

Passenger Trans-Actions

Michigan Department of Transportation • UPTRAN • Passenger Transportation Division • “We Move People”

“Providing Michigan citizens with the best passenger transportation services through quality customer assistance”

FY 2000 Comprehensive Transportation Fund Budget

The FY 2000 Comprehensive Transportation Fund (CTF) budget totals \$225,952,000, a decrease from the previous year of \$3,568,900 or 1.5% and a decrease from FY 1998 of \$17,933,600 or 7.4%. The primary reason for the decrease in appropriated funds is due to the use of one time funding which included the utilization of the unreserved balances in FY 1998 and the reappropriated capital funds in FY 1999.

Formula Operating Assistance

The amount appropriated for formula operating assistance is \$144,576,300, a decrease of \$10,373,900 or 6.7% from the previous year. In addition, there is an appropriation of \$6,000,000 from unreserved CTF fund balance. The bill states, “The appropriation (for the \$6,000,000)...shall only be expended by the department if the department, together with the house and senate fiscal agencies and the Department of Management and Budget, determines that sufficient funding is available in the CTF to support the appropriation.” In addition, it requires that these funds be split 10% (\$600,000) for intercity passenger and freight programs and 90% (\$5,400,000) for local bus operating. If the \$6.0 million is determined to be available, the total FY 2000 formula operating funds would be \$149,976,300, a decrease of 3.2%.

(continued on page 3)

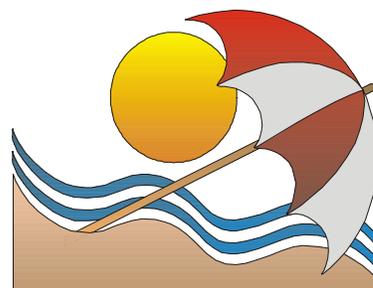
Intercity Bus Service in U.P. Resumes

On May 19, 1999, Greyhound Lines, Inc. replaced Superior Delivery and Transportation as the provider of intercity bus service in the upper peninsula. The transition between carriers was virtually seamless with very few problems reported. The routes being provided are: St. Ignace, Michigan to Duluth, Minnesota; Calumet, Michigan to Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and a daytime route from Marquette, Michigan to Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Early ridership reports are encouraging. For example, during the month of June, ridership figures indicate that the Marquette to Green Bay route increased 124 percent. During the month of June 1998, Superior reported 172 passenger boardings compared to 386 passenger boardings reported by Greyhound during June 1999 for this route.

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Public Transit and Y2K

Recently, transit agencies were asked to complete surveys about their Year 2000 (Y2K) readiness. The general consensus is that the transit agencies in Michigan are ready for the year 2000. We looked at any hardware and/or software we supplied or supported in the last several years, and found the following issues:

- Some of the Compaq computers delivered for use with the PTMS (Compaq XL 5100 models) need a software update to be Y2K compliant. MDOT's consultant has performed this update at several of the agencies and will continue to do so until all agencies computers are Y2K compliant before January 1, 2000.
- The Symphony software package is not Y2K compliant - but it is the database portion of Symphony that is not compliant. **The spreadsheets that many agencies use in Symphony will work in the year 2000.** PTD is currently looking at having a software package created to replace the Symphony spreadsheets.
- QuickBooks version 5.0 is not Y2K compliant, but a **free update** that will make the version compliant is available on the internet. Contact Sandy Lovell (517/335-2525, lovels@mdot.state.mi.us), or Karen Stotts (517/335-2529, stottsk@mdot.state.mi.us) for more information.
- Suppliers of vans, light duty cutaway buses, and medium duty buses provided assurances that the vehicles, including accessories, as supplied to the department, are Y2K compliant. Contact Jerome Johnson (517/335-2568, jonsonj@mdot.state.mi.us) for vehicle information.

If you have any further questions about Y2K issues, please contact Kathy Urda (517/335-2575, urdak@mdot.state.mi.us) or Gus Lluberer (517/373-8820, llubererg@mdot.state.mi.us).



Federal Grants Update

The following FY 1999 applications have been approved by the Federal Transit Administration:

- Nonurbanized Area Formula Program (Section 5311) operating assistance application for a total of \$5,928,430. This includes \$4,777,480 for operating assistance for 67 nonurbanized agencies; \$142,380 for the Rural Assistance Program (RTAP); and \$1,008,570 for Intercity Bus Transportation.
- Job Access and Reverse Commute Program (Section 3037) for \$851,190. With the approval of this grant proposal, sixteen rural counties will be provided new and/or expanded service. The projects received funding for capital items and one year of operating assistance. These 10 projects maximize the use of existing public transportation resources and demonstrate the use of a wide range of providers, such as public, private, and specialized services agencies. Many of the projects target persons with disabilities and the elderly. Some of these projects are designed to meet the need for long distance travel from rural areas to employment sites. For more details, see story on page 11.

Passenger Transportation Division (PTD) has completed the following FY 1999 grant applications to the Federal Transit Administration:

- Nonurbanized Area Formula Program (Section 5311) Capital Assistance grant application, which is the largest Section 5311 capital program to date, includes \$1,782,118 in flexible funding and totals \$3,461,696. Twenty-six buses, several facility improvement projects, maintenance, office, and computer equipment will be funded. Again this year, transit agencies were instrumental in acquiring the substantial amount of flex funds through meetings with their respective rural task forces. **Keep up the good work!**
- Urbanized Area Formula Program (Section 5307) application for \$671,716 to purchase replacement buses for Bay Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Blue Water Area Transportation Commission, and the city of Kalamazoo.
- Capital Discretionary Program (Section 5309) application for \$9,925,000, that together with a state match of \$2,481,250, will finance the purchase of 94 vehicles and miscellaneous support equipment, as well as the construction and rehabilitation of four transit facilities. Thirty-five public transit agencies in Michigan will benefit from this project.

FY 2000 Comprehensive Transportation Fund Budget (continued from page 1)

Other Programs

In addition, the appropriation included:

- Specialized Services -- \$3,600,100
- Municipal Credit -- \$2,000,000
- Bus Transit Capital -- \$12,000,000
- Planning Grants -- \$150,000
- Ridesharing -- \$330,700
- Vanpooling -- \$145,000
- Service Development/New Technology -- \$325,000
- Regional Service Coordination -- \$1,000,000
- Work First Initiative -- \$3,979,200
- Intercity Service, Terminals and Equipment -- \$3,400,000
- Marine -- \$800,000
- Rail Passenger -- \$5,812,800
- Rail Freight & Infrastructure -- \$7,393,300
- Port Development -- \$408,500

Legislative Requirements

The budget also includes 20 CTF boilerplate requirements, including some of the following requirements within the passenger programs:

- ridesharing and vanpooling legislative report and utilization of competitive bidding;
- repeats formula percentages as stated in Act 51;
- coordination of services between DDOT and SMART;
- regional services legislative report;
- a charge of not less than \$1,000 for the use of intercity buses;
- listing of essential intercity bus corridors;
- avoidance of duplicate routes between local transit agencies and intercity carriers, especially involving the regional program;
- intercity bus equipment program legislative report;
- phase out of operating funds for services by water vehicles and joint legislative/departments hearings;
- joint department/provider strategy for additional federal funds; and
- the formula unreserved funds requirement previously explained.

Check out the PTD website for more details on the FY2000 CTF budget (<http://mdot.state.mi.us/uptran/ptd>).

PTD Annual Meeting, October 25-27, 1999

The 1999 Passenger Transportation Division (PTD) Annual Meeting is October 25-27, 1999, at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, Michigan. This event features guest speakers from Washington, D.C., FTA regional staff, two nationally recognized speakers, concurrent breakout sessions, and an expanded vendor and exhibit area including vehicle displays. It also provides an outstanding opportunity to network with your peers, examine new products and services, and gain valuable information to enhance your organization. Place these dates on your calendar and plan to attend.

Look for registration materials to be mailed in mid-August or contact the PTD Annual Meeting team leader Linda Tuttle at (517) 373-7645, or by e-mail at tuttlel@mdot.state.mi.us.

90" Cutaway Bid Status

The bid opening for the standard 90" wide Cutaway Bus was held on June 25, 1999. The four bids received were from: Champion Bus Inc., Imlay City, Michigan (Champion Buses): Hoekstra Truck Equipment Co., Inc., Grand Rapids, Michigan (ElDorado National Buses): Midwest Transit Equipment Inc., Kankakee, Illinois (Goshen Buses): and Transportation Equipment Sales Corp., Oregon, Ohio (Goshen Buses).

After a review of the bids and receipt of the necessary Pre-Award Audit information, the Passenger Transportation Division (PTD) sent a recommendation to the Department of Management and Budget to accept the bid from Hoekstra Truck Equipment Company, Inc., as the low responsive and responsible bidder. A contract is expected to be in effect by August 10, 1999.

Within 30 days from the beginning date of the contract, a meeting will be scheduled with the contractor to establish how the bus will be built (Paper Pilot). Following this meeting, the first two ordered buses (one gasoline and one diesel) will be built (Pilot Model Build), inspected, and accepted by the PTD. Then, the production of other ordered buses will begin. Any questions regarding the contract should be directed to Jerome Jonson at 517/335-2568, jonsonj@mdot.state.mi.us.



Advisory Team Updates

Transit Vehicle & Equipment

The last meeting included a review of the minivan conversion specification. This review centered around the purpose, durability and cost effectiveness of this vehicle. Several other vehicles designed for the same type of service were discussed. They included a raised roof full size van, narrow body single rear wheel cutaway, and the narrow body dual rear wheel cutaway. The team focused around the need for a smaller vehicle, cost effectiveness, public perception and the number of vehicle specifications (vehicle contracts) the team felt it could manage.

As a result, the advisory team has recommended replacing the minivan conversion with the narrow body single rear wheel cutaway for extended purchase to fill the need of a small accessible vehicle. Please provide any comments or suggestions to Al Johnson 517/335-2549, johnsonal@mdot.state.mi.us.

At the next meeting on Wednesday, September 1, 1999, we will review the draft medium-duty bus specification. The current contract expires April 1, 2000.

News from the ART

The Advanced Research and Technology Team (ART) has not officially met in the last several months; however, most of the members recently attended a meeting with several automated scheduling demonstrations. It was decided at that meeting (demonstration) that the ART's next meeting in September would design bid documents for several transit-related technologies. The documents will be used by the State to obtain multi-year contracts with vendors for technologies such as automated scheduling (possibly one for large agencies and one for small agencies), mobile data terminals (MDT's), and automatic vehicle locators (AVL). For more information please contact Kathy Urda at urdak@mdot.state.mi.us or (517) 335-2575.



Training & Education

The Training/Education Team met on June 2, 1999, and discussed many issues, including Michigan Transit Training Districts, hostile behavior management training resources, Workforce Investment Act of 1998, drug and alcohol program services, passenger assistance training, "Trading Places" (new RTAP training kit), Train the Trainer, and the Michigan Public Transit Training Plan.

Training sessions are planned for this fall to assist transit system supervisors and drug and alcohol program managers. These workshops will include a general overview of the USDOT compliance requirements, as well as specific information on supervisory responsibilities regarding your transit system's drug and alcohol program. Each transit system should receive information regarding these workshops later this summer.

If you wish to discuss any of these items, please contact Amy Edgar, Training/Drug/Alcohol Program Specialist, at 517/373-2261, or edgara@mdot.state.mi.us.

Heart O'Gold Award

On Monday, July 12, 1999, Duane O'Connor, Buchanan Dial-A-Ride in Niles, was dispatched to pick up an elderly lady from a new address. When he arrived at the address, he discovered his prospective passenger had fallen on her front steps and again on the curb, and was bleeding profusely from the head. Duane quickly used his shirt to apply pressure to the injury to stop the bleeding. He radioed the dispatcher and the manager called the local police. An ambulance was dispatched to transport the lady to the local hospital. Today, she is fine due primarily to the quick actions and compassion of a Dial-A-Ride driver who truly cares about people. Thank you, Duane!



Around the State

Best Wishes, Jean

Jean Taylor, transportation coordinator for ARCH Workshop, Inc., resigned her position effective May 1, 1999, to spend more time with her young family.



As transportation coordinator for five years, Jean had the responsibility of scheduling client transportation for approximately 100 individuals residing all over St. Joseph County, along with driver assignments and all aspects of driver training. She performed admirably in this position and she will be missed. We in UPTRAN wish Jean all the best in future endeavors and extend our **congratulations** on a job well done!

Quick Action Saves Battle Creek Transit Fleet

Battle Creek Transit recently experienced a situation that could have been devastating to the City Transit Program.

About 11:40 p.m. on June 22, 1999, a fire developed in one of the line haul buses parked within the bus storage area. Two employees, drivers Mike King and Rod Brown, discovered the fire and immediately took action to extinguish it. Meeting with little success, they called dispatch and 911.

Before the fire department arrived, a second bus caught fire. Mike and Rod, along with dispatcher Bob Barlow, acted quickly to move buses outside of the garage to safer places, thus preventing further loss. Their actions were responsible for saving the fleet from total loss.

The three men were honored recently with Heart O'Gold awards presented by the Michigan Department of Transportation. Congratulations Mike, Rod, and Bob for a job well done!

Congratulations, Niles DART

Niles DART recently underwent a triennial review on July 6-7, 1999. During the review, twenty-four specific areas of transit management, operations, and financial accountability were closely examined by the federal auditors and consultant. Niles did an outstanding job in all areas of the review and were found in compliance with all federal requirements. A special MDOT "Hard Hats Off" to DART manager Judy Phillips for her special efforts and hard work in passing this review in flying colors!

Berrien County Project Zero

On July 26, 1999, Berrien County Project Zero's accomplishments were celebrated in the Grand Upton Hall of Lake Michigan College. The goals of Project Zero were achieved by the county Family Independence Agency (FIA) and Michigan Jobs Commission (MJC) by assisting everyone in the target group with finding employment. A special congratulations to FIA director Jerry Franks and his staff for this accomplishment.

An important element of this success was the transportation provided by the five providers within Berrien County – Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA), Niles Dial-A-Ride, Berrien Bus, Buchanan Dial-A-Ride and Mr. G's Service. Tom Sinn, President of Transportation Management Inc., developed a ride brokering service which received all calls and then scheduled the rides through the appropriate transit agencies. This provided an efficient system for case managers and clients not familiar with transit service. A special MDOT "Hard Hats Off" to all transportation players in achieving this important Project Zero goal! Congratulations everyone!!

MATS Welcomes New Manager

Jim Koens is the new manager of Muskegon Area Transit (MATS). Since 1992, Jim has been the senior planner/project manager for regional transportation programs at the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission which is the metropolitan planning organization for the area. During the past five years, Jim has participated in many meetings involving the transit agency and the western part of the state, so he is already familiar with many of the area issues. Welcome, Jim!

Millage Update

The Grand Rapids Transit Authority is a voluntary authority providing transit service to six cities and two townships in the Grand Rapids area. Most of the cities and townships provide funding for GRATA through their general fund.

The city of Wyoming chose to ask its voters for a 0.25 property tax millage to support public transit in its community. On Tuesday, April 20, 1999, in a special election, voters overwhelmingly supported the one year 0.25 mill renewal by casting 2,903 votes in favor of the measure and 635 against it. The millage has been in place for six years now.

The city hopes that in the next year the other five cities and two townships will join in a areawide millage to support public transportation in the Grand Rapids area.

Kudos to Bay Metro

In July, Bay Metro Transit hosted a luncheon to celebrate its 25th Anniversary. The MDOT presented Bay Metro with a 25-year plaque. Congratulations to General Manager Michael Stoner and the dedicated staff at Bay Metro Transit.

The city of Essexville and the city of Bay City also expressed thanks to Bay Metro for providing transportation during each city's Mayor's Exchange Day. In addition, the city of Bay City expressed appreciation for the shuttle bus service provided by Bay Metro Transit during the Bay City Fireworks Festival. Bay Metro was also awarded an Award of Excellence at the 1999 Transit Vehicle and Equipment Seminar for its outstanding vehicle maintenance program.

Congrats to Caro Thumbody Express

In June, Caro Thumbody Express celebrated its 15th Anniversary with an Open House. Caro Thumbody Express provides public transportation service under the operation of the Caro Human Development Commission.

Also, the "Thumbody Express-ions" newsletter received national recognition in the Transportation Research Board, National Research Council's TCRP Report 50 (page 62), a handbook of proven marketing strategies for public transit. Congratulations!

On Friday, June 25, 1999, the Upper Peninsula Transit Providers sponsored the 11th Annual Lois J. Clark Memorial Small Bus Roadeo. This year's Roadeo was hosted by Marq-Tran and was held on the grounds of the Northern Michigan University Regional Police Academy at K.I. Sawyer. Eleven contestants represented six different U.P. transit agencies – Houghton Motor Transit, Alger County Transit (ALTRAN), Delta Area Transit Authority (DATA), Marquette County Transit Authority (Marq-Tran), Schoolcraft County Transit Authority, and Gogebic County Transit Authority.

The top three places went to Marq-Tran drivers Tricia Pepin, Marie Roderigo, and Pete Farmer. All three are veterans of the competition and have finished first in one or more previous Roadeo competitions. In late July, Tricia will represent Marq-Tran in the Michigan Small Bus Roadeo in Lansing.

Transit Community's Link to Littleton Tragedy

The tragedy at Littleton, Colorado was felt by everyone in the nation. Unfortunately, it was brought closer to home for the transit community by the fact that one of the children killed was the son of Tom Mauser, manager of the Transit and Rail Unit of the Colorado Department of Transportation. Tom is well known nationally for his involvement with AASHTO and APTA and for his humorous and thought provoking presentations about transit image.

The PTD annual meeting committee arranged for Tom to be a guest speaker at this year's meeting just days before his son, Daniel, was killed. Since then, Tom and his family have been dealing with their loss and attempting to resume their lives. Our thoughts and prayers have been with the Mauser family, and we are very pleased that Tom will be joining us at the Grand Traverse Resort in October.

Knowing what to say or how to react to someone after such a tragedy is often difficult for everyone involved. Tom suggests visiting the web site that has been set up in honor of Daniel. It can be found at www.danielmauser.com. It celebrates Daniel's life, tells about the family's experiences, and how they have been coping. In particular, there is a wonderful story that appeared in the Denver Post which can be linked from the "Extra" page of the site.

Transit Vehicle and Equipment Seminar



Approximately 125 transit agency personnel and 84 representatives from over 40 vendors attended the 1999 Transit Vehicle and Equipment Seminar and Show. We received many favorable comments on the quality of equipment at the show and the

content of information provided in the workshops.

Over 60 mechanics successfully completed the Ricon Lift Certification offered at this year's seminar. We received this letter from Oral Sutliff, Manager of Charlevoix County Public Transit:

"I would like to share with you what happened recently at our facility. One of our mechanics attended the sessions at Higgins Lake on Thursday, June 17th which included the Ricon lifts. On Friday the 18th we had a Ricon lift not working and with what he had learned just the day before he was able to fix it and send the bus on its way."

Thanks to all who attended and helped make this year's seminar a success! Next year's seminar dates are June 14-16, 2000. See you there!

PTD Employee Gets International Study Opportunity

Congratulations to Wynell Brush, supervisor of the urban unit in the PTD. She was selected to participate in a 2-week International Transit Studies Program in Switzerland, France, Spain, and Portugal this October. Wynell's study team will examine transit operations and mobility concerns in medium-sized European cities. One of the issues the 12-member team will study is the integration of ITS technologies. The program gives participants an opportunity to enhance professional development and learn to manage transit activities in a complex environment. *(Reprinted from MDOT's Monday Memo.)*

Rideshare Program Overview

There are ten local rideshare offices (LROs) throughout Michigan. Their basic mission is to promote carpooling and vanpooling as an alternative to the single occupant vehicle. In a broader scope, many LROs market a variety of additional options such as walking, biking, telecommuting, and, yes, even riding the bus. Everyone benefits from the success of this program through cleaner air and less traffic congestion.

The most important service the LROs provides is the "matching service." Anyone interested in carpooling/vanpooling can provide their origination and destination points to the LRO in their destination area. The LRO then determines if there are any existing carpools/vanpools that may have a vacancy, or other individuals who are interested in forming a new carpool/vanpool group.

The vanpool program known as "MichiVan" serves two distinct customers – employees and employers. Traditional vanpools have a volunteer driver, are open to the general public, and account for 24% of the vanpools in service. Vanpools catering to the needs of specific employers account for the remaining 76% of the vanpools. Some employers choose to subsidize the cost of the vanpool making it more attractive to employees or accessible to individuals in transition from welfare-to-work. The message is clear – employers want and need the assistance of this service to get employees to work.

The rideshare program strives to increase coordination with local and state agencies to provide additional options to transportation problems for employees and employers. To discuss how the rideshare program can complement transit agency services, contact Angie Payne, Statewide Rideshare Coordinator, at (517) 335-2553 or email paynea@mdot.state.mi.us.



PTMS Update

The Public Transportation Management System (PTMS) is fully implemented at all regular service transit agencies in Michigan. We recently asked all TMS users to install the "Appsync" version of PTMS which reduced the need for mailing CD's with every TMS update. We will still need to use CD's for "special" upgrades, but not for every upgrade. Note: When you see a message that there is a new version of TMS (you'll get this message when you are entering TMS), you'll need to close TMS, go to the start button, choose Programs, choose TMS, choose update TMS to update your system. You will need to be connected to your Internet Service Provider (ISP) while updating.

Starting in August, MDOT will be installing PTMS-capable computers at 30-40 specialized service transit agencies. A consultant under contract for PTMS implementation will do most of the installations. We anticipate having 100+ transit agencies utilizing PTMS, submitting operating assistance reports and annual applications by the beginning of the year 2000.

On the development side we have been working on the following:

- T creating a statewide capital request list that satisfies MDOT's federal application requirements and shows when requests are funded, and shows the actual dollar amount funded;
- T creating a Report module for PTMS that will include information on performance indicators, vehicle information, revenues and expenses, and ridership;
- T fixing bugs that were found during last year's annual application process, such as the ability to delete a capital request (before submitting);
- T creating new functionality requested by transit agencies, such as the ability to nicely print a list of capital requests;
- T expanding some choices, such as allowing transit agencies with regional and Project Zero services to submit operating assistance reports through PTMS, and the choice of "planning" as a capital type (on the application);
- T working towards a complete and accurate statewide vehicle inventory;
- T fixing general bugs and developing enhancements.

There will be a demonstration of "what's new" in the PTMS at the PTD Annual Meeting in October. You can look forward to seeing our new features then, or in updates you receive between now and October.

If you have any questions or comments about the PTMS, please contact your project manager or Kathy Urda at urdak@mdot.state.mi.us (517) 335-2575.

Transit Strategic Plan Update

The University of Michigan (U of M) is updating the PTD's Strategic Plan for Public Transit. Elements from the plan will be included in the State Long Range Plan that the Bureau of Transportation Planning is currently developing. There is a 17 person, interdisciplinary team overseeing the development of the plan. In addition, PTD Advisory Teams will be included in the review of the project.

As part of the process, the Situation Audit from the previous plan will be updated, which will include review of current conditions and focus group input to develop a questionnaire to conduct a survey. Input from the focus groups and the survey will then be used to incorporate a theme of "Planning for Partnerships" in the plan. From the data gathering and analysis phase, U of M will develop an action plan that has implementable steps that will be incorporated into the Strategic Plan revisions.

If you have questions or comments regarding the Strategic Plan update, please contact Linda Tuttle at 517-373-7645, e-mail tuttle@mdot.state.mi.us.

Dates to Remember

APTA Annual Meeting
October 10-14, 1999, Orlando, Florida

1999 PTD Annual Meeting (see page 3)
October 25-27, 1999, Grand Traverse
Resort, Acme



Passenger Trans-Actions 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. 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: \$0.20.

Vehicle Maintenance Awards for Excellence

Eighty-four agencies received “MDOT’s Award of Excellence” at the annual Transit Vehicle and Equipment Seminar held June 16-18, 1999.

The maintenance monitoring program began in May 1994 and is based on MDOT’s random inspection of vehicles and vehicle records for adequacy in the areas of general condition, safety, and mechanical soundness.

The following transit agencies were recognized for their excellent vehicle maintenance programs. Congratulations to all!

Allegan County Community Mental Health Services
Allegan County Resource Committee, Inc.
Alma Dial-A-Ride
American Red Cross of West Central Michigan
Ann Arbor Transportation Authority
Antrim County Transportation
Arch, Inc.
Baraga/Houghton/Keweenaw C. A. A.
Battle Creek Transit
Bay Area Transportation Authority
Bay Metro Transportation Authority
Benzie Co Elders, Inc.
Branch Area Transit Authority
Cadillac/Wexford Transit Authority
Caro Transit Authority
Cass County Transportation Authority
Center For Gerontology
Charlevoix County Transit
Cheboygan County Council on Aging
Chippewa / Luce / Mackinac Community Action
Resource Authority
City of Alpena Dial-A-Ride Transportation System
City of Dowagiac Dial-A-Ride
City of Hillsdale Dial-A-Ride
City of Jackson Transportation Authority
City of Sault Ste Marie Dial-A-Ride
Clare County Transit Corporation
Community Resource and Assistance Center
Council of Action United for Service Efforts (CAUSE)
Crawford County Transportation Authority
Delta Area Transit Authority
Detroit Department of Transportation
Detroit East Community Mental Health
Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority
Eaton County Transportation Authority
Family Service Center of Genesee County
Friendship Center of Emmet County

Genesee County Association of Retarded Citizens
Gladwin City/County Transit
Gogebic County Public Transit
Grand Rapids Area Transit Authority
Greenville Transit
Handicappers Information Council & Patient
Equipment Locker, Inc.
Harbor Transit
Hartland Senior Center
Holland Dial-A-Ride
Houghton Motor Transit Line
Huron Transit Corporation
Interurban Transit Authority
Ionia Dial-A-Ride
Iosco Transit Corporation
Isabella County Transportation Commission
Kalamazoo County Care-a-Van
Kalamazoo Metro Transit System
Kalkaska Public Transit Authority
Lake Erie Transit
Lapeer Growth and Opportunity
Lapeer Team Work, Inc.
Livingston Essential Transportation Service
Ludington Mass Transit Authority
Lutheran Home of Frankenmuth
Manistee County Transportation, Inc
Marian F. Burch Facility
Marquette County Transportation Authority
Marshall Dial-A-Ride
Mecosta County Area Transit
Muskegon Area Transit System
Newaygo County Commission on Aging
Northfield's Human Service Agency
Oceana County Council on Aging
Ogemaw County Public Transit
Ontonagon County Public Transit
Otsego County Bus System
Pioneer Resources
Presque Isle County Council On Aging
Roscommon County Mini Bus System
Saginaw Council on Aging
Saginaw Transit System Authority
Sanilac Transportation Corporation
St. Joseph County Commission on Aging
ThunderBay Transportation Corporation
UP Community Services, Inc.
Van Buren Public Transit
Vocational Strategies, Inc.
Yates Township Dial-A-Ride

1999 Michigan Small Bus Roadeo

The biggest rootin' tootin' event of the summer was the Michigan Small Bus Roadeo held July 28, 1999. The competition was fierce to "bust the broncos" as sixty-one drivers from agencies all over the state competed in the Roadeo. First place honors in individual competition went to Dave Walters, Clare County Transit. Don Fisher, Branch Area Transit, took second and the third place went to John Hartman, Isabella County Transportation Commission. These three individuals are eligible to compete in the national competition in Ft. Lauderdale next May. See Roadeo pictures on page 12.



Roscommon Mini Bus System took top honors in team competition with drivers Kelly Bowman, Rick Detmer, and Mark Kauffman. The team was one of 29 competing for recognition. Marilyn Griffith, John Hartman, and Sara Densmore captured second place for Isabella County Transportation Commission. Third place went to Capital Area Transportation Authority's Mike Beech, Doc Briseno, and Steve Solix. A big thanks and YEA HA! to all the agencies and drivers that participated in this year's Roadeo.

There was plenty of hootin' and hollerin' at the Lansing Lugnugs game the night before the Roadeo. A big thanks to Hoekstra Truck and Equipment Company and ElDorado National for sponsoring the evening ballgame and dinner. Nothin's better than chowin' down on them "dogies" and watchin' a good game.

We couldn't a done it if it weren't fer the judges from the police and sheriff departments in the area and all the great UPTRAN volunteers.

Job Access and Reverse Commute Grants

Sixteen rural counties and greater Detroit will benefit from federal grant funds to help welfare recipients and other low income individuals get to and from work. The Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) new Job Access and Reverse Commute Grant Program provides competitive grants to assist states and local agencies in developing more flexible transportation services. Services may include shuttles, vanpools, new bus routes, connector services to mass transit and guaranteed ride home programs.

The MDOT will distribute \$851,190 to fund 10 transit projects covering 16 rural counties. The counties include: Alger, Allegan, Barry, Benzie/Leelanau, Berrien/Cass/Van Buren, Charlevoix/Emmet, Eaton, Ionia, Lake/Mason/Oceana, and Midland. Seven of the 10 projects are in areas designated as Project Zero sites by Governor John Engler. Project Zero is the program that aims to reduce to zero the number of public assistance households without earned income. Local and state funds will be used to match the federal money.

A partnership of the Detroit Department of Transportation (DDOT), the City of Detroit's Employment and Training Department, the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART), and the private sector will also receive an additional \$1.3 million for a variety of transit projects under this new grant program.

The FTA will announce the second round of competitive grants under the Job Access and Reverse Commute Grant Program in the near future.

Town Hall Meetings

"Disability Voice," a consolidated community planning project made up of seven state organizations including the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), has concluded its town hall meetings for 1999. Over 250 people attended town hall meetings held between April and June in eight locations, including Muskegon, three sites in Detroit, and 4 sites in the Upper Peninsula.

Participants provided public input on a range of disability issues that included employment, transportation, and independent living. Participants were also asked to complete a consumer survey that provided information on demographics and on issues affecting their lives.

Of the 172 participants responding to the consumer survey, the most important transportation issues cited were finding available and affordable transportation, obtaining transportation to where passengers needed to go, and getting to destinations on time. Some participants also cited the need for sensitivity training for bus drivers.

The "Disability Voice" Planning Committee will announce the dates and locations for next year's town hall meetings in the near future.

Mobility Management Survey Results

The appropriation bills for the MDOT and the Family Independence Agency (FIA) contained boilerplate language requiring a joint study with the Department of Career Development (MDCD) (former Michigan Jobs Commission) to address the concept of mobility management. In addition, the boilerplate required that the study address the accessibility of transportation for welfare clients going to and from employment and child care sites.

In February 1999, MDOT mailed written surveys to urban and non-urban transit systems throughout the state. Transit agencies were asked to respond to questions regarding mobility management and the initiatives they have undertaken to meet the transportation needs of Michigan's public assistance clients. Forty-three of 70 transit agencies (61%) responded to the survey.

Survey highlights include:

- , Twenty-five (58%) transit systems indicated they provide mobility management and 7 (16%) have established a mobility manager position/office.
- , Twenty-nine (67%) transit systems publicize a transit agency number to provide information on transit services.
- , Thirty-three (77%) transit systems coordinate transportation with other public and private transportation providers in the community.
- , Twenty-eight (65%) transit systems are most likely to meet the needs of public assistance clients going to and from work by coordinating transportation with human services agencies and other public and/or private transportation.

A report entitled *Accessibility of Transportation and Mobility Management* was prepared by FIA in cooperation with MDOT and MDCD and forwarded to the FIA House Appropriation Subcommittee in April, 1999.

Our thanks to all of the transit agencies who took time out of their busy schedules to complete the Mobility Management Survey. For additional information, please contact Rose Ann Ward at 517/335-2598, or email wardr@mdot.state.mi.us.

Transportation Work Group Update

In the Fall of 1998, the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council established a Transportation Work Group comprised of disability and aging organizations, consumers, transit agencies, and state departments. The charge of the work group was to identify barriers and recommend strategies that the Council can use in its efforts to improve availability, affordability, and access to transportation for people with disabilities statewide.

The Council has identified transportation as a primary focus during the upcoming fiscal year. During FY 2000, the Council will fund two grant initiatives that develop state level advocacy and grassroots advocacy and coalition building. The Council will also provide additional funds to the Regional Interagency Coordination Committees (RICCs) throughout the state to focus activities on transportation issues.

For additional information, please contact Claudia Combs-Wise, DD Council, at (517) 334-7355 or e-mail at wise@state.mi.us.

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Transportation Education & Development Schedule of Courses

Train-the-Trainer, September 30-October 1, 1999
Passenger Assistance, October 4-6, 1999
Elements of Contracting, November 11-12, 1999

For more information, please contact Wyatt Osato, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, at (414)227-3332.

Michigan Department of Transportation

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1999 Michigan Small Bus Rodeo Winners!



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*First Place Individual: Greg Cook, President, Michigan Public Transit Association;
Dave Walters, Clare County Transit; Kip Grimes, Passenger Transportation Division.*

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*First Place Team: Greg Cook; Roscommon Mini Bus System's Mark Kauffman,
Kelly Bowman, and Rick Detmer; Kip Grimes.*