

APTA Announces and Congratulates

Innovation

Golden Empire Transit

Golden Empire Transit Book on Bus Program

Golden Empire Transit (GET) created an innovative book program by turning a bus into a mini mobile library stocked with books primarily geared toward children ranging from infant to 3rd grade.

The books make the daily commute more fun for children and less daunting for parents who may have restless children.

GET holds book drives in partnership with Barnes and Noble, where the agency parks a bus outside the store. Patrons can purchase and donate a new book for the agency and receive a 10 percent discount on their own purchases. It's a win-win for everyone.



Pace Suburban Bus

Pace Suburban Bus and Illinois State Toll Highway Authority I-90 Project

Pace Suburban Bus and the Illinois Tollway forged a unique partnership to work together to expand public transit options, make roadway advances and improve overall mobility on the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90).

The partnership set a new standard for Pace and the 35 million passengers the agency serves in 200 municipalities across the Chicago area. It increased ridership, improved on-time performance and provided greater visibility for the suburban bus division of the Regional Transit Authority (RTA).

As the transportation sector as a whole looks for ways to reduce congestion as development increases, and as the public sector aspires to reduce carbon emissions and contain costs, this type of partnership is not just innovative, but imperative.



Outstanding Public Transportation System Achievement

Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority

Providing 4 million or fewer annual passenger trips

Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority's (LAVTA) fixed-route bus service area covers 40 square miles and includes the cities of Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton in Alameda County, approximately 35 miles east of San Francisco. LAVTA contracts for the operation and maintenance of all fixed-route and paratransit services, which are provided with a fleet of 60 buses and 18 paratransit vehicles.

At the beginning of each year, LAVTA's operations team establishes a calendar of safety priorities. Every other month a "Safety Stand-Down" is scheduled to expand on the safety message of the month with visual cues, videos and handouts, expanded management presence at pull-outs, and road supervisors stationed at key transfer points to question drivers on their understanding of the safety focus.



Central Ohio Transit Authority

Providing more than 4 million and fewer than 20 million annual passenger trips

Cleaner and more efficient transit vehicles are at the core of the Central Ohio Transit Authority's (COTA) sustainability initiatives. COTA is committed to transitioning its entire diesel fleet to compressed natural gas (CNG) and electric by 2025. At the end of 2019, more than half of COTA's 321 fixed-route buses were powered by CNG. The agency will replace 28 diesel buses with CNG buses each year until the diesel fleet is fully retired.

In 2019, COTA launched its first employee resource group which performed 19 community projects in its first year. COTA's veteran workforce is more than 10 percent, higher than the national average.

COTA continues to improve safety measures in its facilities and on the street. Initiatives such as safety pop-ups and continuing education and training helped decrease the number of preventable accidents from 0.61 per 100,000 miles in 2017 to 0.25 in 2018. During the same time, the rate of employee injuries decreased from 2.28 to 2.27. Safety and wellness fairs are held every May in all COTA facilities.

COTA also received this award in 2018.



Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas

Providing 20 million or more annual passenger trips



Safety is the Metropolitan Transit

Authority of Harris County's (METRO) top priority. Ensuring the well-being of passengers, the public and employees is something the agency focuses on every day. METRO's board of directors has made a commitment to take proactive agencywide approaches to enhance, implement and track safety practices. In 2018, METRO was the recipient of an APTA Gold Award for Safety as a "model for emergency response" for its proactive efforts during Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

The use of compressed natural gas (CNG) buses is also a safe and affordable method for improving air quality. In 2018, METRO celebrated a significant achievement, traveling 10 million miles with its fleet of CNG buses, reducing more than 3,000 tons of nitrogen oxide. By adopting clean-burning fuels, like CNG, METRO has reduced the amount of harmful pollutants in Houston's air. Today, the authority has 70 CNG buses in its fleet.

METRO values the diversity of its employees and the unique perspectives they bring to the organization. Bonuses and incentives are offered to bilingual operators and dispatchers. METRO also celebrates diversity through a series of cultural events throughout the year, including Black History Month, Women's History Month, Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month, Hispanic Heritage Month and Veterans Day.

Local Distinguished Service

Sharon Bulova

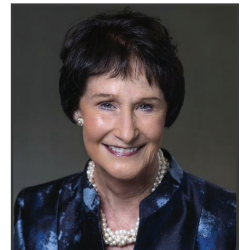
During a long and distinguished 30-year career, Sharon Bulova, recently retired chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, helped shape public transportation options in the Washington, DC, Metropolitan area. Bulova helped found the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) commuter rail line in 1988 and oversaw the massive redevelopment of Tyson's Corner and the launch of the Silver Line. An original, and the longest-serving member of the VRE Operations Board, Bulova worked diligently to help VRE overcome funding shortfalls, indemnification hurdles and opposition from private railroads.

Bulova began working on VRE in 1984 while she served as an aide to Annandale District Supervisor Audrey Moore, whose seat she won in 1987. In 1988, Bulova became a member of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, which advances a robust and reliable public transit network to support communities in Northern Virginia.

She helped secure funding for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

Bulova is particularly proud of One Fairfax, a joint social- and racial-equity policy adopted by the county's board of supervisors and the school board in 2017. It commits schools and the county to intentionally consider equity when making policies or delivering programs and services.

All Fairfax County agencies, including the Department of Transportation, have developed Equity Impact Plans and implemented the One Fairfax policy.



Outstanding Public Transportation Business Member

Freddie Fuller II

For more than 23 years, Freddie Fuller II has amassed vast experience in the private sector and has used his education, expertise and relationships to engage and connect organizations and individuals within the public transportation industry. He is currently a vice president at Jacobs, leading new business development for transit and rail in the Mid-Atlantic, Southeast and Canada, with a focus on electronic payment systems. He also serves as the liaison between Jacobs and organizations including the African American Mayors Association, Community Leaders of America, International City/County Management Association, National Association of Counties, National League of Cities, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Fuller is a strong business advocate, and staunch supporter of diversity and inclusion with APTA and other industry organizations. From 2018 to the present, he began simultaneously serving a three-year term as secretary/treasurer of APTA and a two-year term as national board chair for the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials. He is a graduate of Leadership APTA and was selected as an Eno Transportation Foundation Fellow.

Fuller has served on APTA's Business Members Board of Governors (BMBG), and in 2015, he became chair of the BMBG Legislative Committee. That same year, he was elected to his first three-year term on the APTA Executive Committee. In 2017, he was named vice chair of the BMBG Budget Committee and appointed to the



Its 2020 Award Recipients

APTA Finance Committee. He also currently serves as chair of the Finance Committee and is a member of APTA's American Public Transportation Foundation Board of Directors and chair of its Finance Committee.

Prior to joining Jacobs, Fuller served in leadership roles with The Bus in Prince George's County, MD; Greater Richmond Transit Authority in Richmond, VA; Cubic Transportation Systems; and his own consulting practice.

Outstanding Public Transportation Board Member

Sharon McBride

Sharon McBride has served nearly 23 years on the Greater Peoria Mass Transit District (GPMTD) Board of Trustees. She assumed her role as trustee on May 5, 1997. McBride represents West Peoria and is appointed by the township supervisor. As Trustee, McBride focused her efforts on Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandates so they would be met in a timely fashion.

McBride was elected board chair from 1999 until 2007, and then served again from May 2014 until May 2016. She was elected board secretary in May 2016, and she continues to serve in that position today.

While serving as GPMTD chair, she oversaw the building of the Transit Center, which housed the first daycare center in Illinois.

McBride is an active APTA member and has served on the association's board of directors, and as part of the Executive Committee.

Throughout her career, she has mentored many students, utilizing her master's degree in counseling, especially during her tenure at Bradley University as well as her years teaching a technical communication course at Illinois Central College.



Outstanding Public Transportation Manager

Nathaniel P. Ford Sr.

When Nathaniel P. Ford Sr. joined the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) in 2012, public confidence in the transportation system was low, on-time performance was below 70 percent and bus stops, shelters and facilities needed upgrades. In addition, most bus routes had service frequencies of one hour or more, a factor complicated by a circuitous system network that was outdated and under serving the community.

A second-generation transportation professional who had earned a reputation as a change-agent and visionary at positions in New York, Atlanta and San Francisco, Ford quickly made his mark at Jacksonville. Today, under his leadership, the JTA is recognized as a mobility integrator that connects riders to multimodal options.

Ensuring diversity and inclusiveness in the workforce, and in contracting, has been one of the hallmarks of Ford's career. Through the JTA's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program, the agency exceeded its goal of at least 16 percent participation of qualified firms owned and operated by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts. Through 2016, JTA consistently reached an impressive 25 percent DBE participation rate. That number increased in 2017 with a 34 percent goal; in 2018 with a 33 percent goal and in 2019 with a 31 percent goal.

Ford has been a very active leader in APTA, including serving as secretary/treasurer and as vice chair from 2016-17 and chair from 2017-18.



Hall of Fame

J. Barry Barker

J. Barry Barker retired Dec. 1, 2018 after more than 40 years advancing public transportation at the national, state and local levels and nearly 25 years as executive director of the Transit Authority of River City in Louisville, KY.

Throughout his long and distinguished career, Barker has held leadership roles on APTA's board and many committees over 30 years. Upon his retirement, in a proclamation from APTA, he was cited for his "many significant accomplishments for public transportation and the customers we serve," including his positions of chairman, Legislative Committee; vice chairman for Legislative Affairs; chairman, Sustainability Committee; and vice president, Marketing and Communications Committee. He served on the Diversity Council and was active in its development and



the advancement of the Leadership APTA program. He was vice chair of the LGBTQ Task Force and remains an active member of APTA to this day.

Barker's job performance, many awards and recognitions, and his extensive engagement with non-profit organizations underscore his personal, and APTA's, core values of leadership, integrity, excellence, diversity, inclusiveness, fairness and equity, teamwork, professionalism and accountability.

Dr. Beverly Scott

Dr. Beverly Scott is recognized as a trailblazer, a thoughtful and inspirational leader and a passionate advocate for the betterment of the public transportation industry through her efforts to ensure training and opportunities are made available to young and disadvantaged individuals, many of whom have gone on to become leaders in their own right. Scott has held key leadership roles in some of North America's largest public transportation systems in Texas; New York, NY; New Jersey; Washington, DC; Rhode Island; California; Georgia; and Massachusetts.

In April 2015, Scott retired from the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority. She founded and serves as CEO of Beverly Scott Associates, LLC—"People and Communities Matter." That tagline says much about Scott, particularly her passion for people, workforce development and creating opportunities for the underprivileged and people of color. She continues to work tirelessly to promote civic engagement, social responsibility, equity and inclusion. Scott is a frequent speaker on leadership, workforce development and the urgent need for infrastructure investment.

Her dedicated service to APTA dates to the earliest stages of her career. She has been a tireless advocate for the association and has served on many committees, including as APTA chair, chair of the Legislative Committee, Diversity Council and Award's Committee, to name a few.



Celia Kupersmith

For 34 years, Celia Kupersmith has been a major force in the growth and development of the public transit industry. To this day, multiple systems and riders alike benefit from her efforts to foster ethical leadership, improve service quality, enhance multimodal coordination, and elevate transit as a key network component. In predominantly multi-modal settings, she has served as a planner; marketing director; MPO chief; bus, rail, and ferry manager; general manager; and executive recruiting consultant. Her most successful achievement, however, was her stewardship of the iconic Golden Gate Bridge and its supporting transit systems. Kupersmith's career includes key leadership roles across North America in Texas; Nevada; California; and Washington State.

She has been very active in APTA throughout her long career. While working at the RTC in Reno, NV, she served as vice chair of APTA's Small Operations Committee and, later, as vice chair of the Human Resources Committee within APTA's Executive Committee. In that role, she led the effort to develop operational mechanics for Leadership APTA, ultimately serving for years as chair of that program. She remains involved as a member of the Human Resources Committee to this day.

While at Golden Gate, Kupersmith was elected to be chair of APTA—only the third woman and the youngest individual to serve in that role. During her tenure she led efforts on reauthorization and continued to enhance the Diversity Council's effectiveness.



Paul Jablonski (awarded posthumously)

Through a career that spanned more than 40 years in the public transportation industry, Paul Jablonski was a champion for transit. His influence and expertise was felt at transit agencies across the east coast, the Midwest, the west coast and overseas. He nurtured new transit systems, turned broken systems into winners, and was committed to learning and sharing knowledge to help others succeed.

During his tenure, Jablonski oversaw advocacy efforts to fully restore the State Transit Assistance program, putting to rest years of state raids on transit funding that had significantly weakened public transit in California. Following the enactment of the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act in 2013, which led to a series of legal challenges that halted the flow of billions of dollars in federal grants earmarked for California transit agencies, Jablonski led the development of the plan to resolve the controversy and allow funding to flow once again.

Jablonski was deeply involved in APTA, serving as an at-large director on the APTA Board of Directors, co-chair for the Public Transportation CEO Coordinating Council Leadership and was a member of an additional 14 committees. Under his leadership, the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System won APTA's Most Outstanding Transit Agency of the Year award in 2009. In 2014, APTA honored him as Outstanding Transportation Manager of the Year.

