



# In Transit

A quarterly newsletter published by the Minnesota Public Transit Association.

## September 2018 Edition

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# President's Column



## **Craig Rempp**

Transit Director  
Greater Mankato Transit System

It's that time of year – time to register for the annual Public Transit Conference! This year we're Teaming Up for Transit with our colleagues in Wisconsin to host a great conference in La Crosse, Wisconsin from October 15th to the 17th. This year's event features important training sessions, updates on regulations you need to know, breakout sessions on critical topics and inspiring keynote speakers. The conference also provides a great opportunity to talk with folks involved in providing transit service to get new ideas and a new perspective on the important work we all do every day.

Sign up today at: <https://www.mpta-transit.org/event/2018-mnwi-public-transportation-conference-expo>

I want to thank everyone who participated in this year's Rodeo in Duluth. Congratulations to all of the drivers and volunteers who made this event a huge success! Thanks to the Duluth Transit Authority for serving as the host system and leading the effort!

MnDOT's Office of Transit and Active Transportation (OTAT) and MPTA continue to guide the process of developing [5-year Transit System Plans](#) for systems in Greater Minnesota, other than small urban systems which have been required to develop these plans for many years. Consultants have been selected and have started meeting one-on-one with transit system managers to produce a vision and a roadmap for the future. MPTA is here to help in any way we can so please check our web site for updates and let us know if you need any assistance.

Want to recognize colleagues who have gone above and beyond the call of duty? We're looking for your nominations for MPTA Transit Awards. We honor transit professionals with the following awards:

- Distinguished Career
- Transit Professional of the Year
- Transit System of the Year
- Management Innovation
- Minnesota Bus Operator of the Year

Send us your nominations: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T7PJWR5>

MPTA is also working to organize local meetings that bring transit professionals, community leaders and local legislators together to raise awareness of the importance of transit service in improving economic development and the quality of life in communities around the state. This work is critical for making sure transit funding is on the agenda as we prepare for the 2019 Legislative Session.

We're also looking forward to a more efficient and transparent decision-making process when it comes to the 2019 grant allocations. MPTA has worked closely with OTAT to improve communication around how funding

allocation decisions are made and how quickly contracts are signed for the coming year. We would like to hear from you about the process in 2018.

As always, MPTA is here to be a resource and advocate for you. Your membership and participation are critical to making our work on your behalf successful. We have reached out with information on membership dues for 2019 so you can plan to cover membership dues in your budget. You can review benefits and pay your dues online: <https://www.mpta-transit.org/membership> .

Please make a point of attending the MPTA Annual Membership Meeting at the [Public Transit Conference](#) on October 15th. This is your opportunity to learn more about the work of the association and to provide feedback and input as we plan for 2019.

Thanks again for your support of MPTA. We'll see you in La Crosse in October.

Craig Rempp  
President

"President's Column"  
Craig Rempp  
Transit Director  
Greater Mankato Transit System

# Legislative Report

**Margaret Donahoe**

Executive Director

Minnesota Transportation Alliance

With the state legislative session over, our attention turns to the federal level where Congress is working to pass all of the appropriations bills that keep the government functioning before the start of the new federal fiscal year on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

On August 1<sup>st</sup>, the Senate passed H.R. 6147, which was amended to include four fiscal year (FY) 2019 appropriations bills, including the Senate's Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations Act, 2019 (S. 3023), by a roll call vote of 92-6.

The Senate THUD Appropriations bill, like the 2018 THUD Appropriations Act, provides significant additional funding for public transportation, above the levels authorized by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act).

The THUD bill provides \$16.1 billion for public transportation and intercity passenger rail, including \$13.6 billion for public transportation and \$2.5 billion for intercity passenger rail grants. These funding levels are \$1.3 billion more than authorized by the FAST Act for fiscal year 2019.

The House has passed its version of the THUD bill out of committee, but it awaits floor action. The current federal fiscal year ends September 30, 2018.

Program	Enacted FY2017	Enacted FY2018	FY2019 House	FY2019 Senate
Transit Formula Grants	\$9.73 Billion	\$9.73 Billion	\$9.94 Billion	\$9.94 Billion
Capital Investment Grants	\$2.4 Billion	\$2.65 Billion	\$2.61 Billion	\$2.55 Billion
Supplemental Transit Grants				
Buses		\$404 Million	\$350 Million	\$408 Million
State of Good Repair		\$400 Million	\$200 Million	\$362 Million
High Density Apport.		\$ 30 Million	\$ 50 Million	\$ 30 Million
Urban Area Grants			\$150 Million	
Rural Area Grants			\$ 50 Million	
Total Transit Investment	\$12.1 Billion	\$13.21 Billion	\$13.35 Billion	\$13.29 Billion
BUILD (TIGER) Grants	\$500 Million	\$1.5 Billion	\$750 Million	\$1 Billion

The American Public Transportation Association issued this response to the Senate bill:

“This strong investment in public transit is directly tied to growing America’s economy. Eighty-seven percent

of public transit trips directly benefit the economy by getting people to work and connecting them to local businesses. In fact, 71 percent of government funding for public transit flows through the private-sector, supporting millions of jobs. This investment puts America on a path to help address the nation’s \$90 billion public transportation infrastructure backlog identified by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Moreover, a recent APTA study found that failing to modernize this infrastructure results in a \$340 billion loss in business revenue over a six-year period.”

### Volunteer Driver Reimbursement

MPTA worked with Congressman Nolan to have legislation introduced that would eliminate the 14-cent per miles reimbursement rate for mileage incurred for charitable purposes, making the reimbursement the same as the business rate. This legislation has not yet been taken up, but MPTA will continue to advocate with members of Congress to support and move this legislation through the process.

### AV Legislation

Congress has been considering legislation that would allow for testing and deployment of autonomous vehicles. There was talk of the Senate attached its bill – AV START – onto the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) funding bill. However, concerns raised about safety seem to have derailed the legislation for the time being.

Aside from allowing auto manufacturers to sell autonomous vehicles that don’t meet minimum cybersecurity or “vision-test” standards, stakeholders lamented the legislation’s potential preemption of state- and local-level AV regulation — effectively legalizing the next generation of cars in localities that haven’t prepared any infrastructure for their arrival.

### Shuster Plan

Representative Bill Shuster, Chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, announced a new plan for transportation funding that he hopes will start a conversation about how to fix the federal highway trust fund.

Chairman Shuster released the following statement along with the discussion draft:

“The 2016 presidential campaign shined a spotlight on America’s crumbling infrastructure. Since election day, the American people have waited for action by their federal elected representatives, and I am just as frustrated as they are that we have yet to seriously consider a responsible, thoughtful proposal. That is why I have released a discussion draft that reflects input from Members on both sides of the aisle, as well as a broad group of infrastructure stakeholders interested in building a 21<sup>st</sup> century infrastructure for our country.

This discussion draft does not represent a complete and final infrastructure bill. It is meant to reignite discussions amongst my colleagues, and I urge all Members to be open-minded and willing to work together in considering real solutions that will give America the modern-day infrastructure it needs.”

Some of the proposals in the plan include:

### **Highway Trust Fund Commission**

This section establishes a Highway Trust Fund Commission. The Commission will submit a report to Congress that includes recommendations to achieve the long-term solvency of the HTF and the corresponding legislation required to enact those recommendations.

### **Per-mile User Fee Surface Transportation System Funding Pilot.**

This section establishes a national, volunteer-based pilot program to demonstrate whether a per-mile user fee can replace the existing user fees on gasoline and diesel, which are the primary sources of revenue for the HTF.

### **Elimination of Reduced Rate for Intercity and Local Public Transportation Buses**

This section eliminates the reduced user fee on fuel used by certain intercity and local public transportation buses. The reduced user fee on fuel used by school buses remains in effect.

### **Application of Tax on Diesel to Certain Passenger Trains**

This section reinstates the 4.3 cents per gallon user fee on diesel used by passenger trains eligible for funding under certain federal public transportation programs. The user fee is indexed to inflation.

### **Electric Vehicle Battery Excise Tax**

This section establishes a 10 percent user fee on the wholesale price of electric batteries used to propel motor vehicles.

### **Bicycle Tire Tax**

This section establishes a 10 percent user fee on the wholesale price of bicycle tires used on adult bicycles.

### **Increase in Tax on Motor Fuels**

This section increases the federal user fees on gasoline and diesel fuel by 15 cents per gallon and 20 cents per gallon, respectively. These increases are phased in over a period of three calendar years. Once the phase in is complete, the new user fees are indexed to inflation. On September 30, 2028, the rates for these user fees become zero. This section also provides for corresponding increases in similar user fees on alternative fuels.

This legislation is not likely to move this year and Rep. Shuster is not running for re-election so a new Chairman will take over in January. However, this proposal may continue to be discussed as Congress begins work to reauthorize the FAST Act which expires in 2020.

Please join us at the [MN/WI Public Transportation Conference](#) October 15-17 to hear from APTA and CTAA about work being done to prepare for a new surface transportation authorization act as we get closer to the expiration of the FAST Act.

“Legislative Report”

Margaret Donahoe

Executive Director

Minnesota Transportation Alliance

# 2018 MN State Roadeo

View contestant results on the MPTA Events page at: <https://www.mpta-transit.org/event/2018-minnesota-bus-roadeo>

## 31st Annual Minnesota State Bus Roadeo

The Minnesota Public Transit Association's (MPTA) Minnesota State Bus Roadeo took place in Duluth, MN this year. There were 16 bus operators in the Large Bus Division and 26 in the Small Bus Division from all across the state. Contestants were scored on course exercises, including turns, backing up, wheelchair securement and clearance of obstacles, such as traffic cones. Contestants could receive a top score of 700 points.

First place of the Large Bus Division was Paul Mattson with the Duluth Transit Authority (DTA) with a score of 665 points. Second place was Richard Roser, also with DTA, with a score of 575 points. Third place was Todd Pflsticker with Metro Transit with 572 points.



First place of the Small Bus Division was Todd DeZurik with St. Cloud Metro Bus with 607 points. Second place was Glenn Zimmell from Tri-CAP with 584 points. Third place was TJ Johnson from Transit Alternatives with 575 points.

All contestant results can be viewed on the [MPTA website](#). Transit systems also have the option to enroll their bus operators in the 2019 Community Transportation Association of America's National Bus Roadeo.

Next year's Minnesota State Bus Roadeo will take place in Marshall, MN during the second weekend of July.



# Upcoming Events



View the MPTA Events Page online at: <https://www.mpta-transit.org/events>

## 2018 MN/WI Public Transportation Conference & Expo

MPTA's 2018 Minnesota / Wisconsin Public Transportation Conference and Expo is Monday, October 15 through Wednesday, October 17 at the La Crosse Center, located at 300 Harborview Plaza in La Crosse, Wisconsin. There will be a block of rooms reserved at the Radisson Hotel, located at 200 Harborview Plaza. The event will feature a large vendor expo starting at noon on Tuesday, with vendor setup on Monday starting at 11 AM. Vendors and sponsors can [register here](#). Attendees can [register here](#).

This year's Conference and Expo includes training sessions on Safety and Security by TSA and Transit Technology by multiple employees of Milwaukee County Transit. A trip on the La Crosse Queen Riverboat is also available to attendees on Tuesday from 3:30 — 5:30 PM.



The event also features keynote speakers Tim Clue and Paul Lewis. Clue engages and interacts with his audience in a way that is both humorous and inspiring. He has performed with comedians such as Jerry Seinfeld and has performed for notables such as former President George H.W. Bush.

Lewis has led policy projects related to federal policy, transportation planning and transportation governance. Lewis has also led research on emerging mobility and automated vehicles.

Attendees can also expect to learn about a range of topics during the breakout sessions, such as federal transit funding, driver issues, local planning, transit advocacy and how to attract riders. [Look for our full schedule on our website.](#)



## **Monday, October 15**

8:00 AM – Registration opens at the La Crosse Center registration area

10:00 AM – Training Session I - Safety & Security in Transit with TSA: Best Practices, Rules & Regulations (includes lunch)

1:00 PM – Training Session II - Transit Technology: Apps, Social Media & New Tech Developments  
Brendan Conway, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer, Milwaukee Co Transit  
Denise Wandke, Director of Transportation, Milwaukee Co Transit  
Dan Basile, Chief Operations Officer, Milwaukee Co Transit  
Adam Mehl, Metropolitan Council

1:30 PM to 3:30 PM – Association Membership Meetings

WATO

WAMM

WCTC

All Aboard Wisconsin

2:30 PM – CEO Summit

4:00 PM – MPTA Membership Meeting

4:00 PM – WIPTA Membership Meeting

6:00 PM – Welcome Reception (includes food)

## **Tuesday, October 16**

7:30 AM – Registration opens (includes breakfast)

8:30 AM – Noon – Maintenance Committee

8:30 AM – Welcome – Tim Kabat, La Crosse Mayor; Craig Rempp, MPTA President; Lynn Giles, WIPTA President

9:00 to 10:00 AM – Keynote Speaker Tim Clue: Tim engages and interacts with his audience in a way that is both humorous and inspiring. This motivational speaker gets people out of their seats and into the presentation, connecting them in entertaining yet thoughtful conversations.



10:00 AM to Noon – Operations/Paratransit Committee

10:00 to 11:00 AM – Break in Expo area

11:00 to Noon – Concurrent Sessions (5)

- Autonomous Buses/Alternative Fuels – Paul Buharin, First Transit; Michael Kronzer, MnDOT; City of Rochester Transit
- Five-Year Transit System Plans in Greater Minnesota – SRF; Jill Cahoon and Gavin Pointexter, AECOM; LSC; Tom Cruikshank, WSB & Associates
- Federal Transit Funding Update – Kelley Brookins, FTA Region V
- Ideas Café – Driver Issues
- Integrating Your Program with Local Planning – Jackie Eastwood, Transportation Planner, La Crosse Area Planning Committee

Noon to 3:00 PM – Lunch and Vendor Expo

3:30 to 5:30 PM – La Crosse Queen Tour

6:30 PM – Reception (includes food)

### **Wednesday, October 17**

7:30 AM – Registration opens (includes breakfast)

8:00 to 9:15 AM – General Session: FAST Act Reauthorization Coming Soon: 2020

Alexandra King, CTAA

Art Guzzetti, APTA

9:30 to 10:30 AM – Concurrent Sessions (5)

- Transportation Services Networks (i.e. Uber, Lyft) – SouthWest Transit; Christine Kuennen, Metro Council Metro Mobility
- Idea Café - Engaging local officials
- Transit Advocacy – Alexandra King, CTAA; Margaret Donahoe, MPTA; Crystal Martin, Metro Transit in Madison, WI
- Family Care/ Medicaid – Charlene Norberg, ADRC/Aging Unit Director, ADRC of Eagle County
- Customer Driven Service Part I – John Hill, Noel Training and Consulting

10:30 to 11:00 AM – Break

11:00 to Noon – Concurrent Sessions (5)

- Travel Training/Trip Planning/ Bus Buddy Programs – Holly Keenan, Mobility Manager, Lutheran Social Services, Vice-President WAMM (mediator); Derek Muench, Director of Transit and Parking, City of Sheboygan; Jo-Ellen Douville, Travel Trainer, Milwaukee County Transit System
- Procurement Policies – Jean Meyer, MnDOT; Danette Tessman, WisDOT Customer Service
- Customer Driven Service Part II – John Hill, Noel Training and Consulting

- Attracting Riders – Art Guzzetti, APTA
- Funding for Transit – Zachary Elgart, Texas A&M, CTAA

Noon to 1:30 PM – Lunch and Keynote Speaker Paul Lewis: Paul is the Vice President of Policy and Finance for the Eno Center for Transportation. His presentation topic will be The Impact of Technology on the Future of Transit. Paul has led policy projects related to federal policy, transportation planning, and transportation governance. Paul has also led research on emerging mobility and automated vehicles.



**Register for the MN / WI Public Transportation Conference and Expo online!: [www.mpta-transit.org](http://www.mpta-transit.org).**

“Upcoming Events”

# Red Kite Program Supports Bus

## Operators



**Drew Kerr**

Senior Communications Specialist  
Metro Transit

East Metro operator Shawn Outcelt is thankful to have a full-time job with good benefits. But since she began at Metro Transit four years ago, she's faced verbal assaults and seen several of her peers physically harmed on the job. The experiences have led to a persistent and growing concern about what each day will bring.

"I love to drive. I love people. But driving people is very difficult," Outcelt said during a recent layover in downtown St. Paul.

To support operators facing similar worries, Metro Transit recently began offering a program intended to help participants withstand the pressures they face on and off the job.

Operators invited to participate in what's known as the Red Kite program come together for three full days of private sharing, role playing and learning at the Instruction Center. Classes are led by independent instructors who have provided similar training at transit agencies, police departments, medical centers and other high-stress work environments across the country.

Outcelt is among 120 bus operators who has participated in Red Kite since the program was introduced at Metro Transit. Another 300 bus operators and garage managers are expected to participate over the next year.

Charlotte DiBartolomeo is the founder and chief executive of the Red Kite Project and is leading the classes at Metro Transit. DiBartolomeo developed the program after working in war-torn Bosnia and amid street violence in Philadelphia.

"Operators face much different circumstances than those," she said, "but face the same risk of being worn down by their surroundings."

Besides safety concerns, operators can experience burnout from seeing things like substance abuse, homelessness or children in need. Feeling disrespected can also affect an operator's spirit. Red Kite participants are encouraged to remember that much of what they face is influenced by things outside their control and to focus on motivating factors, like family or life goals.

"Resiliency is all about being able to bounce back, which comes from having internal strength," DiBartolomeo said. "We help people find out where their supports are and to think about what keeps them here."

Besides providing for his family, Heywood operator Andrew Delaney is motivated by the joy he gets from helping and interacting with customers. Taking the Red Kite class, he said, reminded him not to let the happiness he gets from those interactions be diminished by the instances of bad behavior he faces while in the driver's seat. He also took to heart the advice to give all customers the benefit of the doubt.

“I’ve really been trying not to take things personally because I have to protect my heart, my feelings,” said Delaney, who often drives routes 5, 19 and 22.

Delaney and Outcalt each said the Red Kite program was a step in the right direction and that they hope more can be done to support operators’ emotional and physical wellbeing.

Delaney and his Assistant Transportation Manager, Monica Kruger, said they’d like to see the Red Kite mindset reflected in future training and become a more prominent part of the organizational culture. DiBartolomeo also hopes to see a cultural shift in how transit operators are perceived by their peers, managers and the public. In addition to being professional drivers, she said, operators provide social interaction, serve as mentors and connect people to vital resources.

“We’re really in the midst of an identity shift in this industry,” she said. “When we start to see it as a human service industry, we get a much better understanding of what the job is and how difficult it can be.”

“Red Kite Program Supports Bus Operators”

Drew Kerr

Senior Communications Specialist

Metro Transit



Heywood Assistant Transportation Manager Monica Kruger, left, and Heywood bus operator Andrew Delaney, right.

# Passenger Assistance Training



## **LuAnn Bleiler**

Operations Manager/ Safety Coordinator  
Paul Bunyan Transit

Seven transit employees from Minnesota attended the recent Passenger Assistance Safety and Sensitivity (PASS) Training by the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) in Pittsburgh, PA, June 11 through 13. Two days were for classroom training and one day was for wheelchair securement, lift operation and a written knowledge test.

The PASS Trainer and Driver Certification helps “ensure that community transportation drivers have current expertise in passenger assistance techniques and sensitivity skills appropriate for serving persons with disabilities” ([CTAA](#)). The training covered topics from driver fatigue to emergency response to how to be a successful trainer. The attendees are now certified through CTAA to train drivers in their agencies in Passenger Assistance and Wheelchair Securement. This will help local transit systems serve passengers with special needs more comfortably and readily. The certification is valid for three years.

## **Attendees**

Tyler Brekken— Transportation Program Coordinator from Tri-Valley in Crookston

Tom Partington—Operations/Safety Manager from Rainbow Rider in Lowry

Cindy Rogholt – Operations Manager from Productive Alternatives in Fergus Falls

TJ Johnson – Maintenance and Driver from Productive Alternatives in Fergus Falls

Michelle Czarnota—Mobility Manager from United Community Action Partnership in Marshall

David Maguire – Transit Trainer from United Community Action Partnership in Marshall

LuAnn Bleiler—Operations Manager/Safety Coordinator from Paul Bunyan Transit in Bemidji

# Transit Alternatives continues to gain ridership

## The Daily Journal

Excerpts from “‘Wherever you are going, we are going too’: Transit Alternatives’ Otter Express more than just a jingle.” [Click here for article.](#)

“Wherever you are going, we are going too,” is a fun jingle that many people in the area would recognize as the Transit Alternatives Otter Express motto. It’s simple and yet couldn’t be more true as they seek to help people to get to where they otherwise wouldn’t be able to go.

This program is all thanks to the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and Productive Alternatives, which is a non-profit social services agency, working together to provide the area with public transit.

As President of Productive Alternatives, Steve Skauge explains, the program was created because years ago Otter Tail County did not have a public transportation system and was actually one of the few counties in the state of Minnesota that did not have one. It was at this time that MnDOT approached Productive Alternatives in Fergus Falls and encouraged them to begin a program to provide transportation services for people in the area.

[They] are giving approximately 150,000 rides a year saving many people the cost of driving themselves or the inconvenience and stress of finding other transportation.



Since its beginning in Otter Tail County, Transit Alternatives has been able to expand and take over three other counties as just three weeks ago, they took over Crow Wing County. However, Fergus Falls remains to be where they station their administrative offices and dispatch.

How the program works, is that anybody is able to ride and, “scheduling a ride is as easy as picking up the phone,” Skauge said. The person seeking the ride just has to call their number and give a time and the locations of where they need to get to and from, it is as simple as that.

In the future, they plan to continue to watch for opportunities to expand to better meet the needs of people in the surrounding communities, whether that means increasing hours or distance.

This, of course, brings them the challenge of keeping up to retain and recruit drivers as well as provide funding, but they look forward to taking on this challenge. For more information about Transit Alternatives’ Otter Express, check out their website, [otterexpress.com](http://otterexpress.com) or give them a call at 218-998-3002.

# Maple Grove Transit gets a new name

## Mike Opatz

Transit Administrator  
City of Maple Grove

Effective June 1, Maple Grove Transit's Dial-A-Ride service transitioned to a new name and logo. The service is now known as My Ride.

Maple Grove Transit also implemented a new scheduling and dispatch system from Ecolane. The drivers and operations staff are very pleased with the features and performance of the new system. This new system offers some exciting features for the riders as well, including a new website portal and mobile app for riders to schedule and manage their rides. The My Ride service is an advance reservation, shared-ride, curb-to-curb service available to the general public.

Service hours are weekdays from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The service area is within the City of Maple Grove boundaries, plus service to the City of Osseo, Hennepin Technical College/ North Hennepin Community College and the Starlight Transit Station next to Cub Foods in Brooklyn Park. The fare is \$1.75 cash per one way ride (exact change, no checks). Children five years and younger ride free. Purchase 10-ride punch cards for \$15 (\$2.50 savings) at the Maple Grove Government Center, Community Center and Cub Foods.

For more details on the MY RIDE service go to [www.maplegrovetransit.org](http://www.maplegrovetransit.org) . Questions, call 763-493-2200 or email at [transit@maplegrovern.gov](mailto:transit@maplegrovern.gov).





# White Earth Public Transit adds propane buses

**Samantha Schwanke**

Program Coordinator

Minnesota Transportation Alliance

White Earth Public Transit Manager Kenneth Bakken has announced the upcoming arrival of a propane transit bus, as well as two propane conversions for current buses, that will be ready by October.

Propane buses reduce noise pollution, as well as exposure to diesel exhaust, according to the World Health Organization ([read more](#)). They are also domestically produced and energy efficient. The cost of fuel is lower than diesel vehicles and has a comparable driving range.

Another Minnesota benefit is the reduction in cold-start problems. “This is because the fuel’s mixture is completely gaseous when entering the engine’s combustion chamber, and propane engines do not require an enriched fuel mixture during cold-weather startups the way other, liquid-fueled engines do” ([US Dept of Energy](#)).

Tell us about what your transit system has done to be more environmentally friendly and to reduce costs. Email our Program Coordinator at [Samantha@TransportationAlliance.com](mailto:Samantha@TransportationAlliance.com).



# Record Ridership for Rail Lines



**Drew Kerr**

Excerpts from "Rail lines on pace for another year of record ridership." Read the whole article here: [Rider's Almanac](#)

Metro Transit's rail lines are on pace to have another record year.

Ridership on the Green Line, Blue Line and Northstar Commuter Rail Line is ahead of last year's totals through the first half of 2018. All three rail lines saw record ridership in 2017.

Northstar has seen the largest increase in ridership, which is up 5 percent through the end of June. Ridership on the Green Line is up 2.6 percent and ridership on the Blue Line is up 1 percent.

"Growing rail ridership is an indication that this region appreciates reliable, high frequency transit," General Manager Brian Lamb said. "We're thrilled to serve so many members of our community and look forward to building on this success moving forward."

Systemwide, more than 39.6 million rides have been taken through the end of June. Total ridership is down 2.6 percent compared to the first half of last year.

Gains in rail ridership have been offset by declining bus ridership, which is down 4.6 percent this year. The region's first rapid bus line, the A Line, has seen a 5 percent increase in ridership compared to last year.



# In Transit

The logo for the Minnesota Public Transit Association (MPTA) features the letters 'MPTA' in a large, bold, orange font with a white outline. The letters are set against a dark grey background that includes a silhouette of the state of Minnesota.

MINNESOTA PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION

## Upcoming Events

**2018 MN/WI Public Transportation Conference & Expo**

*October 15-17 in La Crosse, WI*

Find event information: [MPTA Events](#)

“Like” and “Follow” MPTA on Facebook and Twitter for news from MPTA members and local and national media coverage of transit news and issues.

