

TRANSIT EXPRESS

Visit us online at
www.wytrans.org

The Newsletter of the Wyoming Public Transit Association

23rd Annual WYTRANS Conference

The annual WYTRANS Conference will be held in **Rock Springs, Wyoming, June 15-17, 2011**. Conference participants can look forward to a variety of informative training sessions and workshops.



Session Descriptions

Wednesday, June 15

Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m. TSI Driver Training—Day 1 of 3

Pre-conference training will begin on Wednesday, June 15, with a new driver training program from the Transportation Safety Institute (TSI). This new training will cover Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requirements, emergency evacuation procedures, pre-trip inspections, boarding and de-boarding passengers and more. This 16-hour class will be run over all three days of the conference; it will conclude at noon on Friday. Attendance is required all three days for certification.

Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. WYTRANS Trainers Meeting

All WYTRANS Trainers are encouraged to attend this dinner meeting.

Thursday, June 16 - Morning

Thursday, 8:15 a.m.—9:45 a.m. Choosing Your Attitude

This program will be presented by **Jill Hough** with the **Small Urban & Rural Transit Center**.

Given the choice of dealing with positive, upbeat people with “can do” attitudes or interacting with disgruntled, uninterested, whiny individuals, which would you choose? We are attracted to people who enjoy what they are doing, are having a good time doing it, and genuinely care about the end result of their work. This workshop will help you explore your attitude, identify negative influences, and find strategies to curb unconstructive behaviors which impact your work environment. Attend this seminar and gain the skills you need to defend yourself against the know-it-alls, gripers, drama queens, and other contrary individuals you interact with on and off the job. This workshop will help you create a more positive work environment for your agency.

Thursday, 8:15 a.m.— 10:15 a.m. Emergency Planning

Gavin Donnley, Field Agent for the **Wyoming Office of Homeland Security**, along with a Bomb Appraisal Officer from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will be presenting an informative session on threats to public transit in Wyoming.

Thursday, 8:15 a.m.— 4:00 p.m.

TSI Driver Training

Day 2 of 3

Thursday, 10:00 a.m.— 11:50 a.m.

WYDOT Reporting

WYDOT LGC Staff will facilitate a discussion on how to report - both ridership and transit expenses. Topics addressed will include: why accuracy is important; and what should be kept in files on site for supporting documentation.

Thursday, 12 p.m.

Awards Ceremony

Everyone is invited to attend the awards luncheon for the presentation of the WYTRANS Annual Award Winners. All those in attendance at the awards luncheon will be eligible for a \$100 cash drawing donated by CATC.

Thursday, June 16 - Afternoon

Thursday, 1:30—3:30 p.m.

Transportation & Emergency Preparedness

Planning and coordination before emergency situations arise is a given. Those of you who have participated in Transportation Coordination planning for your communities have done the work of figuring out where the vehicles, together with the expertise to operate them, are located. Blending your knowledge with emergency services planning is helpful to both. Transit and human services agencies know where many of the people live, who will need transportation in an emergency and what type of services may be needed. Lets combine resources and make sure they are updated frequently.

Thursday, 1:30 p.m.—2:45 p.m.

Board Roles & Responsibilities

This session will explore the concept of good governance and the four main responsibilities of

board members. After this session, participants will be able to identify the roles and responsibilities of board members, executive directors and staff. This workshop will also increase a participant's ability to build constructive relationships and communicate more effectively with other board members and with staff.

Thursday, 3:45 p.m.—4:45 p.m.

Drug and Alcohol Update

WYDOT LGC Staff will present an update on new changes to Drug and Alcohol Policy. There will also be time to answer questions agencies might have.

Thursday, 5:00 p.m.

WYTRANS Board of Directors Dinner Meeting

The WYTRANS Board will meet Thursday at 5:00 p.m. for the quarterly meeting. All WYTRANS members are welcome to attend.

Friday, June 17

Friday, 8:15 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

TSI Driver Training

Day 3 of 3

Friday, 8:15 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Driver Recertification

This half-day session is for any driver who has previously been certified in Community Transportation Association of America's Passenger Service and Safety and is in need of recertification.

Friday, 8:15 a.m.—9:15 a.m.

Panel Discussion on IT

Transit providers from across the state will share information on new information technology (IT) being used and how that specific technology was selected.

**Friday, 8:15 a.m.—9:15 a.m.
Boards and Financials**

During this interactive workshop participants will practice reading and reviewing financial statements and other documents so that they can help their board members better understand how to execute their fiduciary responsibility. At the end of the session, participants will know key things to point out in financial documents...even if they are not financial experts.

**Friday, 9:45 a.m. —11:45 a.m.
WYDOT Funding Session**

For all recipients of the 5311/Statewide Rural Public Transit Program: the WYDOT Transit Staff will require a representative from each agency be present at this meeting to be awarded an Operating Budget for FY2012.

Jennifer Stewart from the FTA Region 8 Denver Office will discuss Civil Rights and how it impacts the Transit Program.

WYDOT will discuss program changes, give an update of future funding and the future of the Transit Program and other topics of interest.

Approved Budgets will be passed out for FY2012.

Registration

Please either :

- FAX one registration form for each registrant to WYTRANS at 866.472.1465 or
- Mail one registration form for each registrant to WYTRANS, 20045 State Highway 150 South, Evanston, WY 82930.

Please register as soon as possible for the classes. Contact Jaime at 307-679-3220 or jahunolt@gmail.com, if you have any questions.

Hotel Information

The phone number for reservations at the **Holiday Inn is 307-382-9200**. Be sure to tell the hotel you are with WYTRANS to receive the special WYTRANS Conference rate of \$99.

New Faces at the 2011 WYTRANS Conference



Faye Nash

The Annual WYTRANS Conference is always a great place to get together with long time colleagues from around the state and meet some new transit folks as well.

At this year's conference **Faye Nash** will be rejoining the WYTRANS group as Trainer Liaison. While **Chrissy Lee** will be making her conference debut as Transit Specialist for WYDOT.



Chrissy Lee

2011 Conference Schedule At-A-Glance

All Conference Sessions will be held at the Holiday Inn

Wednesday, June 15

1:00 - 5:00 PM	TSI Driver Training (Day 1 of 3)
5:30 PM	WYTRANS Trainers' Dinner Meeting

Thursday, June 16

7:30 AM	Registration & Check-in			
8:00 AM	Welcome			
8:15 AM	TSI Driver Training <i>Day 2 of 3</i>	Choosing Your Attitude	Homeland Security	
9:45-10 AM	Break			
10 -11:50 AM		WYDOT Reporting		
12:00 PM	<i>Annual Awards Luncheon</i>			
1:30 PM		Trans. & Emer. Preparedness	Boards & Financials	
3:30-3:45 PM	Break			
3:45 - 4:45			Drug & Alcohol Update	
5:00 PM	<i>WYTRANS Board Dinner Meeting - All Members welcome</i>			

Friday, June 17

7:30 AM	Registration & Check-in			
8:15 AM	TSI Driver Training <i>Day 3 of 3</i>	Driver Recertification	Board Roles & Responsibilities	IT Panel Discussion
9:30-9:45	Break			
9:45 - 11:45			WYDOT Funding Session	
12:00 PM	<i>Boxed Lunches for the Road</i>			

2011 Conference Registration

NAME: _____ AGENCY: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PH: _____ FAX: _____

ONE FORM PER PERSON PLEASE! Photocopy as many times as needed.

REGISTRATION OPTIONS <i>Please circle the amount next to the desired package. Fill in the total amount below.</i>	Registration Fee	
	<i>Member</i>	<i>Non-Member</i>
TSI Driver Training: For class on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, including lunches Thursday and Friday.	\$60.00	\$120.00
Two-day workshop registration: Includes two days of workshops from list below and lunches for those days.	\$60.00	\$120.00
One-day workshop registration: Includes choice of Thursday OR Friday sessions and lunch.	\$35.00	\$70.00
Extra meals for spouses/guests not registered for the conference: Lunches \$10.00 per person. <i>Please fill in the number of guest meals below.</i> Thursday Lunch ___ Friday Lunch ___		
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED		

Please put a check mark (✓) by the workshop(s) and meal(s) you will attend.

WEDNESDAY ___ TSI Driver Training - *Day 1 of 3* (1 - 5 pm) ___ Trainers' Meeting (5:30 pm)

THURSDAY

- ___ TSI Training—*Day 2 of 3* (8:15 - 4 pm) ___ Choosing Your Attitude (8:15 - 9:45 am)
- ___ Homeland Security (8:15- 10:15 am) ___ WYDOT Reporting (10 - 11:50 am)
- ___ Trans. & Emer. Preparedness (1:30 - 3:30 pm) ___ Boards & Financials (1:30 - 3 pm)
- ___ Drug & Alcohol Update (3:45 - 4:45 pm)
- ___ Annual Award Luncheon (12 pm) ___ WYTRANS Board Dinner Meeting (5 pm)

FRIDAY ___ Boxed Lunch To Go ___ Driver Training Re-certification (8:15 - 12 pm)

- ___ TSI Training—*Day 3 of 3* (8:15 - 12 pm) ___ Board Roles & Respons. (8:15 - 9:30 am)
- ___ IT Panel Discussion (8:15 - 9:30 am) ___ WYDOT Funding Session (9:45 - 11:45 am)

Even though meals are included in registration, participants may choose to return home or eat elsewhere. Please put a check mark by the meals you plan on eating. Please note that if a meal is provided by WYTRANS, you will **not** be reimbursed for meal expenses elsewhere.

Please call Jaime at 307-679-3220, if you have any registration questions.

**Return this form to:
WYTRANS
20045 State HWY 150 S.
Evanston, WY 82930
or fax (866)-472-1465**



Photo by Dan Bohren

Getting there from here

By Steve Kurtz

Article from CasperJournal.com

I worked as a consultant in public transit for 20 years, mostly doing coordination of agencies through the Wyoming Public Transit Association (WYTRANS), in addition to some work for specific transit providers. After retirement I was asked to serve on the CATC Board, and I'm proud to serve.

I'm a transit junkie. I've ridden the great train system around Germany, and subways from Paris to Washington D.C., to San Francisco, to Vancouver BC. I drove an eight-man armored personnel carrier in the army, and rode in a rickshaw in China, and have enjoyed every minute of all of it.

"Infrastructure" is the term for public water, sewer, streets and other utilities; those basic things which the local government provides so that people can live in an urban setting. Fire and police services are infrastructure though not physical infrastructure. Public transit is also infrastructure. It's so basic it comes right after water, sewer and streets, fire and police on the priority list. If you're unable to go to the grocery store or the doctor or work because you can't walk that far or can't afford your own transportation, you won't survive in our society. You can't walk to obtain basic services; you have to have mobility. Very few transit systems operate in the black and almost all, from CATC/The Bus to the most modern public subways, are subsidized because the benefit to society -- getting an affordable ride to the grocery store, the doctor and to work -- outweighs the cost of the subsidy.

Some people don't realize this and think transit is only for old people who're in wheelchairs. I met with the late Sen. Craig Thomas in the early 1990s with WYTRANS board members. We explained who we were and his initial comment was that only elderly using wheelchairs need the bus. We worked on him for a long time and he agreed that that if you can't afford a car or are temporarily not able to walk, that you need a way to get around. He realized it's important to individuals, the economy and the

community to have public transit for all. He understood transit was infrastructure, and was one of our strongest allies in obtaining significant funding for transit in Wyoming during the remainder of his time in the U.S. Senate.

For many years CATC provided the dial-a-ride, door-to-door service only. If people were healthy, but couldn't afford a car, for example, they rode the bus, just like people using wheelchairs. After years of discussion, the City of Casper, which is the grantee and major funder for transit and contracts with CATC to provide the service, determined they would try route service. In 2005, the City Council, in a split vote, gave the go-ahead for CATC to operate route bus service and established some minimum performance standards for the service.

"The Bus" has four routes that provide service to areas of Casper where there is the most need. The Blue Route runs from the beautiful new transfer station, on Beech Street by the downtown library, to Eastridge Mall and back; the Red Route runs a loop south and east from the transfer station; the Green Route runs north and south in central Casper; and the Yellow Route runs a south and west loop.

Riders transfer from one route to the other at the appropriately named transfer station. Mills and Evansville established route buses in 2007, and tie in with the City routes at Wal-Mart east and Wal-Mart west. Ridership is growing and the towns have shown a strong commitment to providing route buses.

The dial-a-ride service now provides 52,000 rides per year, while it provided 84,000 rides before the route bus service, and provides rides for passengers using wheelchairs. Many of those who used to ride the dial-a-ride have moved over to the route buses, which provide 126,000 rides a year. Transit demand is significant and the route buses are meeting more of that demand. The Bus is projecting 135,000 rides will be provided this fiscal year.

The consultant from Portland who reviewed the system last year found that both dial-a-ride and route service was comparable in performance, rides per hour, cost per ride etc., with four other Casper-size systems. The route bus service has met and exceeded all of the targets established for it by the Casper City Council in April 2005.

Prices are rising for everything -- gas, tires, insurance and maintenance -- and CATC is making a concerted effort to have those who can, ride the route bus and let the dial-a-ride service handle those passengers who can't physically get on The Bus. There may have to be cuts in service in the future, but these are being studied carefully and will depend on funding from the city.

What impresses me about transit drivers, dispatchers and managers in Casper, and Wyoming, is that they're dedicated to providing the service, whatever it takes, to their passengers, who they consider to be distinct individuals with individual needs, and not just numbers. Drivers are trained in all facets of their job in addition to driving: passenger assistance, CPR, first aid and more. They have tremendous responsibility, and yet don't get paid much for the responsibility they shoulder. At the same time the most important thing to them is their riders, and getting them safely where they need to go and back.

Go on a small adventure -- try riding the bus. It will cost you \$1 for a one way trip -- cheaper than driving your car.



WYTRANS
20045 State Highway 150 S.
Evanston, WY 82930
www.wytrans.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CASPER, WY
PERMIT NO. 165

Address Service Requested

The Wyoming Transit Express is published by the Wyoming Public Transit Association, 20045 State Highway 150 South, Evanston, Wyoming, 82930, 307-679-3220. This publication is made possible through a grant from the Section 5311 Rural Transportation Assistance Program (RTAP) from the Federal Transit Administration through the Wyoming Department of Transportation, 5300 Bishop Boulevard, Cheyenne, WY, 82009.

In This 2011 Conference Issue

Session Descriptions	1
Thursday and Friday Session Descriptions	2
Friday Session Descriptions and Hotel Info	3
Schedule At-A-Glance	4
2010 WYTRANS Conference Registration Form	5
“Getting there from here” article	6