

# PUBLIC TRANSIT NEWSLETTER

June 2026

## CALENDAR - STATE FISCAL YEAR (JULY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30)

### JULY

- 01 State Fiscal Year Begins
- 01 Record actual odometer readings for each transit vehicle prior to start of service (unless recorded after end of service on June 30)
- 01 Contingency Fleet Plans due, if applicable
- 15 Year End Odometer Report due
- 25 Regional/Small Urban System Quarterly Charter Report due
- 30 4th Quarter Fuel Tax Report due
- 30 Large Urban System Quarterly Charter Report due to FTA
- 30 Large Urban Quarterly TrAMS Reports (if in TMA) due to FTA

### AUGUST

- 01 Large Urban System DBE (next FFY) goals due to FTA
- 15 4th Quarter Statistical Report due
- 15 Property Inventory Information due to PTT for facilities (funds administered by PTT)

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### NTI CLASS FOR MANAGEMENT OF TRANSIT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

CyRide is hosting an NTI Class for the Management of Transit Construction Projects on September 14, 15, and 16, 2026 at the Hilton Garden Inn at 1325 Dickinson Avenue in Ames, Iowa from 9:00 am. to 5:00 pm. The class size is limited to 35 people only. The cutoff date for registering is August 23, 2026. Information on the class can be found at: <https://ce-catalog.rutgers.edu/courseDisplay.cfm?schID=97653>. Room block information: <https://group.hiltongardeninn.com/trw39j>

If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Spencer, CyRide at 515.239.5512 or by email at [cheryl.spencer@cyride.com](mailto:cheryl.spencer@cyride.com).



### NATIONAL RTAP TRIBAL & RURAL TRANSIT MINI-CONFERENCE

This conference is from June 29, 2026, through July 1, 2026 in Window Rock, AZ. Sessions include: Transit Planning I & II, long-range transportation planning, National Environmental Policy Act I and II, procurement, grant writing, right-sizing your fleets, as well as how transit agencies can "do more with less." They will also be hosting Passenger Assistance, Safety and Sensitivity (PASS) driver training. Click [here](#) for more information or to register.

### RECVING AND MAINTAINING ALCOHOL TESTING FORMS

Accurate documentation is central to DOT alcohol testing, and a clear understanding of required forms and handling procedures helps ensure consistent compliance. All DOT alcohol tests must be recorded on a DOT Alcohol Testing Form (ATF), per 49 CFR Part 40.225(a). The DOT ATF is a three-part carbonless manifold form that includes critical details related to the test and is a formal record of the test results. At the completion of a test, the alcohol testing technician transmits Copy 1 of the ATF to the employer.

### LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION

The state of Iowa has a Master Agreement with [HOME LTC Language Solutions](#) where transit agencies can access the contract to purchase services as it is open to all governmental entities. More information can be found on the DAS website. [DAS Bidding Opportunities, Iowa Department of Administrative Services.](#)

## TRANSIT INTERN SPOTLIGHT NYONNUA QUAYEH



Nyonnu is the current Public Transit Intern at the Iowa DOT. She attends Iowa State University, where she is majoring in Supply Chain Management. She is originally from Kansas City, Missouri. In her free time, she enjoys walking trails with friends and listening to new music. She is excited to gain insight into how public transit systems operate across the state, especially as someone who relies on public transit in her daily life. She will be visiting various small and rural transit systems to assess the condition of their facilities. Emails have been sent regarding these facility assessments, and she will continue contacting multiple systems prior to the visits. Please anticipate an email from her regarding the assessments within the next few weeks.

## KRISTIN'S KEYWORDS

I'm excited knowing, as I write this, that I'll get to see many of you next week at the IPTA conference! Conferences are a great way to gain knowledge about our transit field, of course, but they're also a reunion of sorts. Public transit in Iowa is such a small community, you all seem like my extended family rather than just work colleagues. Many states don't experience the tight-knit public transit community that we have here in Iowa. I don't know whose idea it was to have regional public transit boundaries follow planning area boundaries (likely meaning Council of Governments boundaries not RPAs) and have urban transit boundaries designated by the Iowa DOT, but it has resulted in a group of 35 public transit agencies with dedicated directors and staff that the Iowa DOT gets to know well.

The basis for this Iowa public transit system design, especially for the regional transit agencies, originates with Iowa's first public transit plan, Trans Plan 76. This 1976 public transit plan advocated for the establishment of regional transit systems which would provide services to all parts of the state. Also in 1976, the Iowa General Assembly added to Chapter 601J of the Iowa Code, provisions requiring all public funds spent on transit to be expended in conformance with the state transit plan. Chapter 601J was the predecessor of Iowa Code Chapter 324A, the law we still refer to today for public transit guidance. I noted these little bits of history as I presented our 2026 version of the [Public Transit Long Range Plan](#) to the Iowa Transportation Commission on June 8.

So, we celebrate 50 years of statewide public transit in Iowa this year! Congratulations and kudos to all of you who help keep these essential services moving!



In April, I presided over my last [National Rural Transit Assistance Program](#) (RTAP) Review Board as Chair, ending my five-year stint on the board. My time on the Review Board was a fantastic experience! The Review Board consists of representatives from rural transit, tribal transit, and state DOTs. Representatives review training topics and materials the National RTAP staff puts together for pertinence and accuracy and learn about many upcoming FTA and National RTAP initiatives. National RTAP accepts applications for new members for terms starting each Spring and Fall, so if you're a small urban or regional transit staff member interested in serving, please let me know and I'll put you in touch with the National RTAP staff.

Finally, I am sure you all know by now that the legislature did not allocate funding this year for the Public Transit Infrastructure Grant (PTIG) program. If your transit agency submitted a PTIG application on May 1 for Fiscal Year 2027 funding, we apologize, but we will not be able to award any funds this year. However, the legislature did allocate \$1.6 Million in Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Funding to assist agencies with projects included in last year's Iowa DOT-sponsored FTA competitive bus and bus facilities grants in meeting their local match obligations. Iowa DOT staff is working on a distribution method for those funds and will be in communication with the affected transit agencies soon.

Thank you for all you do for public transit in Iowa.

*Kristin*



## 2026 IOWA PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT

The 2025 Iowa Passenger Transportation Summit was held on May 19, at the Raccoon River Park Nature Lodge in West Des Moines Iowa, Iowa. Thank you to all who attended this year's event. Throughout the day we heard from some wonderful speakers on transit advocacy, rider experiences, IPTA Statewide Transit Economic Impact Study, and public transit in Iowa. The afternoon sessions consisted of a two-part group activity. We had a good turn-out, and I hope that everyone who was able to make it enjoyed the day.

## TRANSIT TIDBITS

The next Transit Tidbits will be "ADA: Do I have to do that?" and will be presented by Jeremy Johnson-Miller. This will be an interactive presentation and is scheduled for Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at 9:00 am. If you want to be added to the invite list for these trainings please email Amy Colwell.

## PUBLIC TRANSIT LONG RANGE PLAN

This plan provides a long-range vision for the transportation system. It includes policies that will guide investments in Iowa's transportation system. It covers all modes of transportation in the state for both people and goods. If you would like to review the plan it can be found at <https://iowadot.gov/transportation-development/systems-planning/areas-planning/transportation-plans/state-transportation-plan>

## CELEBRATE NATIONAL RURAL TRANSIT DAY - JULY 16, 2026

### Take the Rural Transit Day Pledge:

- On Rural Transit Day (July 16) and every day throughout the year, I/we pledge to
  - Understand the unique needs of rural and tribal passengers and plan services to meet those needs.
  - Provide all passengers with helpful, courteous, and respectful customer service.
  - Coordinate with community organizations to provide transportation to as many destinations as possible.
  - Involve passengers, community stakeholders, and elected officials in service planning.
  - Assure that vehicles and facilities are safe, clean, well-maintained, and comfortable.
  - Invest in training and education that keep staff current, knowledgeable and skilled.
  - Contribute to an organizational culture where staff are motivated and successful.
  - Have a plan for potential emergencies and disasters and communicate that plan to all stakeholders.
  - Keep up with and invest in new technologies and funding opportunities to continually improve services.



## RURAL TRANSIT DAY TOOLBOX

Use the images in this [Rural Transit Day Toolbox](#) to spread the word about Rural Transit Day and the benefits of rural transit through social media. Our designer, Lexy Santiago, has created free images for you to use for Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter. Note that the images may not be used for any commercial purposes. If you have any questions, or need assistance, please contact us at [info@nationalrtap.org](mailto:info@nationalrtap.org).



## GET READY FOR RURAL TRANSIT DAY!

Rural Transit Day is July 16, 2026. This year, National RTAP will be holding a Rural Transit Day Zoom Chat from 2:00-3:00 PM ET, where their co-moderators, National RTAP Review Board Member John Andoh, Florida RTAP Project Manager Stephanie Lewis, and Cara Marcus, National RTAP Knowledge and Resource Manager, will lead a discussion on rural transit successes and challenges. You can register for the Rural Transit Day Zoom Chat by registering at [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_MOLM54VVT8Gaa-Ei57Afig#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MOLM54VVT8Gaa-Ei57Afig#/registration).



## WHAT DOES RURAL TRANSIT MEAN TO YOU?

You can email [National RTAP](mailto:National.RTAP) and they may post your answer on their website.

### WHO TO CONTACT

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