



**Thought for the Day**

*“A happy life is made up of little things: a gift sent, a letter written, a call made, a recommendation given, transportation provided, a cake made, a book lent, a check sent.”*

*-Carol Holmes*

The KPTA newsletter is published for the Kentucky Public Transit Association by Federated Transportation Services of the Bluegrass with the financial support of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's Office of Transportation Delivery and Rural Transit Assistance Program. Any comments or suggestions should be addressed to Pam Shephard, FTSB, 1460 Newtown Pike, Suite 209, Lexington, KY 40511.



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**OTD gives Kentucky HSTD presentation in Washington**

Vickie Bourne, the Executive Director of the Office of Transportation Delivery (OTD), Gail Mayeux, the Human Service and Public Transit Coordinator in OTD, and Cindy Stoops, Branch Manager over Contracts in the Department for Medicaid Services in the Health Services Cabinet received scholarships to attend the “United We Ride” National Leadership Forum on the Coordination of Human



Vickie Bourne

Service Transportation in Washington, D.C. on February 23-25, 2004. Barry Barker, Executive Director of TARC also

attended.

Bourne and Mayeux were presenters in the session on “Adapting Funding for Greater Mobility” on the second day of the forum. “Kentucky has taken different programs, different funding sources, different payment mechanisms and united into a Kentucky Coordinated Human Service Transportation Delivery Program”, said Bourne.

“Our success stems from the fact that we pull together as a team. The core team is made up of transportation brokers and providers, a variety of facilities and an array of state employees. The transportation provider capacity is provided chiefly by the federal transit mass transit systems. The mass transit systems have been in coordinating transporta-

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**Lexington has been awarded the 2005 KPTA Conference**

Lexington, Kentucky has been selected to be the site of the 2005 KPTA Conference.

The Kentucky Public Transit



Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher spoke to the members of the Kentuckians for Better Transportation at their Conference in January.

Association (KPTA) Board selected Lexington at the last KPTA Board Meeting. The membership was very pleased with the location of the rodeo and having an indoor vendor expo was one of the comments made by many attendees.

The conference will be held August 8-11, 2005 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel and Convention center.

Speakers, Activities and Committees will be announced as it is decided. If you are interested in participating or working on a committee please contact Pam Shephard at 859-233-0066 or email pam.shephard@ftsb.org.

**From the Desk of the President**

Dear KPTA Members:

It's springtime and I'm sure our vans and buses are glad that winter's snow and ice are gone.

Spring time signals that we are coming to a close of the Kentucky General Assembly. This legislative session has been quite interesting and the KIPTA has been actively involved. We've had the opportunity to meet with many key legislators to educate them on Public Transportation. I want to thank Greg Hamlin, Pam Shepherd, and Oliver Barber for accompanying me in meeting with Secretary Maxwell Clay Bailey and Vickie Bourne, Executive Director, Office of Transportation Delivery. A special thanks to our Attorney and lobbyist, Mr. Oliver Barber. "Ollie" has stayed on top of our legislative issues in Frankfort during this session and has done an outstanding job of reporting almost daily to Pam Shepherd or me. Great job to all members who have helped us during this legislative session.

I want to thank Pam Shepherd, FTSB, Nina Walfoort, and TARC for all the hard work they did in putting together our legislative placard and transit directory.

As I close don't forget to contact your senator or representative in congress. Until we get final reauthorization of the "Transportation Equity Act: A legacy for users" or TEA-LU, we must continue to communication our needs to congress.

Sincerely,  
Beecher Hudson  
KPTA President  
Director of WHEELS Transportation Louisville Red Cross



**Davis promoted to OTD Public Transit Branch Manager**

Della Davis has been promoted to Branch Manager within the Public Transit Branch/Office of Transportation Delivery. Davis brings to the position her experience as fiscal manager of public transit funds and as a statewide manager of the Drug and Alcohol and RTAP Public Transit Programs.

Davis has worked for Kentucky state government for 10 years. She previously worked for the Branch Manager of Highway Operations as a Operations Specialist.

Congratulation to Della and we wish her well in her new position.



Della Davis

**OTD gives Kentucky**

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tion business for a long time", said Bourne.

Norman Mineta, the U. S. DOT Secretary, opened the Leadership Forum. Secretary Mineta quoted the research finding that over \$700 million a year could be saved by coordination.

Bill Millar of the American Public Transit Association welcomed the participants from 47 states attending the Forum and introduced Jennifer Dorn, the Administrator of the USDOT/Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Dorn explained the concept of United We Ride. It is a partnership between USDOT, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Department of Labor (DOL) and the Department of Education (DOED). The goal is to coordinate human service transportation and break down the barriers that prevent coordination among the different Federal agencies, as well as within and among the States. According to the Government Accounting Office (GAO), there are currently 62 different Federal programs that deal with transportation funding. Other agencies such as HUD, Agriculture, Disabled Vets, the FHWA ITS Project, etc. will also participate in the initiative.

The first state referenced in Dorn's presentation was Kentucky. Dorn pointed out that Kentucky's coordinated effort had reduced costs by 35% and

doubled riders.

Josefina Carbonell, the Assistant Secretary of the Administration on Aging at HHS is a major player in the national initiative on the coordination of human service. Carbonell discussed the \$1.8 billion HHS transportation budget (Aging, TANF, DDO's, Medicaid, etc.) She said that 40% of rural counties had no available transportation. In seven years, the Baby Boomer generation would be 65 years old, placing an additional strain on transportation in this country.

U. S. Representative Tom Petri of Wisconsin discussed the new 6-year Transportation reauthorization and TEA-LU. Incentives for coordination would include: (1) Grantees could use non-DOT funds as local match, (2) Service grant agreements in urban areas, and (3) Brokerages, software and other coordination components would be eligible for capital assistance.

An announcement was made during the "United We Ride" forum that President Bush had issued an Executive Order establishing the Interagency Transportation Coordination Council on Mobility as part of U.S.DOT on February 24, 2004.

In his statement, Mineta said, the purpose of the team is to enhance the availability of transportation services to target groups by eliminating duplication and overlapping federal programs, and by improving the coordination of federally supported transportation services at all levels.

Under the terms of the order the council will consist of the U.S. secretaries of transportation, health and human services, education, labor, veterans affairs, agriculture, housing and urban development and the interior; the attorney general; and the commissioner of Social Security, along with such other federal officials as the chairperson may designate. The secretary of transportation, or the secretary's designee, shall serve as chairperson.

Mineta said the executive order will enhance seamless, comprehensive transportation services to persons with disabilities, older adults, and low-income families by improving the coordination federally supported transportation, or the services.

Mineta also noted that the executive order advances the goals of the President's New Freedom Initiative, which recognizes the vital role of access to transportation in promoting the full integration of persons with disabilities into all aspects of American life.

As the Forum came to a close, the 47 states attending were prompted by Federal officials to coordinate all Federal and State transportation resources as much as possible using the information gained at the Forum. As FTA Administrator Dorn stated, action - not just rhetoric - will be expected.

*Portions taken from Passenger Transport, March 8, 2004, Vol. 62, No. 10, page 5.*

**Rhoads retires from OTS after 28 years**

Bonnie Rhoads, Transit Manager, retired from Owensboro Transit System after 28 years of service on December 30, 2003.

Rhoads was inducted into the Kentucky Transit Hall of Fame in December 2003 at the Kentucky Public Transit Association Conference.

She served on the KPTA Board of Directors for several years.

KPTA presented Rhoads with an engraved clock in appreciation of her years of service to the organization.



Bonnie Rhoads

## OTS dedicates new Trolley

Owensboro officials hosted a dedication for the city's new trolley on March 25, 2004 at Smothers Park.

The dedication included a ribbon cutting ceremony and music by bluegrass band Ally White & Reynolds Station. Following the ceremony, Mayor Waymond Morris and Owensboro city commissioners boarded the trolley for an inaugural trip through the city.

The new trolley replaces the city's original trolley, a 1989 model. The new trolley will seat 28 instead of

24. Transit Manager Louis Lindsay said it still has the look of years gone by, but it has many new features to make passengers more comfortable.

"It still has that great nostalgic look, but the passenger comfort features are much better," Lindsay said.

The new trolley, for example, is fully enclosed. It also has an improved heating and cooling system.

The new trolley, which cost \$276,000, hit the streets on its regular route March 30, 2004.



## Henderson Area Transit will continue to receive funding

As a member of the Senate Banking Committee, U.S. Senator Jim Bunning was also able to secure a fix for Henderson, Kentucky in the transit title of the bill that will save the city about \$225,000 per year in operating costs for their bus system.

"This is a common sense fix that will ensure folks in Henderson to continue to receive the funds necessary to pay their operating costs and keep the buses running on time," Bunning said. "Without this fix the city of Henderson would have to cut back on transit services or pay \$225,000 more out of their budget each year to continue service at the present level. This fix will maximize the ability of the city of Henderson to use federal funds to operate their transit system at the same level it has in the past."

Bunning supported the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2004 (SAFETEA) that passed the Senate by a vote of 76-21. The bill, which authorizes federal road spending for the next six years, now must be approved by the House before going to conference where final details

will be ironed out.

"This is the biggest jobs bill that Congress will work on this year and I am proud to have supported it," said Bunning. "It's going to mean billions of dollars and nearly 54,000 new construction jobs for Kentucky over the next six years."

"We don't decide funding for specific projects like replacing the Brent Spence Bridge in Northern Kentucky and upgrading the I-69 corridor through Western Kentucky until the final conference on the bill and I am going to continue to fight hard to see that Kentucky gets its fair share of the pie."

The highway portion of the bill is projected to include \$4 billion in federal highway formula funds for Kentucky over the next six years – a 39 percent increase over the last six year period. That's an increase of more than \$1 billion dollars. In the transit title of the bill, Kentucky is projected to receive a 66 percent increase over TEA-21 in formula grants for transit. Transit formula grants could total \$230.5 million for the bill, a \$92 million increase in transit funding for the Commonwealth.

## Terry Garcia Crews named LexTran General Manager

The Board of Directors of the Transit Authority of Lexington, KY (LexTran) approved the appointment of Terry Garcia Crews as General Manager.

Garcia Crews is an employee of Professional Transit Management, Ltd. (PTM), which was selected by the Board last year to manage LexTran. She replaces Jim Adams, who had served as General Manager since November to take a position with Shepard Brothers Inc. a bus sales company.

"We are sorry that Jim is leaving us, as he has been able to initiate many positive changes at LexTran," said LexTran Board Chair Ann Render. "Jim's primary reason for leaving is that, with his new position, he will be able to relocate to Cincinnati, where his extended family resides. He shared with me that it was an extremely difficult decision for him to leave LexTran."

Garcia Crews is a seasoned professional, having begun her public transit career in 1986. Most recently she served as Assistant General Manager of Sun Tran, the transit organization in Tucson, AZ. Sun Tran operates 200 buses and has approximately 500 employees. Her responsibilities at Sun Tran included oversight of administration, grants, scheduling and service development, marketing and community outreach, procurement, safety and risk management, and

information technology. Garcia Crews also served as Director of Marketing at SunTran. She also served as Principal of Garcia Crews and Associates, a national marketing, advertising and public relations firm that provided consulting services to transit agencies across the country.

Garcia Crews received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with two specializations—Finance and Marketing. She attended the University of Arizona in Tucson.

"We're very happy that Terry is onboard with LexTran as our General Manager," stated Ann Render, Chair of the LexTran Board of Directors. "She brings to this position the background and qualifications needed to take the system forward," she added.

LexTran operates 50 buses in its provision of fixed route transit services, and also oversees the operation of 33 buses for door-to-door ADA/paratransit service for persons with disabilities. Last year, LexTran served approximately 3 million passengers, with an operating budget of \$9.2 million.

"I believe we have an opportunity, working closely with the LexTran Board of Directors, key stakeholders within the community and the employees, to make LexTran one of the best transit systems both within the State of Kentucky and throughout the country," stated Garcia Crews.



Terry Garcia Crews LexTran new General Manager.

## Hudson receives National Award

The American Red Cross, Louisville Area Chapter, is proud to announce that Beecher Hudson is the recipient of the American Red Cross National Community Service Award. Hudson, Director of the WHEELS Transportation Program, was selected for this honor, nation wide, for his many years of service to the citizens of Jefferson and the surrounding counties.

His tireless efforts have resulted in the expansion of the Wheels Program to meet the ever growing transportation needs of his community.

He will be presented with this award at the American Red Cross national convention on May 20<sup>th</sup> in St. Louis. The Louisville Area Chapter is truly proud of Beecher and the tremendous work he has accomplished.



KPTA President, Beecher Hudson gave a presentation to the FTSB Board of Directors Annual Breakfast.

## TARC Trains During Emergency Hostage Drill in Louisville

It's 9:30 a.m. on a Tuesday morning and a passenger on the back of TARC bus 2315 suddenly dons a mask, pulls out a gun and walks up the center aisle. "All right everybody, we're going for a ride today. I want everyone to sit down and shut up and don't do anything until I tell you to do it. Is that understood?"

The terrorist in this scenario is actually a Louisville Police Department officer trained in hostage negotiations, and the bus hijacking is part of a multi-agency exercise in emergency preparedness.

Nearly 600 officials from 50 agencies and organizations were involved in "Operation River City," a three-day drill that began on November 4, 2003 and was coordinated by the Atlanta office of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. It was designed to test how local, state and federal officials would react in the event of a terrorist attack involving chemical, biological or nuclear weapons.

The exercise was designed to see how emergency response systems work, how agency responders coordinate with each other and the critical decision-making processes for taking action to protect public health. "While this exercise will take place in Louisville, a Dirty Bomb or other Weapons of Mass Destruction event would have regional and national implications," said the EPA's letter sent to agencies participating in the event.

Dan Franklin, TARC's Director of Safety, said the exercise also helped TARC address the challenge issued by the Federal Transit Administration that transit agencies conduct field exercises, coordinating with regional emergency response providers, at least once a year.

While the TARC bus and its 15 passengers (actually TARC employees) were being held hostage by a crazed gunman with a suitcase full of the blister agent Lewisite (actually a water mist), local firefighters and hazardous material

teams were responding to a chemical fire ignited in a nearby building and the Louisville Metro bomb squad had been dispatched to a van explosion outside a government building near downtown.

There were valuable lessons learned, Franklin said, particularly in the area of communications.

When the bus radio was ordered turned down by the terrorist, police had to resort to using a hailer, a wireless loudspeaker and microphone. However, the hailer failed to set up communication with the terrorist. While communications were being established, police requested a second coach of the same model to practice entry. They spent more than an hour reviewing the bus' features and learning how to board and disable it. Eventually communications with the driver were established via cell phone and the exercise moved forward.

Franklin said the exercise also highlighted the value of some of the technology that is now available for bus security and monitoring. He emphasized the value of a GPS system — so that a missing bus can be quickly located. "It takes a long time to find a bus the old-fashioned way," said Franklin. "With GPS the process of locating a coach is fairly simple."

The hijacked bus had cameras on board which did a good job of capturing the event and providing evidence. However, the camera system is hardwired and does not transmit images from the coach as a wireless camera would do.

The final analysis won't be made until the first of next year when all the reports are reviewed. But for TARC executive director J. Barry Barker, the exercise was an important reminder "that safety is continually being challenged. This exercise increases awareness and provides an opportunity for more discussion and additional training."

## 2004 Kentuckians for Better Transportation Conference in Frankfort



Sue Jeffers (BUS), Shirley Cummins (RTEC), and Dave Braun (TANK) during a dinner meeting at the KBT Conference in Frankfort.



Secretary of Transportation Clay Bailey spoke at the KBT Conference.

*Kentucky Transit  
Providers attend activities at  
the 2004 KBT Conference  
in Frankfort*



Pam Whitter (HART) and Lois O'Keefe (TACK) listen to the speaker at the KBT Conference.



Rajen Shah (GRITS) demonstrates a software program to Sue Jeffers (BUS), Pam Whitter (HART) and Louis Lindsay (OTS) at the KBT Conference.

*Send KPTA news articles to  
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