

# PUBLIC TRANSIT NEWSLETTER

December 2024

## CALENDAR - STATE FISCAL YEAR (JANUARY 1 - MARCH 30)

### JANUARY

- 25 Regional/Small Urban System Quarterly Report due
- 30 2nd Quarter Fuel Tax Report due
- 30 Large Urban System Quarterly Charter Report due to FTA
- 30 Large Urban Quarterly TrAMS Report (if in TMA) due to FTA

### FEBRUARY

- 01 Draft Passenger Transportation Plans due to Systems Planning Bureau
- 15 2nd Quarter Statistical Report due
- 15 Regional/Small Urban Systems MIS Drug & Alcohol Report (*Previous Calendar year*) due to FTA

### MARCH

- 15 Large Urban System MIS Drug & Alcohol Report (*Previous Calendar Year*) due to FTA

**\*\*\*THIS FULL CALENDAR CAN BE FOUND IN THE TRANSIT MANAGER'S HANDBOOK**

<https://iowadot.gov/transit/handbook/TMHandbookBinder.pdf>

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### PROCUREMENT 101 E-LEARNING COURSE:

FTA's new [Procurement 101 e-learning course](#) is now available to help FTA recipients better understand the requirements of procurement. The course will help grant recipients ensure their procurements are compliant with federal, state and local procurement rules and regulations and prepare recipients for FTA audits, particularly Triennials, State Management Reviews and Procurement Systems Reviews. Please register for the Procurement 101 course [here](#).

### FTA RELEASES VIDEOS HIGHLIGHTING RURAL AREAS FORMULA GRANT PROGRAMS GUIDANCE:

The FTA released videos highlighting changes to the [Rural Areas Formula Grant Programs Guidance \(Circular 9040\)](#), part of a series of training videos for recipients and stakeholders as part of the recent publication of newly revised program guidance. The FTA is posting videos summarizing grants management information and highlighting the requirements outlined in each of the revised circulars. Grant recipients who administer FTA-funded projects are encouraged to watch the videos as they are released.

The following link will guide you to all the videos that were recorded regarding updates to the [FTA 2024 Circular Update](#).

## TRANSIT DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

KEN WOHLFORD  
TRANSIT DIRECTOR



Ken is the new transit director for NEICAC-T. Prior to his 11.5 years in public transit, Ken spent 8 years working in the airline industry as a location manager, with a total of 10 years in aviation. After obtaining his CDL, he transitioned into public transit, beginning with about two years as a school bus driver. He then made the switch to transit operations. Ken started as a driver in Rochester, MN, and gradually advanced through the ranks. He worked for First Transit/Transdev, the service provider for Rochester Public Transit, where he held various positions.

In his free time, he enjoys training his dogs for a variety of dog sports and pheasant hunting. Ken currently has two dogs who are both 12 years old: Lila, a Yorkie, and Libby, a field-bred English Springer Spaniel (ESS). While Libby still participates in hunting, Lila is enjoying her retired years.

Ken also has two younger ESS's: Teeter, who is 2 ½ years old, and Purdey, who is 4 months old. Teeter competes in agility, obedience, scentwork, dock diving, and is working towards her Senior Hunter title, along with pheasant hunting in the fall. Purdey, his youngest, will follow a similar path, with the added interest of exploring conformation training and competition as she grows.

## Public Transit: 2025 Commission Timeline

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan-26
<b>FFY 2023 Transit Program Amendment (vehicle replacement)</b>					Brent								
Commission workshop													
Commission approval													
<b>FFY 2024 Transit Program (vehicle replacement)</b>								Brent					
Commission workshop													
Commission approval													
<b>PTIG</b>					Brent								
Applications Received (consolidated app due May 1)													
Applications Review													
Commission workshop													
Commission approval													
<b>SFY 26 STA Special Projects Program</b>							Kristin						
Calculate available \$\$ for STA Special Projects and post in BlackCat													
Applications Due Oct 1													
Application Review													
Commission workshop													
Commission approval													
<b>CY 2025 Intercity Bus Program</b>							Matt						
Calculate available \$\$ for ICB, NOFO - send out August 1													
Applications Due Oct 1													
Application Review													
Commission workshop													
Commission approval													

## Status of Grants

Grant Name	TrAMS Grant Status	Contracts Status
FFY23/SFY24 5310	FTA approved 5/20/2024	contracts out
SFY25 IRXB - CMAQ funding amendment	FTA approved 9/5/2024	contracts out
FFY23 Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Urban Vehicles	FTA approved 9/18/2024	contracts out
FFY23 Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Urban Vehicles	FTA approved 9/18/2024	contracts out
FFY23 Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Regional Vehicles	FTA approved 8/29/2024	
FFY22 Bus and Bus Facilities Formula (Urban/Rural) Shortfall 5339	FTA approved 9/16/2024	contracts out except Ft Dodge, HIRTA, Muscatine
FFY22 CMAQ Urban - shortfall (funded with CRP)	FTA approved 8/29/2024	contracts out
FFY22 CMAQ Rural - shortfall (funded with CRP)	FTA approved 8/29/2024	contracts out
FFY22 CMAQ Rural - shortfall (funded with CRP)	FTA approved 8/29/2024	contracts out
FFY2023 Intercity Bus Grant Program	FTA approved 4/9/2024	contracts out
ICAAP Projects	Submitted 11/19/2024	pending FTA approval of grant
DART Transit Shelters TAP	Submitted 11/19/2024	pending FTA approval of grant
FFY 2023 Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Discretionary Award 5339	Submitted 12/10/2024	pending FTA approval of grant
FFY 2022 Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Discretionary Award 5339	Submitted 12/10/2024	pending FTA approval of grant
FFY 2022 Bus Replacement Discretionary Award 5339	Submitted 12/10/2024	pending FTA approval of grant
FFY 2024 5311 (FY25 5311 Formula and CY25 ICB)	To be submitted December 2024	pending FTA approval of grant
FFY 2024 5310 (FY25 5310 Rural and Urban Formula)	To be submitted December 2024	pending FTA approval of grant
FFY 24 Bus and Bus Facilities Formula		
FFY24 Carbon Reduction Program		
FY2023 STP Flex Funding Grant		
Flex Funds from MAPA		
<a href="#">FY2023-2024 Innovative Coordinated Access &amp; Mobility Project [HIRTA]</a>		

## KRISTIN'S KEYWORDS

Happy Holidays, public transit friends! When I was a kid, time seemed to inch along - anything I was looking forward to took forever to finally arrive on the calendar. Vacations, birthdays, holidays... The month between Thanksgiving and Christmas was sooo long! And, Christmas Eve night - longest night ever waiting for Santa (and I even shortened it greatly by waking my parents up at some ridiculous hour in the morning to open presents)! But now, time absolutely flies by. This applies both personally and professionally.

Yearend reviews are underway, but not complete, so if your system hasn't been contacted by Matt, Laura, or me, we haven't forgotten you, we're just not through the list yet. We have included a little less analysis in our reviews this year. In the past we would try to anticipate the questions the National Transit Database (NTD) analysts would ask so we would be able to respond without bothering the transit agency for the answer. Turns out, we're not that good at guessing what NTD will ask for, so we've removed some of those questions and we'll just follow up with your agency if NTD asks us a question about the year's stats that we can't answer.

The low/no grants with projects programmed and ready to go have been submitted to FTA. We await their comments and edits so those can be executed. The FY25 5310 and 5311 formula grants are being written to be submitted this month. In the future, we will be communicating grant status more frequently to keep all agencies up to date on timing and the process.

A couple things that will be back to their regular schedule this year are the the release of the PTMS list and the updated Programming Guidance. Many thanks to the Public Transit Advisory Committee members Barb, Neal, Brian Pearson, Hugh Lively, Erin Hockman, and Dennis Hart for their input and feedback on both of those items at their November meeting. With that input, the list of buses losing points due to low-mileage was greatly reduced and the Programming Guidance was updated with higher thresholds for several make-ready items. Brent will be sending the PTMS list and Programming Guidance to all transit agencies via email by the end of December. TPMS will be updated so those new amounts can be used when creating your agency's next TIP.

As busy as our work and home lives are, I hope you're able to find some moments this month to ignore the clock and the calendar to stop and fully

enjoy this holiday season, for all the holidays you may celebrate. And, as always, thank you for all you do for public transit in Iowa.

- *Kristin*



### UPDATED PUBLIC TRANSIT BUS PHOTOS STILL NEEDED



Thank you to the the transit agencies that have already sent in photos. We would still like to receive more to use for promotional purposes.

## WHO TO CONTACT

### ▶ FIND YOUR TPA!

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