



**Minnesota
Public
Transportation
Conference**

Mankato, MN

Mankato October 14-16, 2024

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2024 Minnesota Public Transit Conference

Mankato Civic Center

PROGRAM Monday, October 14

Registration Opens Registration booth - Main Entrance Hickory Street	8:00 am
Training Session I Room 245	10:00 am to 12:00
Training Session II Room 245	1:00 pm-3:00 pm
CEO Summit Ellerbe Room	2:30 pm - 4:00 pm
MPTA Association Meeting MPTA Awards Banquet Hall East	4:00 pm 5:00 pm
Welcome Reception Ellerbe Room	6:00 pm

Vendor Expo Set Up

Grand Hall

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon: Vehicles

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm: Booths



Training Session I

Mobility Coordination and Dynamic Transportation Options

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Room 245

Alan Herrmann, SmartLink

Beverly Sidlo Tolliver, Arrowhead RDC

Caroline Miller, Office of Transit and Active Transportation, MnDOT

Mobility management continues to be an important issue for communities while the issue has also attracted more attention from elected officials. This session will provide tools to engage your community to discover gaps and create more options to fill them. Included in this session will be an update on the status of a study required by the legislature to create a pilot project on dynamic transportation options.

Training Session II

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Room 245

Seema G. Pothini

A welcoming and inclusive work environment is very important, especially as systems seek to recruit and retain quality team members. This training session will explore potential biases and will provide tools to address common issues that can detour your inclusion goals.

CEO Summit - Ellerbe Room

2:30 pm to 4:00 pm

This summit offers a unique opportunity to share candid perspectives as CEOs moving through leadership and career progression. For CEOs who have been sent an RSVP.

MPTA Annual Meeting and Awards

4:00 p.m. - Banquet Hall East

Welcome Reception

6:00 p.m. - Ellerbe Room

2024 Minnesota Public Transit Conference

Mankato Civic Center

PROGRAM Tuesday, October 15

Registration - Main Entrance Hickory Street	7:30 a.m.
General Session Welcome Banquet Hall East Keynote Speaker: Marianne Renner	8:00 a.m. To 10:00 am
Break - Vendor Expo Grand Hall	10:00 a.m.
Concurrent Sessions	11:00 a.m. - 12:00
Buffet Lunch and Vendor Expo Grand Hall	12:00 Noon to 2:30 pm
Tour of Mankato Transit Facility	2:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Transdev Reception Banquet Hall East	6:00 p.m.



REGISTRATION/BREAKFAST

7:30 am

WELCOME AND KEYNOTE SPEAKER Banquet Hall East

8:00 to 10:00 am

Welcome

Najwa Massad, Mayor, City of Mankato
Ryan Daniel, MPTA President

Keynote: From Chaos to clarity - How to be your best when things are at their worst

Marianne Renner

Marianne Renner Coaching Solutions

In a world of increasing chaos, uncertainty and constant change, it's hard to feel like you're moving the needle forward. How do you show up and bring your very best even during the most trying times? This

presentation will help you gain greater self-awareness and provide tools to lead yourself well so you can, in turn, lead others. You'll be inspired to think differently about how you work, live and lead.



BREAK in Vendor Expo** Grand Hall

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Get a look at the many great companies with new products and services to help you run a great transit system!

CONCURRENT BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

11:00 am to 12:00 Noon

Bus Manufacturing Update

Room 247

Mark Husted, Forest River Bus

This session will provide important updates on what is happening with vehicle manufacturing including chassis production, electric vehicle manufacturing and the status of other components for transit vehicles. This is your opportunity to hear the manufacturers' perspective and get your questions answered.

Leadership: Change the direction of your connection

Room 243

Marianne Renner, Marianne Renner Coaching Solutions

Conflict at work almost always comes down to communication. When you understand the differences in natural communication styles, you can learn to communicate with far greater impact. You can connect on a level that inspires and influences. Whether you're trying to engage your team, resolve strained workplace relationships, or deliver a high-stakes message, this presentation will give you practical tools to get results you want.

No and Low Emission Grants and Vehicles

Room 245A

Sean Upshaw - Office of Transit and Active Transportation, MnDOT

This session will cover the FTA's Low and No Emission and Bus and Bus Facilities

discretionary grant

application process and potential projects. In addition, the session will focus on various no/low emission technology, infrastructure and vehicles.



Working With Boards and Advisory Committees: Pathways to meetings that matter

Room 241

Abbey Guggisberg, U of M Extension, Dept. of Community Development

Have you ever suspected that you and your board were not on the same page? Have you wondered if there is a better way to recruit and retain board members? After years of seeing similar situations play out in boards of all kinds, U of M Extension published *Committees That Work*, a guide for leading effective meetings. This session will provide realistic strategies for keeping meetings on track, navigating conflict and bringing new voices to the conversation.

Vendor Exhibition

with Buffet Lunch
12:00 Noon to 2:30 pm
Grand Hall

Largest Transit Industry Expo in the Midwest! Over 50 booths featuring products and services for transit systems large and small. All conference attendees are encouraged to stop by all of the booths and visit with exhibitors.

These folks contribute greatly to the success of our conference, so please stop by all of the booths.



**Fabulous Raffle Prizes -
You Could Win!**



Tour the Mankato Transit Facility

2:30 to 4:30 PM



6:00 PM Transdev Reception

Banquet Hall East



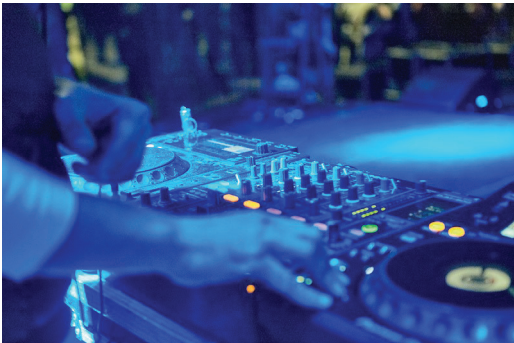
Join us for a great celebration of another successful year in transit!

This year's event will feature great food and beverages, along with entertainment that has something for everyone!

DJ Mega Matt will be spinning great tunes!



MEGA MATT
SOUND. LIGHT. SHOW.



2024 Minnesota Public Transit Conference

Mankato Civic Center

PROGRAM Wednesday, October 16

Registration/Breakfast	7:30 to 8:30 a.m.
General Session Federal Transit Funding Benji Schwartz , APTA Loreal Lance , CTAA Stewart McKenzie , FTA Banquet Hall East	8:00 a.m.
Break	9:30 a.m.
Concurrent Sessions	9:45 a.m.
Break	10:45 a.m.
Concurrent Sessions	11:00 a.m.
Lunch With Office of Transit & Met Council Sarah Ghandour Charles Carlson Banquet Hall East	12:00 Noon to 1:30 p.m.



REGISTRATION Main Entrance Hickory Street
7:30 am

BREAKFAST Banquet Hall East
7:30 am to 8:30 am

General Session Banquet Hall East
8:00 am to 9:30 am

Federal Transit Funding Update

Stewart McKenzie, FTA
Loreal Lance, CTAA
Benji Schwartz, APTA



Get the latest news on what's happening with federal transit funding and what to expect in the coming year as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) continues to be implemented.

CONCURRENT BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

9:45 am to 10:45 am

Transit Safety: De-escalation Strategies

Room 243

Adam Wellen, Transportation Security Administration
Jeff Whelan, Transportation Security Administration

This session will focus on indicators of potentially dangerous interactions, along with strategies and techniques to help de-escalate heightened situations. You will also learn ways to stay connected with TSA, including accessing resources available to public transit.

Marketing For Transit - Idea Café

Room 241

Joya Stetson, MN Valley Transit Authority
KaSondra Wiederich, MN Valley Transit Authority

Let's talk marketing! This session will give participants a chance to talk about what's working and what strategies different systems are using to market their systems and increase visibility. Come learn from peers.

Federal Transit Funding Opportunities

Room 245A

Loreal Lance, CTAA

Bill Wheeler, FTA

Get the latest updates and information on opportunities to apply for federal transit funds. Discretionary grant programs created under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) continue to provide funds for systems all across the country.

Human Resources: *What you need to know*

Room 247

Maria Mancilla-Diaz, SouthWest Transit

The Minnesota legislature made significant changes to laws governing the workplace. In this presentation, Maria will discuss the latest developments in employment law for 2024, providing valuable insights and guidance for transit professionals.



CONCURRENT BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

11:00 am to 12:00 Noon

The Case for Autonomous Innovation in On-Demand Service in MN: A new journey begins

Room 241

Erik Hansen,
SouthWest Transit
Daisy Wall, May
Mobility



As riders ask for different options to match their travel needs, how can we use new technologies? In this session, you'll learn how Autonomous Vehicle Systems (AVS) will be introduced in Eden Prairie and the vision for incorporating this technology long-term including funding, stakeholder and community engagement, technology and metrics for success.



Transit Association Update: *What we can learn from other states*

Room 243



Carl Lingen, Iowa Public Transit Association

Learn how Iowa has an efficient and effective way of administering state and federal funds along with other initiatives Iowa is working on including a new project to combine scheduling and transit rides and an economic impact study.



Plan, Book, Pay: *Mobility-as-a-Service in Greater Minnesota*

Room 247

Elliott McFadden, MnDOT
Raphael Barcham, Cambridge Systematics
Asst. Professor Alireza Khani, University of MN



This session will review the MnDOT Mobility-as-a Service (MaaS) project in Southern and Western Minnesota where MnDOT partnered with thirteen transit agencies on a digital trip planning and payment platform. Presenters will focus on the project's impact as well as future plans for the platform.



Communicating the Role of Transit in the Community

Room 245A

Paige Schuette, TRUE Transit
Dan Pfeiffer, ZAN Associates

Community engagement makes a big difference in building local support and increasing ridership. ZAN Associates has proven strategies for effective community engagement with different types of transportation projects that can help meet community needs.

TRUE Transit used communication strategies to increase ridership during the pandemic with techniques that you can use with your customers.

LUNCH With Presentations

12:00 Noon
Banquet Hall East

Office of Transit and Active Transportation (OTAT) Update & Metropolitan Council Update

Sarah Ghandour, Director, OTAT



Get the latest news on what is happening with Greater Minnesota transit from the Director of OTAT. She will discuss the current landscape of Greater Minnesota Transit from the state perspective, including: opportunities, challenges, and what is next.



Charles Carlson, Executive Director, Metropolitan Transportation Services

You'll learn more about all of new projects and plans for transit in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, including implementation of microtransit services and new BRT lines.



Drawing for Gift Cards

Must be present to win!

1:30 PM - Conclusion and Thank You

***Join us in Rochester for the joint MN & WI
Public Transit Conference
October 6-8, 2025***



Thank You!
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