

PUBLIC TRANSIT NEWSLETTER

March 2026

CALENDAR - STATE FISCAL YEAR (APRIL 1 - JUNE 30)

- APRIL**
- 01 Consolidated Transit Funding Public Hearings due
 - 25 Regional/Small Urban System Quarterly Charter Report due
 - 30 3rd Quarter Fuel Tax Report due
 - 30 Triennially, Regional/Small Urban System DBE Projection Worksheet (for next three federal Fiscal Years, October 1 - September 30) due
 - 30 Large Urban System Quarterly Charter Report due to FTA
 - 30 Large Urban Quarterly TrAMS Reports (if in TMA) due to FTA

- MAY**
- 01 Consolidated Transit Funding Applications (including Statewide 5339, 5310, 5311, Public Infrastructure Grant, and AMOCO Loan) due
 - 01 Passenger Transportation Plans due
 - 15 3rd Quarter Statistical Report due

- JUNE**
- 01 Large Urban System DBE (October-March) Semi-Annual Report due to FTA
 - 15 Triennially, Regional/Small Urban System DBE (next three FFYs) goals published for comment (45 days before August 1st)
 - 30 Record vehicle odometer readings at end of service or prior to start of service on July 1st

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

TRANSIT MANAGER HANDBOOK TRAINING

The Transit Manager's Handbook has been updated. Some important updates include:

- Reduction in the number of chapters
- Working links and references at the end of each chapter
- Updated guidance from FTA Circulars
- New acquisition thresholds effective 10/1/25
 - Micro-purchase \$15,000
 - Simplified acquisition threshold \$350,000
- Revised Delinquent Reporting and Contract Non-performance Penalties Policy
- Verified for digital accessibility



Training will be held on June 1, 2026, and June 2, 2026, at the Iowa DOT, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA. Jamie Wingert, Public Transit Compliance and Training Specialist will be sending out how to register for this training at a later date.

IPTA ANNUAL MEETING & ROADEO

This year the Annual Meeting & Rodeo will be held in Altoona, Iowa from June 16, 2026, through June 20, 2026, at Prairie Meadows. IPTA will be sending out more information on how to register closer to the date. Please save the date to your calendars as we hope to see all of you there.

TRANSIT DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

JOHN GRIFFIN
CLINTON



John Griffin is a lifelong resident of Clinton, Iowa. He has been working for the City of Clinton MTA since October of 2009 as the Transit Operations Coordinator and in January of the year became the Director after Dennis Hart retired. The hardest part so far is getting used to not solving the daily problems and not being the first to hear customer comments.

He has 5 daughters and one 3-year-old grandson, so his life at home is very enjoyable. John has always enjoyed recreational sports. After 40 years, he finally retired from an adult softball league. He still bowls weekly and spends a lot of time riding bicycles. John has participated in RAGBRAI every year since 2012 when it stopped in Clinton.

KRISTIN'S KEYWORDS

To start the December version of Keywords, I wrote that it was already a winter wonderland, and if I'd written this three days ago that would have still been the case. But it's a lovely 73 sunny degrees this afternoon, so hopefully Mother Nature is sending Spring our way!

March 18 was Transit Employee Appreciation Day. I saw several Iowa transit systems posting on Facebook the photos from Appreciation Day events. One of many reasons to thank our transit employees is for the times they go above and beyond to help the public. An outstanding example of this comes from SWITA. During the March 15 blizzard, there was a multi-vehicle crash on I-80 in western Iowa. The interstate was closed from West Des Moines to just outside Omaha. Local authorities contacted SWITA about transporting motorists stranded in the storm. With the combination of a police, snowplow, and state patrol escort, a SWITA driver was able brave the storm and transport 20 people, a dog, and two cats to the YMCA in Atlantic which served as a shelter. It's these acts of heroics that capture headlines, but we know that transit employees are heroes to so many each and every day in ordinary ways. You are all appreciated!

Our team submitted the annual National Transit Database reporting on time in January and we are now in the first round of follow-up questions. You may be getting calls or emails from us with clarifying questions about your agency's 2025 stats so we can respond. Thank you in advance for your help!

Earlier this month, we learned that our deadline for submittal of annual financial audits is incorrect. Federal requirements per [2 CFR 200.507\(c\)\(1\)](#) specifically require the following with respect to Federal Single Audits:

➤ "Submission deadline and public availability... Unless a different period is specified in the program-specific audit guide, the audit must be submitted within 30 calendar days after the auditee receives the auditor's report(s) or nine months after the end of the audit period (whichever is earlier)."

Per [Iowa Code 11.6](#):

➤ "1. a. (1) Except for entities organized under chapter 28E having gross receipts of one hundred thousand dollars or less in a fiscal year, the financial condition and transactions of all government subdivisions shall be audited at least once each year..."

➤ "6. An audit required by this section shall be completed within nine months following the end of the fiscal year that is subject to the audit..."

Therefore, Iowa DOT is correcting the deadline for submitting annual financial audits to March 31. This deadline has been updated in the Transit Manager's Handbook. Audits are to be submitted to the Iowa Auditor of State; the email address for that submittal can be found on this webpage: <https://www.auditor.iowa.gov/contact-us/contact-info>. Realizing the corrected deadline is only 11 days away for the FY25 audit submittal, if your transit agency needs an extension of this deadline, please let me know and I'll send you our contact with the state auditor's office where you may request that extension.

Consolidated Applications are due May 1 (there was some confusion with the date listed on BlackCat).

Enjoy Spring and, as always, thank you for all you do for public transit in Iowa.

Kristin



2026 IOWA PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT

Date: May 19, 2026

Time: 9AM – 3:15PM

Location: Raccoon River Park Nature Lodge,
2500 Grand Ave. West Des Moines, IA 50265

Registration: <https://forms.gle/BXrTwNzMsGvENSUw6>

TRAMS TRAINING VIDEOS

[TrAMS Beginner Training](#)

[How to Create a TrAMS Application](#)

[TrAMS Period of Performance Update Training](#)

[TrAMS Federal Financial Report Video Guide](#)

[How to Create a TrAMS Closeout Amendment](#)

NATIONAL RURAL TRANSIT FATALITY SUMMARY

2024 Rural Transit Fatality Summary

- 10 fatalities

- 9 non-transit vehicle/driver error.

- 2 fatalities and two separate incidents. Pedestrian hit by bus traveling along highway. One potential suicide.
- 6 fatalities and four separate incidents. Center line crossover by passenger vehicle. Three incidents with one in bad weather, passenger vehicle drivers deceased. One incident, bus driver and passenger vehicle driver and passenger deceased.
- 1 fatality. Speeding passenger vehicle coming over crest of hill struck left turning transit vehicle. Passenger driver cited. Transit driver deceased.

- 1 transit vehicle/driver error.

- 1 fatality of bus aide/passenger. Transit vehicle ran off the road and hit a tree. No other information reported.

12-year, 2013-2024 Rural Transit Fatality Summary

- 92 fatalities total (average 7.7 per year)
- 76 non-transit vehicle error. (average 6.3 per year)
- 16 transit driver/agency error or probable error. (average 1.3 per year)
- 4 transit driver medical incident/heart attack. (average 0.3 per year)
- 1 intersection incident. Fault to be determined.

RIDERSHIP AND REVENUE MILE COMPARISON

Fiscal Year	Ridership	Percent Change	Revenue Miles	Percent Change
2025	20,304,708	5%	26,118,794	2%
2024	19,284,864	11%	25,569,986	2%
2023	17,341,472	15%	25,123,307	0%
2022	15,106,115	-	25,000,115	-

Ridership and Revenue Mile Comparison Four Year Change (2022-2025)

Fiscal Year	Ridership	Percent Change	Revenue Miles	Percent Change
2022-2025	5,198,593	34%	1,118,679	4%

WHO TO CONTACT

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ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

FTA DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROGRAM NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Registration is open for the 19th Annual FTA Drug and Alcohol Program National Conference, to be held on April 14-16, 2026, in Portland, OR! The conference will take place at the Hilton Portland Downtown, 921 SW Sixth Street, Portland, OR. The conference is free of charge and will be in-person with no virtual option. This event is designed for Drug and Alcohol Program Managers and other transit officials and will provide attendees with a background on 49 CFR Part 655 (Prevention of Alcohol Misuse and Prohibited Drug Use in Transit Operators) and 49 CFR Part 40 (Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs).

CTAA EXPO 2026

Registration is open for the 2026 CTAA Expo that will be held in Omaha, Nebraska from May 10-13, 2026, in Omaha, Nebraska. The CTAA brings transit leaders and advocates from across the United States together for learning and collaboration. Attendees leave this industry-leading, multi-day event feeling energized and ready to bring actionable, impactful ideas back to their transit systems and supporting organizations.

APTA MOBILITY CONFERENCE

Registration is open for the 2026 APTA Mobility Conference, International Bus Rodeo that will be held May 17-20, 2026, in Salt Lake City, Utah. This conference addresses the critical priorities and challenges facing bus and paratransit systems and explores the changing environment in which they operate.