

Passenger Trans-Actions

Spring 1998

Michigan Department of Transportation • UPTAN • Passenger Transportation Division • "We Move People"
"Providing Michigan citizens with the best passenger transportation services through quality customer assistance."

AROUND THE STATE



Kalamazoo Metro-New Transit Service

On January 2, 1998, Kalamazoo Metro started a new transit service on the Western Michigan Campus. The new service consists of two new routes serving the campus and extended hours on two existing routes. These have been very successful. For the month of January, ridership was up 31.6 percent for Metro Service compared to ridership for January 1997. The majority of the increase is attributed to the new service. Plans are underway to continue the service for this coming fall and to increase the hours of operation from 7 pm to 10 pm weekdays systemwide, starting in August of this year. Congratulations to Bill Schomisch and the fine staff at Kalamazoo Metro Transit System !!

Ride Brokering Service

Last fall, Berrien County was declared a Project Zero site. In preparation to take on the challenge, the County FIA established a transportation committee to develop a plan to develop special transportation assistance for people seeking employment. A plan was developed to form a ride brokering service. The brokering service was developed by Transportation Management, Inc. of St. Joseph, MI. All calls for people needing transportation to work are sent to the broker who then refers the trips to the five service providers operating within the county. The service began April 6 with five calls. By April 30, the brokering service was referring 30 calls daily to the service providers. Hats off to the parties involved. They are: Berrien County, Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority, Niles DART, Buchanan DART and Grayling Williams Service. Coordinating the service for the county is Tom Sinn of TMI. The project is being paid for with a joint grant funded by the Berrien County FIA, the Berrien County Work Development Board and MDOT. Best wishes to all for continued success !!

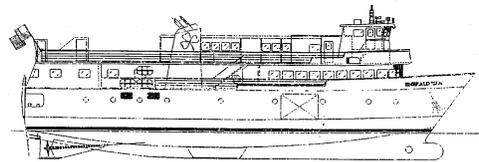
Dedication of Emerald Isle

The Beaver Island Transportation Authority set **Saturday, May 23, 1998**, for the dedication of their new ferry vessel, the EMERALD ISLE. This new \$3.6 million vessel was designed by Timothy Graul, Marine Design of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, and constructed by Washburn and Doughty Associates, Inc., of Booth Bay, Maine.

The Emerald Isle is 130 feet long, has a 39 foot beam, tow 1500 horsepower engines, and a cruising speed of approximately 14.5 knots. This vessel will accommodate up to 300 passengers, 20 vehicles, and one large truck. The Emerald Isle carries up to 8800 gallons of fuel and 500 gallons of fresh water. The main inside cabin includes restrooms, seating for 115, 12 table areas, and vending machines for the passengers. The upper passenger deck provides 71 open air "covered" passenger seats and 90 uncovered seats for passengers. This vessel is handicapper accessible (including the rest rooms).

The Emerald Isle officially began providing ferry services between the City of Charlevoix and St James Bay on Beaver Island in April 1998. This new vessel has reduced the 2 ½ hours one-way to just under two hours. The Beaver Island Transportation Authority contracts with the Beaver Island Boat Company to operate the vessel and provide the ferry services.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BEAVER ISLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY ON THE DEDICATION OF THE "EMERALD ISLE".



U.P. Intercity Bus Update

Recently, Superior Delivery and Transportation Inc. added a daytime route providing round-trip service between Marquette and Green Bay, Wisconsin. Superior also extended the west route from St. Ignace to Sault Ste. Marie.

Superior is actively marketing all five U.P. intercity bus routes. As a result of a recent media campaign, Superior anticipates an increase in ridership on the east and west routes and the Marquette to Green Bay, Wisconsin route. Superior is optimistic that intercity bus ridership on all five routes will continue to increase.



REGIONAL SERVICES

U.P. Begins Regional Services January 1998.....This five-county Regional Project includes coordinated regional transportation services for access to jobs, educational opportunities, and medical services for residents in Marquette, Alger, Delta, Dickinson and Schoolcraft counties. The Marquette County Transit Authority, ALTRAN, Delta Area Transit Authority, Schoolcraft County Transit are the transportation providers. This service is provided with four lift and radio equipped buses.

Northwest Michigan Begins Regional Services March 1998.... This six-county project includes coordinated regional transportation services for access to jobs, educational opportunities, and medical services for residents in Charlevoix, Leelanau, Grand Traverse, Antrim, Benzie, and Kalkaska Counties. Antrim County Transit, Charlevoix County Transit, Bay Area Transportation Authority, Benzie Specialized Services, and the Kalkaska Public Transit Authority provides the transportation services. This regional service is provided with three buses and three vans that are lift and radio equipped.

New DeWitt Bus Service . . .Beginning May 11, 1998, Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA), in partnership with MDOT and Clinton County's transportation system called Community Resource Volunteers (CRV), will begin to provide the DeWitt area with new small (lift equipped) bus service for the general public. The new service will improve transportation alternatives for this growing area and enhance CRV's ability to better serve the out-county area. Two components of the new service: DeWitt Redi-Ride and DeWitt Connector. Customers wishing to try the new service should call CATA Rural Service at (517) 394-4178 or 1-800-322-1390 at least 30 minutes before their desired departure time.

NATIONAL NEWS

FEDERAL REAUTHORIZATION STATUS - IT PASSED!

The U. S. Congress has passed the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (ISTEA reauthorization). In this act, which in part authorizes the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) programs through fiscal year 2003, there is funding in the amount of \$18 billion for urbanized area formula (section 5307), \$1.1 billion for formula grants for nonurbanized areas (section 5311), and \$456 million for individuals with disabilities and elderly (section 5310). Also, in the act is funding for bus and bus related programs (section 5309) in the amount of \$3.5 billion. Michigan expects to receive a total of \$23.5 million for buses in FY 1999 and FY 2000 from section 5309.

The President is expected to sign the act soon.

U. S. DEPT. OF LABOR Welfare to Work Grant Program

The Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration has announced its second round of welfare-to-work (WtW) competitive grants. The April 15 *Federal Register* announcement provides the information and forms needed to apply. The deadline for applications is **July 14, 1998**. Grant applications, along with the signed certification(s) from the Workforce Development Boards, must be submitted to the Michigan Jobs Commission (MJC) by **June 17, 1998**. The MJC plans to return the application along with needed certifications and a letter of support to grant applicants by July 3, 1998.

The WtW program is intended to assist state and local agencies in providing assistance to hard-to-employ recipients of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families into lasting employment. This round of grants totals \$184 million. As with the first round of grants, 70 percent of the grant money will be awarded for projects serving cities with a high concentration of poverty. Thirty percent will go toward projects serving rural areas. The Department of Labor expects that grant recipients each will receive between \$1 million and \$5 million. Eligible applicants for the competitive grants include PICs (private industry councils), state and local governments and other community-based organizations. For both the formula and competitive grants, the program's target population includes individuals with long-term welfare dependence, recent recipients of TANF assistance and persons facing TANF termination.

While there is no requirement that funds be spent on transportation, transportation services are an allowable expense...but only when these services are not otherwise available to program participants. For more information, you can visit DOL's welfare-to-work site <http://wtw.doleta.gov>. Questions concerning these grant monies can be faxed to Mamie Williams at (202) 219-8739 or e-mailed to disgsa@doleta.gov. **Phone calls are not accepted.**

National Governor's Association (NGA) Grant

UPTRAN was awarded a NGA grant, which is being used to improve our coordination efforts regarding welfare reform. Four statewide seminars were held during the month of March to enable local Michigan Works! Agencies, transit agencies, Community Action Agencies, Family Independence Agency representatives, UPTRAN staff, and other interested parties to gather for an information exchange. Nearly 400 people attended these seminars. Input obtained by seminar participants has been invaluable in our planning activities regarding our transportation to work effort.

Another aspect of the NGA grant has been to evaluate the transportation component of the first year of Project Zero. Researchers from the University of Michigan have been developing a survey instrument to collect data regarding transportation services provided at the Project Zero sites from transportation providers, caseworkers, clients, and employers regarding. This information will be used to identify successes and failures as they relate to welfare recipients ability to gain and retain employment.

INTERCITY BUS - ACCESSIBLE IN 2000

RULES from U.S.DOT

On March 25, the Dept. of Transportation (DOT) and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) issued proposed rules requiring over-the-road buses to be fully accessible to passengers with disabilities. According to this proposal, wheelchair lifts and securement locations would be installed on a phased-in schedule. All new buses obtained for fixed-route service – including regularly scheduled intercity, regional, and local service – will have to be accessible beginning in 2000.

Fixed-route carriers with \$5 million or more in annual revenue would have to make sure that half of their buses were accessible by 2006 and that all were accessible by 2012. Until all buses become accessible, carriers must comply with the interim services requirement found in Section 37.169 of the September 6, 1991 ADA final rules which include a 48-hour advance notice request. However, used buses would not have to be made accessible, and no one would have to retrofit existing buses. Charter and tour companies, unless typically schedule their service well in advance, also are covered by the proposed rule. By 2002, accessible buses would have to make up at least 10 percent of their fleets. By the same deadline, all charter and tour companies would have to make accessible bus service available on 48 hours' advance notice.

Comments on this proposal are due May 26, 1998. For more information, contact Robert Ashby, the DOT's Deputy Assistant General Council for Regulation and Enforcement, at (202) 366-9306. Questions, call Rose Ann Ward (517) 335-2598 or e-mail: wardr@mdot.state.mi.us.



FY 1998 LARGE BUS REBUILDING

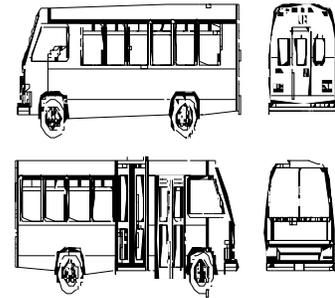
The Passenger Transportation Division recently solicited applications for the FY 1998 Large Bus Rebuilding Program. This year, \$2.5 million in State Bus Capital funds was available to match local and federal funds for the mid-life or end-life rebuilding of large heavy-duty and medium heavy-duty buses for urban transit agencies. The state match will be 30 percent of the total rebuilding costs.

Based upon guidelines, it was the intent that the extended service life of a bus would be extended by either one year for every \$20,000 or by two miles for every \$1.00 spent

Some of the advantages to mid-life or end-life rebuilding of buses are as follows:

1. Will extend the useful life of existing buses.
2. Drivers and mechanics are familiar with existing buses in the fleet, therefore, will not requiring retraining .
3. Continued use of existing parts, special tools, and equipment.
4. Buses should be more reliable, especially after mid-life rebuilds.
5. Buses can be rebuilt much faster and returned to service rather than the purchase of new buses.
6. Keep fleet standardized.
7. This is an opportunity to bring existing buses into compliance with ADA and/or Clean Air Requirements.

Division review of the applications received will be completed shortly. Transit agencies approved for rebuilding funds will be notified and contracts executed this summer.



RICON CORPORATION PURCHASES REB LIFT

Ricon Corporation, a leading manufacturer of wheelchair lifts and low-floor minivans, has announced the acquisition of certain assets of Ohio based REB Manufacturing. Included in the acquisition are many parts for existing REB lifts. Ricon plans to support all existing REB lifts as an accommodation to past REB lift customers until parts are exhausted. Plans for a complete redesign of the lifts, anticipating some parts in the new lift to be retrofitted to older lifts. Please direct any service questions regarding current REB lifts you have installed in your vehicles to Ricon Corporation's Mr. Tom Loduha, National Service Manager at (818) 899-7588.



YEAR 2000

Year 2000 computer problem poses a significant threat to all sectors of business and government worldwide. The problem is pervasive and relentless. It affects not only computer mainframe operations, but also personal computers, computer and telecommunications networks and mechanical equipment that contains embedded technology including clocks, gasoline pumps, elevators, heating and cooling systems, fire alarm and suppression systems. The deadline cannot be extended! **ARE YOU IN COMPLIANCE.** For further information, contact Kathy Urda at 517-335-2575 or E-mail: urdak@mdot.state.mi.us

PTMS Update

If you have any comments or questions regarding the PTMS, please call Kathy Urda at (517) 335-2575 or e-mail her at urdak@mdot.state.mi.us.

Approximately 35 transit agencies submitted their 1999 Annual Applications through the PTMS, and approximately 50 transit agencies are currently submitting their Operating Assistance Reports (OAR's) through the PTMS.

We still have several "bugs" to work out of the PTMS - with each new "release" of the program we make progress in that area. Recently we found a problem that prevents an urban transit agency from saving their OAR pages more than once (no changes are allowed). This has prevented most of the urban agencies from submitting OAR's through the PTMS. We are currently working on the problem and will provide a new release with a fix as soon as possible.

Any important information, updates or fixes regarding the PTMS (excluding new releases) are generally distributed through e-mail to the transit agencies. We are still having trouble getting all of the agencies to read their e-mail, but usage has increased tremendously in the last six months. All new releases are sent out on CD-Rom's to the transit agencies (along with detailed installation instructions).

A contract for technical support (of PTMS) at the transit agencies is being pursued. When this contract is obtained we should be able to provide assistance to those transit agencies who are not currently able to utilize the PTMS.

We (at MDOT) are working "behind the scenes" to make the financial information submitted by transit agencies more easily understandable and usable, and, hopefully, this will eliminate some of the "nagging" bugs we have with the OAR's right now. We are starting work on a new report module for the PTMS that will allow the transit agencies to get information out of the PTMS in a presentable format. Also, we will be improving the annual application process by the end of this fiscal year so every transit agency with access to the PTMS will have the ability to submit their annual application for 2000 using the PTMS.

new logo



CHANGE IS GOOD

The Department has a new logo. Can you remember what the old one looked like? The new concepts were requested of our Graphics Design Unit by the Office of Communications and submitted on the web page for employee comments and votes. It can be viewed in glorious color on MDOT's web site which is:

<http://www.mdot.state.mi.us/>

old logo



Coming soon to MDOT's Home Page will be UPTRAN's Page, including Passenger Transportation Division's Page. Scheduled to roll out sometime in June 1998. Great care has gone into developing web pages that get you to where you want to be in 3 to 4 mouse clicks. However, this is a living, breathing document which will be updated early and often to aid our customers in meeting their information needs. Contact Gus Lluberes at (517) 373-8820 or e-mail him at lluberesg@mdot.state.mi.us.

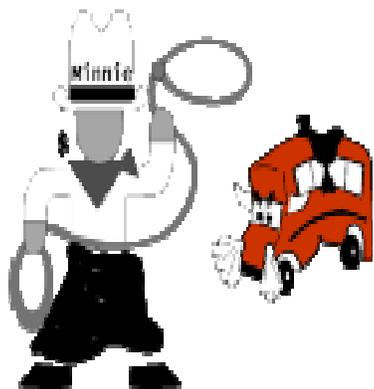
MDOT ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

Director James R. DeSana recently announced a number of organizational changes as part of MDOT's efforts to enhance the delivery of services to our customers and make the administration of the Department more efficient and effective.

Gregory J. Rosine has been appointed by Governor Engler to the newly created position of Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). He came from the House Fiscal Agency where he was associate director. Rosine oversees the Bureau of Finance and Administration, the Bureau of Aeronautics, the Bureau of Urban and Public Transportation (UPTRAN), the Office of Human Resources, the Office of Quality and Re-engineering, the Office of Information Management, and the Office of Equal Opportunity.

C. Thomas Maki, formerly Deputy Director of Highway Operations, has been named Chief Operations Officer (COO) for the Department. In this position, Maki is responsible for the Bureau of Highway Technical Services, the Bureau of Transportation Planning, and for supervision of MDOT's seven Region Engineers.





MICHIGAN SMALL BUS ROADEO

HOWDEEEEEEEEEEE - This is Minnie Opal coming your way to remind you that the Michigan Small Bus Roadeo is going to held on July 29, 1998, at the Holiday Inn South in Lansing. Minnie Opal is so excited about this year's Roadeo—bet you didn't know that the Michigan Public Transit Association increased the prize money for the top three individual drivers to \$200 for first, \$150 for second, and \$100 for third (boy what a chunk of change). Not only that but the night before the Roadeo (July 28), an evening activity to a Lansing Lugnuts game (minor league baseball team who just happened to win the championship last year) is being planned. Hoekstra Truck and Equipment Company and Eldorado National will be treating everyone to dinner at the game—ain't that nice. Minnie says the registration information will be in the mail by the end of May. So come on and get your driver or drivers out to the Roadeo for the team and individual competitions. We're gonna need lotsa' bus drivers to help make the 1998 Small Bus Roadeo a great success. Next year the national competition will be held on May 23-28 in New Orleans. Minnie Opal wants to see all transit systems enter a driver in the Roadeo this year or else she may have to come and round up your driver herself.



1998 TRANSIT VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT SEMINAR

The 1998 Transit Vehicle and Equipment Seminar will be held on June 17, 18, and 19 at the DNR Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center on Higgins Lake. The seminar will commence with lunch on Wednesday, June 17, 1998, and will conclude with an awards ceremony and lunch on Friday, June 19, 1998.

This year the workshop format has been expanded. A total of nine workshops will be offered. Attendance is required at six workshops to receive a certificate. As in the past, the seminar will include a "Transit Vehicle & Equipment Show" for manufacturers and vendors to display their products.

If you have questions, please contact Manfred Stock at (517) 335-2475. E-mail: stockm@mdot.state.mi.us.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

1999 PTD ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 13-15, 1998

HOLIDAY INN

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

BIG RAPIDS, MI

New, improved venue:

UPTRAN's 25th Anniversary celebration

more breakout sessions

more user-specific breakout sessions

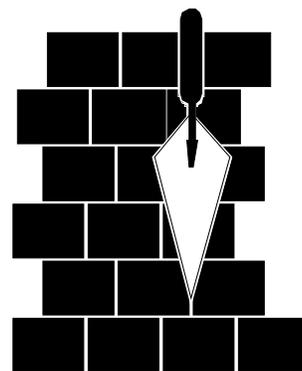
expanded vendor list

interesting topics

great speakers

great evening activities

THERE IS STILL TIME FOR AGENCY INPUT. CONTACT LINDA TUTTLE AT 517 373-7645 OR E-MAIL tuttle@mdot.state.mi.us



25 Years

Building on the Successes!

PTD Staff Coming and Going

Welcome to Forest Kraus into the Statewide Coordination Unit, PTD. His area of responsibility is Intercity Bus and Facility Program and Regional Programs. Forest comes to us from the Michigan Department of Community Health, WIC Division. He has been with state government for over 20 years. He is an MSU graduate and fan. Forest can be reached at (517) 335-2572 or e-mail: krausf2@mdot.state.mi.us.

And it is SO LONG, not goodbye, to Marilyn Clark who has been with state government beyond the silver anniversary with UPTRAN. She took advantage of the extension to the early out program of 1997 and will be leaving the division on June 1. Her last and most challenging assignment was monitoring the division's 600+ contracts. Marilyn has worked very hard to keep the paperwork moving to get those contracts executed in a timely manner. She was the anchor to many special assignments in the division. i.e., Annual Meeting, Roadeo, Maintenance Seminar, Accounting Training. Join us in wishing her well in this new chapter. She will be missed but not forgotten.

Linda Williams - Waiting in the wings to take over Marilyn Clark's job is Linda Williams whom we were able to hire two weeks before Marilyn retired. With Linda's experience as a co-developer of the department's contract process and tracking system, and her entire two weeks under Marilyn's tutelage, could success be far behind? Find her at (517) 335-2525 or williamsl@mdot.state.mi.us.

Gail Watson - Hired in May into a Civil Service position, Gail had actually been working in the division for a few months as a temp worker from Kelley, enabling grant contract payments to be made. She did the job so well that hiring Ms. Watson for the vacancy was elementary. Gail's number is (517) 241-1893 or watsong2@mdot.state.mi.us.

Goodbye, but we can still see them often, to Connie Hanrahan and Jeanette Bruce who job-shared a budget analyst position in Passenger Administration Unit, PTD, responsible for maintaining and controlling all state and federal bus program budgets and account balances. As liaison to Project MAIN, they were responsible for migrating the division to computer-based transactions processing which included setting up contracts and contract changes as purchase orders. They accepted a position in UPTRAN's Administration Section as Contract Administrators, and keeping them in the UPTRAN family is the good news.



PTD CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 17-19, 1998 Transit Vehicle and Equipment Seminar, RAC, Higgins Lake

July 29, 1998 Small Bus Roadeo, Holiday Inn South, Lansing

August 23-25, 1998 MPTA Annual Training Conference & Trade Show, Crystal Mt. Resort, Thompsonville

October 13-15, 1998 PTD Annual Meeting, Holiday Inn, Big Rapids

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Center for Transportation Education and Development

Schedule of Courses

Passenger Assistance Training to Proficiency	June 22-24, 1998
Passenger Assistance Train-the-Trainer: Designing In-House System Standards	June 25-26, 1998
Managing and Planning Paratransit Operations	July 13-17, 1998
Transit Management for Fixed-Route Service	August 17-21, 1998
Native American Transit Systems: Effectively Connecting Our People	September 14-15, 1998
Coordination Strategies: Models of Excellence	October 5-6, 1998
Designing Travel Training for Transit Agencies	October 12-14, 1998
Establishing Non-Emergency Ambulance Service	TBA

For more information, please call Wyatt Osato at (414) 227-3332.

THE STATE INFRASTRUCTURE BANK PROGRAM

Once again, the Michigan Department of Transportation is on the cutting edge when it comes to being a leader in meeting transportation needs. The Department has established a State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) Program to provide low-cost loans and credit enhancement for publicly-owned transportation infrastructure projects.

The SIB is a multi modal program which may be used to fund highway, transit, rail, air, port, and intermodal projects. The program may fund as much as 90 percent of a project costing up to \$2 million at a current interest rate of just 4 percent. In addition, federal funds may be used to repay SIB loans.

The application and guidelines explaining eligibility requirements, repayment terms, etc. are attached. *Or may be found on MDOT Home Page - www.mdot.state.mi.us under What's New or Programs and Projects.*



James R. DeSana, Director
Michigan Department of Transportation

VEHICLE PROCUREMENT PACKET

Shortly, a copy of our new "Vehicle Procurement Packet" will be available to all transit agencies. Each packet provides transit agencies with information regarding one of several available vehicle contracts offered via the State of Michigan's Extended Purchasing Program.

MDOT has significantly changed its vehicle procurement process to provide transit agencies with greater flexibility and a more active role in meeting their vehicle needs. The packet will provide information for purchase of vehicles from existing State of Michigan vehicle contracts or may assist transit agencies with the development of their own local vehicle contracts.

In addition to the printed version, the Vehicle Procurement Packet will be made available on the Internet starting in June. The Internet version will be updated as new vehicle contracts are established.

If you should have any questions regarding the vehicle procurement process, please contact Jerome Jonson at (517) 335-2568. E-mail: jonsonj@mdot.state.mi.us.



Contract Payments

Well, as most of you know, invoices have come to PTD and seem to have disappeared into a black hole. The truth is that Michigan Department of Management and Budget has changed the way we pay contracts. Since October 1, 1997, PTD must create computerized purchase orders for all our contracts. It has taken quite a while to get the process established and get purchase orders created against contracts in order for invoices to be paid.

We are working to process invoices as quickly as they are received, but sometimes that just can't happen. Several examples are: if the contract needs a budget adjustment, the purchase order cannot be created until the adjustment is executed; if an amendment is needed to a contract, the purchase order cannot be created; also, some of our existing contracts are so large, with so many payments, it takes a long time to get them ready for a purchase order.

We would like to apologize to those of you who have been waiting and promise that we are working as fast as we can, under current constraints on hiring, and finding ways to streamline the process.

Passenger Trans-Actions & The INTERCHANGE are quarterly news bulletins produced by the Michigan Department of Transportation, Passenger Transportation Division for the public transit providers in Michigan. Suggestions or comments may be sent to Linda Tuttle, M•DOT/Passenger Transportation Division, P. O. Box 30050, Lansing, Michigan 48909 or call (517) 373-7645. Alternative formats such as large print, braille, or audio-tape are available upon request by calling Rose Ann Ward, (517) 335-2598. Number of copies 500, total cost \$ 101.85, cost per copy \$.20



EVENT '98

Mark your calendars now to attend EVENT '98, a statewide disability conference, on October 27 and 28, 1998 in Lansing. The Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (MDRC), the EVENT's lead planning agency, is currently hosting a series of Regional Disability Congresses throughout the state to help shape the issues that will form the EVENT's Action Days.

Past years' EVENTS have highlighted issues such as employment, health care, housing and transportation. During last year's EVENT, participants from Cheboygan County formed an action team and met with Phil Kazmierski, Deputy Director, UPTRAN to discuss transportation problems facing people with disabilities in their county. As a result, regional transportation for that area is currently being explored. In addition to this year's action issues, other activities will include exhibits and a showcase of leading edge assistive technology.

Transportation providers may want to take advantage of discounts for early registration (see enclosed form). For additional information on EVENT '98, call MDRC at 1-800-760-4600 or (517) 333-2477, and (517) 333-2677 (fax).

The focus of the INTERCHANGE is to establish a forum for information-sharing among groups and provide information regarding programs and activities that affect seniors and persons with disabilities. If you wish to share information with others through this bulletin, or would like to see specific issues addressed, please write or call Rose Ann Ward, UPTRAN, P.O. Box 30050, Lansing, MI 48909, (517) 335-2598.