working closely with Governor Granholm's Washington, D.C. office staff to communicate our needs to Michigan's Congressional delegation. In addition, department leadership, with the help of Michigan's transit agencies and interest groups, has participated in a number of forums in Washington,

D.C., presenting information to Congressional staffers and meeting one-on-one with the Michigan Congressional delegation.

2003 Section 5311 Capital Grant Submitted

The capital grant application, which also includes Intercity Bus funds and the Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP), has been prepared and is in the federal review process. The application includes \$968,228 in federal funds for bus purchases and leases, \$134,789 RTAP and \$1,343,523 for Intercity Bus activities. Flex fund projects are also included in the application.

Thanks to the dedication of the rural task forces, nonurban flex fund projects have increased more than 23 percent over last year resulting in a total of \$2,098,794 in federal funds for facility construction and renovation, as well as equipment and vehicle purchases.

Michigan Department of Transportation

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Multi-Modal Transportation Services

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Passenger Transportation Division

Sharon Edgar, Administrator

Transportation Commission

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Betty Jean Awrey, Vice Chairwoman

Lowell B. Jackson

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Around the State

CATA's Executive Director Wins APTA Award

Sandy Draggoo, Executive Director of the Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA), is the recipient of the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) Outstanding Public Transportation Manager Award for 2003. The award was presented to Ms. Draggoo at the APTA annual conference in Salt Lake City, Utah on Sept. 30, 2003 before an audience of over 3,000 public transportation representatives from across the globe.

General managers from across North America are considered for the honor and a panel of their peers make the selection. The award is presented annually to a general manager for superior contributions to the public transportation field.

Ms. Draggoo has dedicated nearly thirty years of her life to CATA – nineteen as executive director. She held many posts at CATA over the years – secretary to the executive director, personnel manager, interim executive director – and in 1985 she was appointed as the executive director. She became one of the first women in the country to lead a public transportation agency.

Ms. Draggoo served as the president of the Michigan Public Transit Association for three years. In 1997, she was elected as vice-chair of marketing on APTA's executive committee. In partnership with APTA's marketing and communications steering committee, Ms. Draggoo introduced the concept (now called PT²) to enhance the perception of public transportation across the nation. The program emphasizes public transportation's value in bringing mobility, freedom, choice and access to members of the community. She emphasized the importance of each transit system committing to demonstrate these attributes at home – validating the national message.

Thirty years ago, CATA provided 732,600 rides during its first year of operation. Compare that number with over 8.7 million rides in 2002 and you can see how the growth in local public transportation has exploded.



Sandy Draggoo

Just five years ago, CATA gave 4.2 million rides – less than half the new 2002 record. The last four years have been record-breaking years for the authority.

The MDOT and the entire Michigan transit community congratulate Sandy in receiving this prestigious award.

John Griffith Retires

John Griffith, director of Big Rapids Dial-A-Ride, retired June 27. John began working for the city of Big Rapids in 1976. In 1989, he became the director of transportation and at the same time was responsible for both the Dial-A-Ride and the airport. Wanting to do both jobs from one location, John successfully worked with MDOT's Bureau of Aeronautics to secure a transit office at the airport - something unheard of at the time.

John worked with the Ferris State University student government to provide "Safe Ride," which provides safe transportation home for students and others from the local night clubs three nights per week. He also established the Dial-A-Ride's board of directors and helped the board members stay active, keeping them informed and focused on what they were there for – the people. He also was a successful advocate for the local airport and oversaw many improvements to the airport. PTD wishes John many healthy, happy retirement years.

If you need to contact the Big Rapids Dial-A-Ride, you may call Debra Wilkinson at 231/796-6243 or e-mail her at brtransit@alaccess.net.



Gogebic County Transit Joins MPSCS

In May this year, Gogebic County Transit became the first transit agency to join Michigan's Public Safety Communications System (MPSCS), an 800 MHz radio system initially set up for the Michigan State Police (MSP). The new system utilizes state-of-the-art technology and is recognized as one of the world's most advanced two-way radio communications systems. MPSCS is the largest two-way radio system ever built in the United States by Motorola.

The MPSCS belongs to the State of Michigan and all public safety agencies may join. Currently, over 300 federal, state, and local public safety agencies and approximately 10,000 radios are on the system. MPSCS includes fire departments, EMS, municipalities, county road commissions, airports, and now public transit.

Jim Mildren, executive director of Gogebic County Transit, is thrilled to be one of MPSCS's latest users. The transit system purchased the new system mainly to eliminate "dead pockets" within its coverage area, where bus drivers could not communicate with dispatch in Ironwood. The new system corrected that problem and created several communication opportunities. In the past, Gogebic had problems during storms with the transmission tower and telephone. With the MPSCS, Gogebic receives crystal clear reception even from Marquette – 145 miles away – regardless of the weather. Mildren can also dispatch from home or any other location using handheld radios purchased with the system.

The communication system's emergency channels are tied with local area EMS, first response, and public safety. This allows the transit system to more efficiently respond to emergencies. Drivers can talk directly with police, EMS, or other agencies, and in an emergency may call the MSP regional dispatch 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

MPSCS also offers: special talkgroups without distracting office communications; telephone interconnect; private calling from one radio to another; paging; round-the-clock system support; and no cost system upgrades to members. Depending on the size of your agency, joining MPSCS can be cost efficient. For Gogebic County, operating 11 radios using MPSCS costs less than operating its old system. Funding for Gogebic's radio system (approximately \$50,000) was a cooperative

effort between the Gogebic County Road Commission and MDOT using the TEA-21 program.

If your communications system is due for an upgrade, MPSCS is worth exploring. You can obtain further information on MPSCS by calling 517/336-6674 or by visiting the MPSCS Web site at www.mpscs.com.

MAX Transit Offers Informational Video on Bus Service

Macatawa Area Express (MAX) Transit in Holland is offering a free, informational video to individuals, groups, and organizations that would like more information about MAX Transit and riding the local bus service. Taped and produced by Macatawa Area Community Television (MAC-TV), the eight-minute video gives viewers a tour of a MAX bus and provides helpful information about using the bus service.

The segment was originally taped for inclusion in an interview about the MAX bus service for MAC-TV's program, "Holland City Connection." The video also will be used in MAX Transit's educational outreach presentations to community groups, schools and senior groups. MAX Transit is planning to offer a Spanish version of the video later this fall.

"We are extremely grateful to MAC-TV and Steven Niedzielski, vice president of operations, for helping us produce a high quality informational video that will be a valuable tool in our public education efforts," said Linda LeFebre, MAX Transit coordinator.

Other MAX news. MAX kangaroo mascots, "Max" and his little sister, "Maxine," made appearances at children's events during the 2003 Zeeland Pumpkinfest, Sept. 29 through Oct. 3. The mascots gave children free trick-or-treat bags and goodies and handed out MAX bus schedules. MAX Transit also participated in the Pumpkinfest Parade on Oct. 4 in Zeeland.

MAX Transit provides 24-hour reserved ride service to residents in the City of Zeeland, and operates three fixed routes that serve the City of Holland and Holland Township. For more information on MAX Transit, visit the MAX Web site at www.catchamax.org.

FTA Circular on Third Party Contracting Updated

JTA Breaks Ground for New Fueling Station

The groundbreaking ceremony for Jackson Transportation Authority's (JTA) fueling station was held on Oct. 13. The fueling station is Phase 1 of the Stan Deneka Maintenance Facility.



Left to right: David Ganka, Ganka Construction; Senator Nick Smith; Cameron McCollum, JTA general manager; and Oliver Lindsay, JTA administrative director.

The fueling station is being built for a number of reasons. The JTA fleet size has increased and environmental updating of fuel tanks is required. Also, the expanding of fueling and washing of fleet vehicles from other

non-profit entities can be accommodated upon completion of this project. The station will consist of six pumps (four diesel and two gasoline).

The \$615,000 project was aided by Senator Nick Smith's efforts in procuring \$492,000 in federal funds. The remaining amount (\$123,000) came from the state of Michigan. If everything goes as planned, the project should be completed by Dec. 1, 2003.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) updated its circular on third party contracting requirements. The updated circular is a single, consolidated reference document that incorporates guidance contained in a variety of *Dear Colleague* letters issued since the circular was last issued in 1996. In a *Dear Colleague* letter dated June 20, 2003, FTA Administrator Jennifer L. Dorn stated that in updating the circular, FTA also took a look at its procurement policy and the common grant rule in an effort to identify a common-sense approach to reconciling any real or perceived conflicts in those two documents.

One important change to the circular is the introduction of an extensive interpretive commentary that tracks the circular, paragraph by paragraph, and explains exactly what FTA intends the policy to mean. The commentary, which has initially been incorporated as footnotes to the circular, is meant to foster a unified, common sense understanding of these rules. This commentary will ultimately be incorporated in FTA's Best Practices Procurement Manual, where it can be updated to reflect new issues and contracting strategies.

The updated circular is just one of many steps that FTA continues to take as part of its commitment to help grantees and other stakeholders deliver the highest value for America's investment in public transportation. You may view the updated circular at www.fta.dot.gov/office/public/2003/c0309.html.

Michigan Transit Training Network News

Theme Selected for 2003 MTC "TEAM Transit - Transportation for Everyone Across Michigan"

Make your plans to join us for the Michigan Transit Conference (MTC), Oct. 28-29, 2003, at the Amway Grand Hotel, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Registration and vendor exhibits open at 8 a.m. on Oct. 28, and at 9:30 a.m. the conference begins.

Guest speakers and their topics include: MDOT's Director Gloria Jeff will discuss Team MDOT and transit's role in the overall transportation system; Jay Laffoon will speak on building an unbeatable team; and Dr. Thomas DeCoster will address the challenges in a transit environment of rapid change, pressure for increased productivity, and the teamwork needed to fulfill the expectations of the customers and policymakers. Mr. Laffoon and Dr. DeCoster will also conduct break-out sessions at the conference.

Registration information was mailed in August. If you did not get a registration form or if you have any questions regarding this event, please contact Bonnie Jay, MTC Team Leader, at 517/373-7645, e-mail jayb@michigan.gov.

Drug and Alcohol Training Dates Set

The Passenger Transportation Division (PTD) and the Michigan Transit Training Network present drug and alcohol training for Michigan's transit agencies. The trainer is Robbie Sarles from RLS and Associates in Dayton, Ohio. Ms. Sarles has over 22 years of experience in transit operations, management and consulting and her company was instrumental in the development of the FTA Implementation Guidelines, FTA Best Practices manual, and is the author of the FTA Drug and Alcohol Regulation Update newsletter.

The first drug and alcohol training session was held in October in Okemos and was a huge success. On a scale of 1-5 (5 being the best), the attendees rated this training session a 4.92 overall. Here are just a few of the comments made by attendees at the session: "This was excellent. Very eye opening. Also presenter was probably one of the best I have had in the 30 years I've been getting training. A very good choice." "It was good to have a person doing the training that knew transit. Made me think."

Don't miss your chance to be a part of this excellent training! Remaining dates and locations are as follows: Dec. 2-4, 2003 at the Landmark Inn, Marquette; and May 19-21, 2004 at the Comfort Suites Lakeside, Houghton Lake.

All training sessions will include these modules: substance abuse management (12 hours); prescription and over-the-counter medication (2 hours); post-accident drug and alcohol testing (2 hours); and reasonable suspicion train-the-trainer workshop (8 hours). You may sign up to attend the entire three-day session, or pick and choose which modules you need to attend. Keep in mind that each day will build upon the previous day's training, and we'd like to keep the disruption caused by people entering or leaving the training session at a minimum.

A registration form was included in the announcement letter dated August 14, 2003. You can also download the registration form in a fillable .pdf (Adobe) format from the following web site: www.mdot.state.mi.us/ptd/files/DATraining.pdf. If you have any questions regarding the training, contact Kathy Urda at 517/335-2575, e-mail: urdak@michigan.gov.

Sunny Skies Greet the 2003 Transit Vehicle & Equipment Seminar

Where can you learn about the maintenance of your transit buses? At the annual Transit Vehicle and Equipment Seminar, of course. This year the seminar was held June 11-13 at the DNR MacMullan Conference Center at Higgins Lake.

Keynote speaker this year was Halsey King who travels the United States and the world teaching vehicle maintenance personnel about the proper care and maintenance of transit vehicles. This is the second year Halsey has participated in the seminar and he is always well received by the seminar participants.

The vendor show keeps getting bigger. This year over 84 representatives from 50 companies displayed products at the vendor show. Transit agency personnel viewed all types of buses and bus components under sunny – but windy – skies.

A wide variety of workshops were available for the 120 registered transit agency personnel. Thirty-four mechanics from 29 transit agencies earned their Air Conditioning Section 609 certification. Special thanks to Myron Lakes and the Mobile Air Conditioning Society for offering this certification at the seminar, and to all of our other instructors for participating this year.

Dates for next year's Transit Vehicle and Equipment Seminar are June 23-25, 2004. If you have a suggestion for a workshop or a certification for next year's seminar, please contact Jill Adams at 517/373-2051 (e-mail: adamsji@michigan.gov). See you next year!

The *Passenger TransActions* is a quarterly news bulletin produced by the Michigan Department of Transportation, Passenger Transportation Division for the public transit providers in Michigan. Suggestions or comments may be sent to Jill Adams, MDOT/Passenger Transportation Division, P.O. Box 30050, Lansing, Michigan 48909, or call 517/373-2051 (e-mail: adamsji@michigan.gov). The *Passenger TransActions* is also available online at www.michigan.gov/mdotptd - latest issue under Publications. Alternative formats such as large print, braille, or audio-tape are available upon request by calling Stu Lindsay 517/335-2598 (e-mail: lindsays@michigan.gov). Total quarterly cost to print 500 copies: \$72.75 (\$0.15 per copy).

2003 Michigan Small Bus Roadeo Rides Off Into the Sunset

Yee-haa! The 2003 Michigan Small Bus Roadeo was held on July 16, 2003 in Midland. Sixty-three drivers from 27 transit agencies around the state did their best to tame “Bully.”

First place individual honors went to Dave Putman of Roscommon Mini Bus System; second place went to Mark Kauffman, also of Roscommon Mini Bus System; and third place went to Roberta Keast of Gladwin City/County Transit. Dave, Mark, and Roberta are now eligible to compete in the Community Transportation Association of America’s (CTAA) National Roadeo in Seattle, Washington, June 12-13, 2004.



The first place team honors went to Roscommon Mini Bus System’s team of Dave Putman, Mark Griffith, and Mark Kauffman. The second place team honors went to Brenda Dion, Clark Wentz, and Roberta Keast of Gladwin City/County Transit. The third place team honors went to Doc Briseno, Mike Beech, and Steve Soliz of Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA).

For the “Rookie Award,” the lucky winner was Dale Strauer of Iosco Transit Corporation. Dale had the highest overall score of all 26 registered rookies.

A special thanks to the Michigan Public Transit Association (MPTA) for co-sponsoring the Roadeo which is held to show appreciation to all transit drivers for the work they do everyday and to encourage the professional operation of Michigan’s transit buses. Also, thanks to all of the judges from the police and sheriff’s departments from the Midland area and all of the PTD volunteers!

Thanks to everyone for making the 2003 Roadeo a success. See you again next year, partners!



Rob Abent (left), Multi-Modal Transportation Services Bureau director, presents First Place Individual Winner Dave Putman of Roscommon Mini Bus System with a check and trophy.



Rob (left) presents the First Place Team from Roscommon Mini Bus System with a check and trophy. Team members include: (left to right): Mark Griffith, Mark Kauffman, and Dave Putman.

Training Network Very Active During August and September

PTD and the Michigan Transit Training Network offered several late summer training opportunities. Passenger Service and Safety Train-the-Trainer, a Basic Train-the-Trainer, and Financial Management for Transit training were all offered during August and September.

Passenger Service and Safety Train-the-Trainer

Grayling, Kalamazoo, and Midland were the locations for three Passenger Service and Safety (PASS) train-the-trainer sessions. Trainer Jim Holman from New Jersey Transit certified 45 Michigan transit trainers to deliver the PASS program to Michigan transit providers.

Comments from participants included: "Great training. Can't wait to share this with others." "Very informative! Lots of fun." "It was a great training session with tons of information which will help keep both drivers and passengers safe." Special thanks to Crawford County Transportation Authority, Kalamazoo Metro Transit System, City of Midland Dial-a-Ride, and Midland County Connection for providing facilities, equipment, and/or buses for the training.

The PASS program, sponsored by the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA), provides instruction in stress management, the Americans with Disabilities Act, communication, disability awareness and sensitivity, passenger assistance techniques, wheelchair securement and lift operation, emergency management and bus evacuations, and bloodborne pathogens.

Basic Train-the-Trainer

Twenty-one participants attended the Basic Train-the-Trainer session held in September in Midland. Michael Noel from Lazaro & Noel was the presenter. This training was geared to new trainers or seasoned trainers who wanted to brush up on their training skills. Comments from the participants included: "I've come away with a lot of ideas." "I found this to be most interesting and valuable to my future as a trainer." This training was the best I've ever attended." Thanks to the City of Midland for finding us a great facility for this training.

Financial Management Training

The Financial Management for Transit training was held in September in Houghton Lake. Topics covered at the training included: the Local Public Transit Revenue and Expense Manual, Public Transportation Management System (PTMS), cost allocations, budgets, reconciliations, and audits.

There were 46 people at the training. The overall comments on the training were positive. For more information on the Financial Management for Transit training, contact Sandy Lovell at 517/335-2525, e-mail: lovells@michigan.gov.

For more information on trainings provided by the Michigan Transit Training Network, please contact Jill Adams at 517/373-2051, e-mail adamsji@michigan.gov.

Vehicle News

EIDorado National Issues Technical Bulletin

EIDorado National issued a technical bulletin for both small cutaways and medium duty buses. The bulletin, number 030620, dated June 20, 2003, was issued to instruct transit agencies to review the wheel chair tie down "L-track" for corrosion or deterioration where it is secured to the floor. Review of the underside of the track is necessary to determine if there is any corrosion or deterioration. Should the track need replacing, parts and labor (\$50 maximum) will be supplied by EIDorado National through Hoekstra Transportation, Inc.

Any questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Randy Trimm at Hoekstra Transportation, Inc. (800/444-4104) or Manny Stock at MDOT (517/373-7098, e-mail: stockm@michigan.gov).

Michigan Transit Community Loses a Friend

Jerome Jonson, Vehicle Service Coordinator for the Michigan Department of Transportation, passed away on October 12, 2003 after a long and courageous battle with cancer.



Jerome with wife Kathy at the 2003 Transit Vehicle and Equipment Seminar.

Jerome worked for MDOT for over 15 years writing vehicle specifications and providing technical assistance in vehicle procurement and maintenance.

Prior to coming to work for MDOT, Jerome was in the automotive repair business and taught automotive repair at Belleville High School in Belleville, Michigan.

MDOT and the Michigan transit community were very fortunate to have such a dedicated and talented person. Jerome's integrity and the respect that he received from both his coworkers and the transit industry were only surpassed by his unique and wonderful sense of humor.

Jerome lived a life that was focused on running the race well and leaving a legacy. In the process, he impacted everyone who knew him. When that day comes for each of us, may we be able to say that our life made this kind of difference!

Jerome's family has requested that memorial contributions be made to Heartland Hospice, 700 W. Ash, Mason, MI 48854 or Maranatha Baptist Church, 2300 N. Waverly, Lansing, MI 48906.



"Providing the highest quality transportation services for economic benefit and improved quality of life."

Dates to Remember



PTD Michigan Transit Conference
Oct. 28-29, 2003: Grand Rapids
Bonnie Jay 517/373-7645

National Association for Pupil Transportation
Annual Conference
Nov. 9-13, 2003: Salt Lake City, UT
800/989-6278

PTD Training/Education Advisory Team Meeting
Nov. 12, 2003: Lansing
Jill Adams 517/373-2051

PTD Specialized Services Coordination Team
Nov. 14, 2003: Lansing
Stu Lindsay 517/335-2598

PTD Drug and Alcohol Training
Dec. 2-4, 2003: Marquette
Kathy Urda 517/335-2575

MDOT Transportation Summit
Dec. 3-4, 2003: Lansing
Matt DeLong 517/373-2200

American Public Transportation Association
Legislative Conference
March 7-10, 2004: Washington, DC
202/496-4800

PTD Drug and Alcohol Training
May 19-21, 2004: Houghton Lake
Kathy Urda 517/335-2575

PTD Michigan Transit Vehicle and Equipment
Seminar
June 23-25, 2004: Higgins Lake
Jill Adams 517/373-2051

International Truck and Bus Meeting and Exhibition
Sept. 27-29, 2004: Chattanooga, TN
Society of Automotive Engineers 877/606-7323