Ecolane. Where demand-response transportation and on-demand transportation intersect.

Empower your riders to take control of their destinations with Ecolane. With continuous, real-time optimization, riders break free from traditional scheduling software.

At the intersection of demand-response transportation and on-demand transportation, Ecolane has your riders covered—no matter which direction your riders are traveling or whether or not they use a mobility device.
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Schedule a Demo Today
OCTA Debuts Largest Hydrogen Fueling Station, New Buses

THE ORANGE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION Authority (OCTA), CA, joined with local, state, and federal officials recently to unveil the debut of the largest transit-operated hydrogen fueling station in the U.S. and 10 new hydrogen fuel-cell electric buses, representing a $52.2 million investment in zero-emission public transit.

“We are very happy to be leading the way toward a cleaner transportation future that supports the residents of Orange County moving, while keeping the air they breathe healthy with zero emissions,” said OCTA Chairman Steve Jones, a former Mayor of Garden Grove.

The hydrogen-powered buses will be integrated into OCTA’s fleet to operate on hydrogen fuel on demand. The new hydrogen fueling station was unveiled at OCTA’s Center for Transportation and the Environment.

“We are proud to be working with all of our partners to set a strong example in a way that allows transit operations making a positive impact on the environment,” said OCTA CEO David E. Johnson. “We will continue to explore the use of zero-emission technology to ensure we do our part to achieve a cleaner and sustainable transportation system for Orange County’s future.”

OCTA also is in the process of purchasing 10 plug-in battery-electric buses, expected to be in service beginning 2021.

FTA Funds Human Trafficking Prevention, Public Safety

BY K. JANE WILLIAMS
FTA Acting Administrator

JANUARY WAS HUMAN TRAFFICKING Prevention Month and FTA is working diligently to raise awareness about this terrible crime. Last year, FTA launched its Human Trafficking Awareness and Public Safety Initiative to educate the transit industry on human trafficking and other crimes that may occur on transit systems and provide resources to combat them both.

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery. It affects millions of adults and children in the U.S. and worldwide. Traffickers move their victims on all modes of transportation, and often use public transit due to its low cost, greater anonymity in buying fare cards and less direct interaction with the passengers.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

APTA Responds to State Of the Union Address

IN RESPONSE TO THE STATE OF THE UNION address Feb. 4, APTA released a statement saying it was pleased to see President Trump speak about the need to rebuild America’s infrastructure.

With the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act set to expire Sept. 30, 2020, “APTA looks forward to working with Congress and the Administration in the coming weeks and months on bipartisan legislation addressing the need for increased investment in our nation’s surface transportation infrastructure,” said APTA President and CEO Paul P. Skoutelas.

Skoutelas continued: “Americans know that investing in our public transportation systems, highways and bridges will lead to benefits that repay the investment multiple times over in the coming decades. Increased investment in public transportation will get Americans to work, to education and to healthcare, and it will also get our nation to more job creation, less traffic congestion and cleaner air. Investment in public transportation gets us to stronger local economies and more vibrant communities.”

MCI Service Center Technician Wins a Grammy!

Andrew Craig Miller, a senior technician with MCI Coach Industries (MCI) at the organization’s service center in Osseo, MN, was awarded a Grammy on Jan. 26. A bass-baritone, who earned a master’s degree in music from Yale University, Andrew was the featured solo vocalist at the premiering of “Flamenco” by composer Jamie Fox, in a production by the Eastern Maine Symphony Orchestra. His performance, staged by the Eastern Maine Symphony Orchestra, helped generate at least $250,000 for the Annual Appeal for Children’s Hunger Relief, an initiative presented at all MCI’s vehicles’ annual awards dinner.
Reflections on Public Transportation And the Black Community

February is Black History Month, a time when the nation reflects on the contributions of the Black 1960s Civil Rights Movement. Public transportation played an important part in Black History, specifically the 1960s Civil Rights Movement. We have all seen images of Rosa Parks on the bus and the Selma to Montgomery March on U.S. Route 80. In a way, public transportation is synonymous with freedom.

Public transportation has certainly provided freedom for my family. In the 1950s, my grandparents left Panama and came to the United States to start a new life for themselves and their family. My grandfather rode the train from Brooklyn to Manhattan to work in a bakery in Harlem. He needed to arrive by 4 a.m. every morning, and transit allowed him to do that. My grandmother rode the bus to the garment district to work on the line. My mother and her siblings took public transportation to school and then work after school. My grandparents were able to start a new life in a new country, provide for their family and send my mother to college. Public transportation helped them make this happen. This was the American Dream.

Public transportation also facilitated the next generation of freedom for my family. In the 1970s, my parents moved from Crown Heights, Brooklyn, to Laurelton, Queens. During that time, Laurelton was a black working-class community. My next-door neighbors, on both sides, worked for MTA, as well as several neighbors on my block. You see, back then, having a job with the MTA meant having the means to provide better opportunities for your family. You could buy a house, take vacations, send your kids to college and retire with a pension. The American Dream.

Public transportation gave me the freedom to move around New York City. As a young person (in hindsight, maybe too young), I was able to move around my city freely with my friends. In elementary school, we would take the bus from Queens out to Long Island to watch the matinee movie on Saturday mornings (can’t imagine this happening today!). Since I had great transit access, I was able to attend High School in Manhattan and take the bus and train to school. My transit pass allowed me to visit my friends, who lived in different boroughs, whenever I felt the urge. My American Dream.

Public transportation became my profession and that is when I became aware of the unpleasant history of public transportation and the Black Community. In the 1960s, investments in highway systems were used as tools to displace people from the 15th Ward, an African American community, to make way for the construction of the highway projects. In Syracuse, the complete- tion of I-81 displaced many people from the 15th Ward, an African American community, to make way for the construction of the highway projects. In Syracuse, the complete- tion of I-81 displaced many people from the 15th Ward, an African American community, to make way for the construction of the highway projects.

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Public transportation professionals and others in the public transportation industry reflect on the contributions of the Black 1960s Civil Rights Movement. We have all seen images of Rosa Parks on the bus and the Selma to Montgomery March on U.S. Route 80. In a way, public transportation is synonymous with freedom.
NEW CEO NAMED

Archuleta, GMV Synrcromatics

LOS ANGELES-BASED ITS COMPANY GMV Synrcromatics has named Rich “Arch” Archuleta its new chief executive officer (CEO). Archuleta succeeds Ian Sephton who, after seven years as CEO, will continue to serve on the GMV Board of Directors.

Prior to joining GMV Synrcromatics, Archuleta led the product development and management of assistive technology tools for the visually impaired at Vispero.

As general manager and senior vice president of Hewlett-Packard, leading global product businesses, and subsequently being named general manager and senior vice president of Hewlett-Packard, leading global management of assistive technology tools for the visually impaired at Vispero.

New CEO Named

Rich “Arch” Archuleta

Representing all facets of the public transportation industry, more than 115 APTA business members addressed critical industry issues at the 2020 APTA Business Members Annual Meeting in Carlsbad, CA.

MORE THAN 115 APTA BUSINESS members representing all facets of the public transportation industry convened at the APTA Business Members Annual Meeting Jan. 29-31 in Carlsbad, CA.

Attendees addressed critical issues shaping the industry and private-sector interests during a time of rapid and transformative change. The program included sessions and discussions on demographic change, workforce development, leveraging APTA’s business members to boost advocacy, proposed legislative changes to Buy America, opportunities for small and minority-owned businesses, supporting local transit referenda and new technologies.

APTA Chair Nuria I. Fernandez, general manager and chief executive officer of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, San Jose, CA, addressed pending initiatives to grow membership, build programs to attract front-line workers and engage other organizations working to advance public transportation.

“Like our transit agencies, APTA’s business members have been effective advocates and innovative thought leaders for our industry,” she said. “I’m grateful for all you already do to improve mobility, our association and public transportation. This year, I’m confident we’ll achieve even more.”

“Business members make up the majority of APTA’s members and play a critical role in supporting public transportation agencies across the U.S. and Canada,” said Huelon Harrison, chair of the Business Member Board of Governors and principal, Legacy Resource Group. “These past days gave us the opportunity to prioritize the key issues for 2020 as the public transportation industry continues its rapid transformation. One of the highlights of this meeting was welcoming 15 first-time attendees.”

Mike Alexander, director of the Center for Livable Communities at the Atlanta Regional Commission, opened the meeting with a presentation of the demographic changes shaping public transportation and the businesses that support it. Jay Walder, CEO of Virgin Hyperloop One, discussed new transportation technologies.

The meeting also featured a two-hour session with five public transit agency CEOs and senior officials from San Diego, Orange County and Los Angeles detailing upcoming capital projects in California and ways for business members—in particular, small and minority-owned businesses—to participate.

APTA Business Members Address Critical Issues

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

(D-DC) will address the 2020 APTA Legislative Conference March 15-17 in Washington, DC.

The conference will address important federal legislation and policy initiatives and is an opportunity for public transportation industry professionals across the nation to make their presence felt and voices heard in Washington. Sessions will provide updates from federal partners as well as discuss congestion pricing, public transportation funding and infrastructure, among other priorities.

Norton, chair of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, will be a featured speaker at the morning General Session on March 17, where she will discuss FAST Act reauthorization.

The Capitol Steps will return to entertain at the Monday luncheon March 16.

Learn more and register at www.apta.com/conferences-events/legislative-conference.

Hon. Eleanor Holmes Norton to Address Legislative Conference

GOTRIANGLE UNVEILED ITS TWO new electric buses at a recent ceremony in downtown Raleigh, NC. Following an operator and mechanic training period, the agency will integrate the buses into its 74-vehicle fleet, which carries approximately 7,000 passengers per day on 13 regional routes and seven express routes. GoTriangle plans to run the electric buses on every route.

“We’ve heard from our customers over the past few years that they really wanted GoTriangle to explore using alternative energy buses, and we are thrilled to have our first two electric buses nearly ready to go,” said Shelley Blake Curran, GoTriangle’s interim CEO and president. “Being more environmentally friendly is just one more way we can better serve our growing region.”

The buses, built by Proterra, were ordered following the award of a $943,000 federal Low or No Emission competitive grant.

“Proterra’s electric transit buses will help GoTriangle meet its sustainability goals and deliver clean, quiet transportation to the community,” said Proterra CEO Ryan Poppie. “Electric buses help transit agencies reduce greenhouse gas emissions, eliminate fossil fuel dependency and reduce costs, while offering superior vehicle performance.”

The unveiling took place at Raleigh Union Station, next to a property that will house GoTriangle’s new bus facility. The two facilities together will form a new, multi-modal transit hub.

GoTriangle Debuts First Regional Electric Buses


“APTA would like to commend Congress and the Administration for enacting the FY20 Transportation Appropriations much earlier than in previous years. Particular thanks to the FTA and Acting Administrator K. Jane Williams for moving quickly in publishing the apportionments,” said APTA President and CEO Paul P. Skoutelas.

“As a result, transit systems around the country can move quickly to put these critical funds to work to modernize our public transportation services.”

The amounts listed in the tables are for planning purposes. Recipients may use the amounts to develop their grants in the Transit Award Management System (TRAMS) and sub-allocations prior to the funds being available.

Once FTA has received the apportionments from the Office of Management and Budget, the funds will be loaded in TRAMS to permit award and obligation of grants. The Federal Register notice detailing the apportionments in narrative form will be published soon.

APTA members with questions about the apportionments, applying for funding or the status of a pending application should contact their FTA Regional Office. Locate offices at www.bit.ly/FTARegionalOffices.

FTA Posts FY2020 Apportionment Tables

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
INIT App Aids Visual, Hearing and Mobility Impaired Riders

INIT innovations in Transportation, Inc. has announced the ASSISTIVE-travel app, which offers personalized ride-hailing assistance and journey guidance for riders with visual, hearing and mobility impairments.

“Increasing the freedom of all riders to use mainstream public transit is an exciting opportunity—one public transit providers can’t miss,” said INIT CEO, Roland Stab. “The ASSISTIVE-travel app is the catalyst to increase the mobility of impaired riders and at the same time reduces agency costs of running expensive paratransit services.”

With the app, the rider can view a list and map of the closest bus stops. When the rider selects a stop, a view of all bus departures for that stop is displayed. The rider selects a bus and triggers the travel companion request, which sends a notification to the driver indicating the level of assistance required.

The driver receives the rider’s request via an on-board mobile data terminal one stop before the user is to board. In addition, information such as the rider’s ability level is displayed. The driver is able to notify a rider about the availability of wheelchair space on the bus.

At the stop, the app boarding request triggers an on-demand external audio announcement of the service number for the visually impaired. For hearing impaired riders, the system transmits the internal announcements directly to a rider’s t-loop enabled hearing aids. On board, an internal audio announcement is broadcast when approaching the next stop, and users also receive trip status notifications from the app.

The ASSISTIVE-travel app is a stand-alone system that can communicate with the public transit agency’s CAD/AVL System using an open interface.

Apply Now for APTA’s 2020 Safety And Security Awards

APTA is accepting applications through March 19 for its Bus and Paratransit Safety and Security Awards and through April 16 for its Rail (commuter, heavy, light and streetcar) Awards. There are award categories for all sizes and modes of transit agencies, so participants will compete for an award only against an agency of similar size and operations.

APTA will announce the winners of the Bus and Paratransit Awards at the 2020 Mobility Conference, May 17-20 in San Antonio, TX, and the winners of the Rail Awards at the 2020 Rail Conference, June 14-17 in San Francisco.

The application process is easy: the online form includes a field for each question and the completed form can be submitted with one click. Applicants are advised to type their answers for each section ahead of time in a Word document, then copy and paste into the relevant fields. Additional, optional attachments (pictures, letters of recommendation, etc.) can be saved to applications.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Brian Alberts (Safety Awards) at balberts@apta.com or Polly Hanson (Security Awards) at phanson@apta.com.

In Memoriam

Haugh, APTA Hall of Fame Honoree

GERALD THOMAS HAUGH, 86, of Palm Desert, CA, died Jan. 24. He was the driving force behind significant achievement in San Mateo County, CA, an area devoid of public transportation until 1976. Haugh initiated a landmark effort that produced the SamTrans Century Plan—the strategic blueprint that laid the groundwork for major expansion, including formation of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Authority plan for West Bay transit development. Haugh was very active in APTA, and was the recipient of APTA’s 2001 Hall of Fame Award for his “extraordinary contributions to public transportation on a sustained basis.”

Register for NTI Transit Trainers’ Workshop

The National Transit Institute (NTI) is offering a three-day Transit Trainers’ Workshop April 19-21 in Kansas City, MO. Including training sessions, information exchanges and networking opportunities, the program will present participants with new approaches to addressing common workplace challenges; and the strategies, tools and information required for leveraging the latest industry innovations.

The workshop allows participants to share skills and techniques with others in the industry to build the professionalism of transit trainers and enable them to become more proactive partners in their organizations. The workshop will include sessions in a wide variety of topic areas, such as employee and organizational development, maintenance training, operations training, customer service, and training management and administration.

For more information and to register, visit www.ntionline.com/register-for-transit-trainers-workshop or contact ntl_tw@nti.rutgers.edu.

Public Transit Agencies Mark Black History Month

Public transit agencies around the country are marking Black History Month (February) by recognizing and celebrating the on-going contributions and achievements of African-Americans in all walks of life. Just one example is Greensboro (NC) Transit Agency’s Black History Heritage Ride. First launched in 2017, the custom-decorated bus provides a visual history of people, places and events that have transformed the Black community and the American populace. New additions to the 2020 edition include Rickey Hall of Farmer Bill Players, first lady Eleanor Roosevelt and the cities of Durham, NC, and Philadelphia, PA.

In addition to operating regular service, the Hills with color and historical events will mark a number of Greensboro schools where children in grades K-4 can ride free, view images and learn about public transportation and how it has played a strategic role in shaping the local and national.
CDTA Introduces First Electric Buses In Upstate New York

THE CAPITAL DISTRICT Transportation Authority (CDTA) in Albany, NY, has introduced the first battery-electric-powered bus in Upstate New York, as part of a pilot program to test technologies for zero-emission buses. The agency will monitor the range, charging timelines, electricity usage and performance of the four New Flyer buses throughout its network and under all operating conditions.

In addition to the benefits of zero emissions, the buses will be quieter and are expected to yield lower operating costs than both diesel and natural gas buses. Customer and employee feedback will be collected and analyzed as part of the pilot.

“We take pride in being a leader in innovation,” said CDTA Chief Executive Officer Carm Basile. "These buses meet CDTA’s goals to reduce the region’s carbon footprint. They are part of a progressive platform for clean energy being advanced by Governor Cuomo.”

CDTA installed four Siemens direct current depot chargers at its 110 Watervliet Avenue facility and worked with National Grid and Sage Engineering to design appropriate upgrades of the electrical capacity at its headquarters.

“New Flyer is thrilled to celebrate CDTA’s launch of the first battery-electric transit buses in Upstate New York,” said Chris Stoddart, president of New Flyer. “With the adoption of zero-emission buses, CDTA is enhancing accessibility, reducing the region’s carbon footprint and advancing infrastructure to meet the mobility needs in Albany and the surrounding communities.”

HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

Continued From Page 1

government or transit officials.

FTA created a dedicated website, www.transportation.gov/regulations-and-programs/safety/human-trafficking-awareness-and-public-safety-initiative, which houses information and resources, including videos that transit agencies can use to educate their employees about the indicators of human trafficking and where to find help. In September 2019, FTA hosted a human trafficking panel at its Joint State Safety Oversight and Rail Transit Agency Workshop. Speakers came from FTA, APTA, the AO1 Campaign [a global, non-profit NGO that works to fight human trafficking] and the South West Transit Association and provided information on the intersection of human trafficking with public transportation’s bus and rail systems, employees and riders, and available training and resources.

Recently, FTA awarded $5.4 million in grants and cooperative agreements to 24 organizations across the country for projects to implement innovative solutions, public safety awareness campaigns and training to help prevent human trafficking and other crimes on public transportation. The awardees include small rural and large urban transit providers, transportation associations, national non-profit organizations and local governments.

The selected projects highlight many innovative approaches the transit industry can take to address human trafficking and other crimes. For example, a New York grant recipient will develop technical assistance materials for transit systems on human trafficking, facilitate focus groups to determine the best placement for materials and develop a response protocol for transit workers when confronted with potential cases of human trafficking. The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) will receive funds for the “No Human Trafficking” project to educate passengers and the public on how to report suspected human trafficking activity and increase employee training. Gwinnett County, GA, will receive funding to install live-view communications equipment for its entire fleet of buses to allow for live monitoring, which will promote public safety for operators and passengers. You can read more about the selected projects at https://bit.ly/2UoB0Wt.

On Jan. 28, U.S. DOT Secretary Elaine L. Chao hosted the 100 Pledges in 100 Days Human Trafficking Awareness Event to encourage transportation leaders to take action against this terrible crime. As a part of the event, FTA hosted a panel on Detecting Trafficking and Protecting the Traveling Public in the Passenger System where leaders from transit, aviation and rail shared their perspectives and success stories on human trafficking awareness and education efforts at their organizations. We heard from Nuria Fernandez, Santa Clara VTA general manager and CEO and APTA chair; and Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) General Manager Leslie Richards, who both spoke about the importance of training for transit employees to build awareness of the signs of trafficking. Both panelists spoke of individual bus operators from their systems, Tim Watson (VTA) and Shirley Russell (SEPTA), who saved children from traffickers with their quick and compassionate actions. These heroic operators had each recently received human trafficking awareness training, which they credited with knowing the signs of what to look for and what to do to help. Other panels included Fighting Trafficking in the Freight Network and Detecting Trafficking and Protecting the Traveling Public in the Passenger System.

FTA is proud to lead these efforts and support U.S. DOT’s Transportation Leaders Against Human Trafficking initiative, including U.S. DOT’s Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking. The committee completed a report in July that recommends actions the department can take to help combat human trafficking and best practices for states and local transportation stakeholders. You can read the report at www.transportation.gov/administrations/office-policy/advisory-committee-human-trafficking. Visit U.S. DOT’s Transportation Leaders Against Human Trafficking website, cms8.dot.gov/TLAHT, for more information on its efforts to combat human trafficking and to sign the transportation leaders pledge (www.transportation.gov/TLAHT/Pledge). For questions regarding FTA’s Human Trafficking and Public Safety Initiative, contact Henrika Buchanan, FTA chief safety officer and associate administrator for the office of transit safety and oversight, at henrika.buchanan@dot.gov or 202-366-1783.
TRANSPORT

Please describe your organization's size and scope.

The TTC provides nearly 600 million rides a year on a single-track structure (no zoning or grade separations), including conventional service, operating buses, trolley, and heavy rail. We also operate an integrated and accessible paratransit service that provides 4.2 million trips a year.

What attracted you to the public transportation industry—and what did you do before?

As a child in Boston, I would ride the T with my father and became fascinated by public transit. When I came time to find a job, it was a natural fit for me. Driving trains allowed me to go to school during the day and work at night. It was a perfect fit for me. I’ve worked in public transit my entire professional life.

Please describe your role. What do you like most about your job?

As TTC’s executive office, I am responsible for everything we do. I love coordinating about it; finding solutions, building relationships, and the passion of staff at the TTC. It all inspires and motivates me.

Please describe the length and scope of your involvement with APTA.

I’ve been honored to be associated with APTA since 1993, serving on several committees and attending many conferences.

What have you found to be the most valuable APTA benefit or resource?

APTA has been an invaluable resource to me and I’ve learned so much from my colleagues across North America. I learned about the value of KPIs and metrics, the importance of good operations, the need for vigilance around security and good maintenance practices.

What do you see as the biggest challenges and opportunities facing public transportation over the next few years? What are you and your organization doing to address them?

Service oneway, is just one of the biggest challenges and the biggest opportunities. The TTC, like other organizations, needs to be able to continue to deliver the service we are in the business of providing, resources and capacity.

We are also looking at how we can improve the service we provide, both in terms of operations and the experience of our customers.

We are also looking at how we can improve the service we provide, both in terms of operations and the experience of our customers.

What is unique about your organization? What would readers be surprised to learn?

The TTC is the third largest public transit agency in North America after New York and Mexico City, with 16,000 employees, a $2.1 billion operating budget and a $4.2 billion capital budget.

This April, we will become the operator of North America’s largest integrated service area on one electric bus fleet. This is a significant accomplishment and we are proud to pilot this program with vehicles from three different manufacturers. We are among five transit agencies in North America with electric bus fleets.

MV to Provide Paratransit Service to TARC

MV TRANSPORTATION, INC. HAS been awarded a five-year contract to provide paratransit services to the Transit Authority of River City (TARC), Louisville, KY, beginning Feb. 1.

“TARC is committed to ensuring mobility and independence through high-quality transportation options for our paratransit customers,” said TARC Executive Director Ferdinand L. Risco Jr. “MV is uniquely qualified to help us achieve our vision to become a mobility solutions provider and deliver a better customer experience.”

MV will be responsible for operations, the call center, dispatch, maintenance and safety within the TARC’s paratransit service system.

“We look forward to our partnership with TARC,” said Steve Trinkle, MV senior vice president, who will oversee operations. “We are confident that we can enhance the experience TARC provides passengers with our proven operational expertise and advanced mobility solutions innovation.”

APTA Hosts French Delegation

AFTMA, a group independently funded non-profit entity, recently presented the French Ministry of Transportation and the French Embassy in the United States in cooperation with several organizations. The delegation included and representatives from the French Ministry of Transportation and the French Embassy in the United States. Discussions focused on all aspects of public transportation and its potential impact on the environment.

The delegation included representatives from the French Ministry of Transportation and the French Embassy in the United States. Discussions focused on all aspects of public transportation and its potential impact on the environment.

TransLink Celebrates Lunar New Year with Branded Bus

TransLink placed Lunar New Year celebrate by participating in the Vancouver Chinese Spring Festival Parade, Jan. 20, with a specially themed Lunar New Year Bus.

“The Lunar New Year is a time to celebrate the diverse communities we live together in Metro Vancouver,” said TransLink CEO Kevin Desmond. “We are pleased to participate in the parade with our Lunar New Year bus.”

The new year will be the year of the rat, a symbol of wealth and good fortune. The Lunar New Year bus features the rat on both sides, with lanterns signifying life and prosperity. Following the parade, the bus was set to enter service on various Metro Vancouver routes.
National Rail Car Training Consortium: Embarking On a New Phase of Training Implementation

BY THE TRANSPORTATION LEARNING CENTER

BEGINNING IN LATE 2015, the National Rail Car Training Consortium (consortium) has reached an important milestone of completing a full suite of standards-based national courseware and is embarking on a new phase to support training and apprenticeship programs for rail car technicians at its member agencies.

“Most transit agencies have been struggling with hiring, developing and retaining a qualified workforce, especially in the field of rail car maintenance. Lots of these systems have an aging fleet and a graying workforce. SacRT [Sacramento Regional Transit District] is certainly not immune from these issues.” Henry Li, general manager/chief executive officer of SacRT, a founding member agency of the consortium, explained the necessity of this effort. “The training workshops, instructional videos and educational materials [produced by the consortium] have become a vital touchstone for rail transit agencies to train our future technicians.”

The courseware development teams are composed of more than 40 rail car maintenance subject matter experts (SMEs) from 18 member agencies and unions from across the country, led by instructional systems designers from the Transportation Learning Center (the Center). By joining the consortium, agencies and unions leverage industry resources to improve technician skills and prepare for new fleet implementation or upgrade internal capacity to refurbish existing fleet.

The 35 consortium courses cover maintenance training of 11 rail vehicle subsystems: HVAC, auxiliary power systems, propulsion and dynamic braking, doors, friction brakes, current collection & distribution, communication systems, automatic train control, carbody, trucks and axles and couplers. Each course contains participant guides, instructor guides, PowerPoints, instructional videos, hands-on learning activities, quizzes and assessments. Additionally, the consortium has developed Overview to Rail Vehicle Subsystems, Troubleshooting and Diagnostics Principles and Train-the-Trainee. All courses are downloadable by members from www.transittraining.net.

In Cleveland, the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA) and ATU Local 268 use consortium curriculum to support the newly registered Rail Vehicle Maintenance Technician Apprenticeship program, one of the first in the country. This 36-month program provides GCRTA with the opportunity to develop a pipeline of skilled employees, which addresses the need to fill hard-to-find, specialized, highly technical positions. It involves a combination of supervised on-the-job training, classroom instruction, and mentoring to develop entry-level employees into fully qualified journeymen.

At SacRT, participants demonstrated 47 percent in learning gains after attending a consortium training session. Denver Regional Transportation District (RTD) has been using the consortium courseware extensively during new-hire training.

“We have found that using the courseware is a good introduction to various rail systems, and it exemplifies what is standard across the rail industry,” said Joseph Hopfner, LRV maintenance instructor/supervisor at Denver RTD.

Nuria I. Fernandez, APTA chair and general manager and chief executive officer of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), has identified workforce development as a top priority for APTA. “We must provide a host of training options for developing and upskilling current frontline transit employees. At the same time, we also need to recruit and retain new graduates and skilled workers, whose knowledge and abilities will grow as transit jobs evolve.” Fernandez described VTA’s involvement in the consortium: “Our trainers and frontline technicians interact with peers from around the country and work together across geographical boundaries and across labor-management boundaries to develop the best training material possible.”

This consortium builds on the Center’s highly successful Elevator- Escalator and Signals Training Consortia. Materials are based on the national rail maintenance training standards published by APTA. The newest Traction Power Training Consortium has just been launched to develop introductory and advanced instruction-ready and interactive courses on traction power maintenance.
MEET THE APTA STAFF

MARIE BENTON
Director – Rail Programs
Technique’s Services & Innovation Department

Q: What are your primary responsibilities at APTA, and those of your department?
A: As director of rail programs, my department oversees the rail industry as it manages day-to-day operations, provides support for programming at APTA conferences, and creates and manages APTA’s rail industry standards. I also facilitate member inclusion and rail-related peer reviews, which is probably the most interesting and rewarding aspect of my job, as it lets me make a difference in the rail industry with other agencies.

Q: How do the initiatives and programs you worked on contribute to APTA’s strategic goals?
A: Through APTA’s standards, conferences, programs and peer reviews, I help lead the rail industry in safety, security and system resilience. I am excited to be a part of an industry that can make a difference in people’s lives, and I look forward to what the next few years hold.

Q: To what extent do you have direct contact with APTA members?
A: I have to stay in contact with our members, for sure. It’s all about making it a connection. A member may be interested in a new technology but unsure if there’s an organization they can join. It’s the collaboration of the member’s needs and the industry expertise that gets us to the right place.

Q: Which APTA committees are you involved with, and how?
A: I am involved with numerous committees and working groups. They all serve different purposes, so it’s important to make sure we’re connected.

Q: How did you come to be at APTA?
A: I joined APTA in June of 2012. I moved to the DART, and I have been here ever since.

Q: Do you have any professional affiliations?
A: I am a member of APTA’s rail directors, the group dedicated to advancing women in transportation. I am also a member of APTA’s rail directors, the group dedicated to advancing women in transportation. I am interested in how technology can be used to make transportation more efficient and safer.

Q: Could you tell us something about yourself that might surprise us?
A: I am probably the least artistic person you will ever meet. As a child, I was stuck in the middle of the pack, neither good nor bad. I was never the best or the worst, I just fell somewhere in between. I have always been interested in how technology can be used to make transportation more efficient and safer.

Q: In your role at APTA, what is your favorite part of the job?
A: It’s the people. It’s the people. It’s the people. I love meeting new people, learning about their experiences and sharing ideas. It’s a great way to stay connected to the industry and to the people who are making it happen.

Palm Tran Launches Beach Bus Extension

San Diego MTS aims to decrease its fleet emissions with the purchase of 24 CNG-powered commuter coaches from MCI.

MCI to Supply CNG Commuter Coaches To San Diego MTS

MOTOR COACH INDUSTRIES (MCI), a U.S. subsidiary of NFI Group Inc., is to supply the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) with 24 MCI D4500 CNG-powered commuter coaches. The vehicles will replace 12-year-old diesel intercity buses on commuter express routes operating between downtown San Diego and suburbs. ADA- and America-compliant, MTS’ newest commuter coaches are equipped with wheelchair lifts and feature such safety technologies as three-point passenger seatbelts, back-up cameras and onboard nine-camera surveillance systems.

“Purchase of this important milestone for MTS as we will now be able to retire the last of our diesel buses,” said MTS CEO Paul Jablonski. “MTC operates one of the cleanest fleets in the United States and the agency has made significant contributions to reduce emissions for our region. This puts near-zero-emission buses on both of our premium Rapid Express freeway routes.”

“We’re honored to add the MCI MCI commuter coach to the fleet of an environmental innovator like San Diego Metropolitan Transit System,” said MCI Vice President Tom Wagner.

Palm Tran delivers on its promise to deliver a beach bus extension service. The service, which includes a round-trip service from the Palm Beach International Airport to the Palm Beach Inlet, was launched in May 2020. The service runs daily, except for holidays, and is available to the public.

Palm Tran also offers a round-trip service from the Palm Beach International Airport to the Palm Beach Inlet, which is available to the public on a regular basis. The service operates daily, except for holidays, and is available to the public.

Palm Tran, a subsidiary of MCI, operates a fleet of 450 coaches in the U.S. and Canada. The company is a leading provider of transportation services to the transportation industry.

Palm Tran serves the Palm Beach area with a fleet of 450 coaches, including a round-trip service from the Palm Beach International Airport to the Palm Beach Inlet, which is available to the public on a regular basis. The service operates daily, except for holidays, and is available to the public.
MTA Pays it Forward

BY CHARLENE A. KOWALSKI
Director of Marketing/Customer Service
Mass Transportation Authority
Flint, MI

FOR ALMOST 50 YEARS, the Mass Transportation Authority (MTA), Flint, MI, has been providing public transportation services to the people of Genesee County. But, within the last year, the agency has taken steps to become more active in the community through its charitable services. For some organizations, it is transporting school children to a hockey game or the circus; or offering trips to a Senior Power Day at Crossroads Village. Providing transportation, however, is only one facet of what agency employees do to help out in the community.

Besides laying on almost 300 special trip rides to different organizations in Genesee County, MTA has also been involved in collecting money through internal fundraisers for such organizations as the American Cancer Society, the Salvation Army, the Autism Support & Resource Center and the American Heart Association.

MTA employees have been fully involved, holding bake sales and collecting spare change. For example, this past year, staff collected $3,600 for Breast Cancer Awareness Month and $1,500 for the Autism Support & Resource Center.

“We could say it’s a season of giving,” said Ed Benning, MTA general manager/CEO. “But it is a way of life for MTA. It’s really our people who give of their time and effort.”

In October, the agency took part in the Halloween “Trunk or Treat” event, sponsored by the Genesee Health Plan organization, with a specially decorated themed bus for a real Halloween experience.

In November, the agency transported hundreds of people to venues that were serving dinner to the less fortunate: the Blessed to be a Blessing charity organization, the Annual Floyd and Brenda Clack (former and current Genesee County commissioners) Senior Citizens Day at Crossroads Village. MTA assisted with transportation and set up a tent with information and promotional items.

Almost 2,000 seniors attended a Senior Power Day at Crossroads Village. MTA assisted with transportation and set up a tent with information and promotional items.

Back in the fall of 2018, MTA began working with the staff of the Miracle League of Greater Flint to promote and fundraise for the area’s first accessible baseball field. The agency partnered with OUTFRONT Media to wrap a bus with Miracle League information. It truly made an impact in the community.

“The Mass Transportation Authority exists for the purpose of providing great public service that meets and exceeds the expectations of the riding public,” said Benning. “Further, the MTA understands the importance of paying it forward and making a real difference in the lives of those in our community.”

TEXRail Celebrates First Anniversary

TRINITY METRO TEXRAIL celebrated one year in operation last month, providing service between downtown Fort Worth and Dallas Fort Worth International Airport’s Terminal B.

At the end of 2019, TEXRail ridership reached 545,345 for the year. December was a record-setting month, with 51,217 passengers and the trains on schedule 99.15 percent of the time. The previous record for paid ridership was set in December 2018 at 44,741, which occurred in November. Jon-Erik “AJ” Arjanen, vice president and chief operating officer for rail, said TEXRail’s reliability is key to increasing ridership. “Riders want to know that the train is going to pick them up on time and take them safely to their destination as scheduled,” he said. “If you’re traveling to the airport to catch a flight, you don’t want to worry about when you’ll arrive.”

TEXRail is a strong supporter of the Miracle League of Greater Flint, an organization dedicated to raising funds to build the first fully accessible baseball field in Genesee County.

Rockford Introduces New Buses, Brand

THE ROCKFORD MASS TRANSIT District (RMTD), Rockford, IL, has taken possession of five 35’ diesel hybrid electric buses from Gillig. The buses, which will be placed into operation this month following maintenance and operator training, replace five older vehicles in the agency’s fleet.

The new buses use Series-ER electric hybrid technology from BAE Systems, which is a combination of a smaller diesel engine and an energy storage system. The technology allows for the diesel engine to go off operation and into electric mode when the vehicle is stopped, leading to up to a 25 percent reduction in fuel consumption and close to a 90 percent overall reduction in emissions as compared to the older vehicles. The buses can also go into electric mode and run on clean energy in designated areas such as schools, medical facilities or population-dense areas.

A TEXRail train at Dallas Fort Worth International Airport’s Terminal B station.

RMTD’s commitment to sustainability includes the introduction of new diesel hybrid electric buses.
**Classifieds**

The Public Transit Marketplace — Passenger Transit Classified Ads are the marketplace for public transit.

**BID PROPOSALS**

**CITY OF NORWALK**

**INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) NO. 20-625**

**BODY REPAIR AND PAINTING SERVICES FOR TRANSIT BUSES AND Heavy-Duty Vehicles for Norwalk Transit System (NTS)**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Norwalk invites prospective bidders to submit密封 proposal for the purpose of painting and repair of passenger buses.

**BIDS/PROPOSALS**

**CITY OF NORWALK**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**TIRE LEASE SERVICES FOR TRANSPO BUS FLEET**

The South Bend Public Transportation Corporation (TRANSP) is requesting proposals from qualified firms to provide bus maintenance and repair services for up to 10 buses, Effective January 1, 2020. Proposals are due by March 25, 2020.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Delaware County Transit Board (DCTB) is requesting proposals for:

- **Low Floor Transit Vehicles**
- **Service Equipment**

Requirements are as listed in the RFP. Bids are due by March 22, 2020.

**LINK TRANSIT**

Request for Proposals Program, which includes instructions, specifications, and all compliance forms or vendor agreements, is available from the Office of the Procurement Director for the D.C. Transit Board. Proposals are due by March 20, 2020.
MINING ENGINEER – DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

A Mining Engineer is responsible for the design, planning, and execution of mining projects, including feasibility studies, economic evaluations, and environmental impact assessments.

**Responsibilities:**
- Conduct feasibility studies and economic evaluations for mining projects.
- Prepare environmental impact assessments and other regulatory documents.
- Collaborate with geologists to determine the feasibility of mining operations.
- Oversee the design and implementation of mining projects.
- Ensure compliance with all regulatory standards and guidelines.

**Requirements:**
- Bachelor's degree in Mining Engineering or related field.
- Professional Engineer (PE) license.
- Experience in feasibility studies and economic evaluations.
- Knowledge of environmental regulations and impact assessments.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

**Position Type:** Full-time

**Salary Range:** Competitive salary and benefits package.

**Application Process:**
- Submit a resume and cover letter highlighting relevant experience.
- Provide examples of completed projects and references.
- Interviews will be conducted internally and externally.

**Closing Date:** Ongoing

**How to Apply:** Interested candidates should submit their applications through the organization’s official portal at [www.goldengate.org](http://www.goldengate.org).
NEW YORK CITY—Veronica “Ronnie” Hakim has been named the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) president and chief executive officer. Hakim most recently served as managing director of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) after a 10-year career in the public transit industry. In addition to her career at MTA, she was executive director for New Jersey Transit Corporation and executive director of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority.

For APTA, Hakim served on the Board of Directors and was a member of the Legacies Committee, Public Transportation CEO Coordinating Council, 2020-2022 Strategic Plan Steering, Legislative and Rail Issues (COO) committees.

Byford Departs New York City Transit

NEW YORK CITY—Andy Byford, president of New York City Transit (NYCT) has announced he will be departing the agency after two years of service. Prior to joining NYCT, Byford was COO of Rand Corporation in Sydney, Australia. From 2003 to 2008, he held the positions of operations director and operations manager with South East Railway and South Eastern Trains Limited. UK. Byford also held a variety of managerial positions during his service with London Underground from 1993 to 2003.

CINCINNATI, OH—The Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA) has named John Ravasio as Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Michelle Jeng as Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

Ravasio is responsible for overseeing SORTA’s operations, fleet and facilities and accessible services. He joined the agency in 2011 and most recently served as director of employee & labor relations/employment law before being promoted to interim COO.

Jeng is responsible for overseeing the organization’s operating budget, capital program, grants administration, financial reporting, treasury management activities and investments. She has more than 20 years of experience in financial services and treasury management. She joined SORTA in 2018 as senior director of treasury, followed by serving as interim CFO.

PAINESVILLE, OH—Sara Spence has been appointed to the Laketran Board of Trustees. She is the president of Willoughby-based Spence Technologies and immediate past president of the Willoughby Western Chamber of Commerce. She also serves as vice president of the Alliance for Working Together.

Brian Falkowski, of Concord, was re-elected to a sixth, one-year term as the board president of Lake County’s regional transit system. Chuck Zibble, also of Concord, will continue serving as vice president.

GRAND RAPIDS, MI—American Seating has announced the promotion of Karen G. Dhanie to vice president of business development. She joined the American Seating team in 2016 as national sales director and has worked in the transportation industry since 2012.

OMAHA, NE—Todd Hemingson has joined HDR as a senior transit consultant. Most recently he was executive vice president for planning and development at Capital Metro in Austin, TX. He has led transit network redesigns at three agencies and the planning and implementation of two new BRT lines. He also serves as chair for Transportation Research Board research panel TCRP H-56, “Redesigning Public Transportation Networks for a New Mobility Future.”