

Call FTSB
if you have
KPTA Newsletter Items.
859/233-0066 or email:
pshepherd@ftsb.org

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 Shepherd, FTSB, 2308 Frankfort Ct., Lexington, KY 40510.



Federated Transportation Services of the Bluegrass
2308 Frankfort Ct.
Lexington, KY 40510

Thoughts for the Day

"I'd rather go by bus."

- *Prince Charles*

"Take the same bus, to a different job."

- *Marleen Loesje, Dutch Fictional character*

KPTA/KYTC Conference August 22-26, 2011 Hyatt in Lexington

The 2011 KPTA Conference will be held in Lexington, August 22-26.

Come join Kentucky transit agencies, Office of Transportation Delivery, vendors, speakers, etc. from across the state.

The Hyatt Regency has been chosen as the host hotel. The vendor expo will be held adjacent to the hotel at the convention center.

Preliminary arrangements include the KPTA Rodeo written test and road course on Monday, August 22, 2011 at the Cox Street parking lot next to the Convention Center. Also, driver and supervisor training will be conducted in the afternoon.

Training classes and speakers have been scheduled for August 22-26, 2011.

The 2011 Vendor Show will be held again in the convention center. This will ensure all vendors will be together inside during the expo.

Vehicles and other exhibits will be in the same location. Lunch will be served on the trade show floor with prize drawings.

We will be sending out registration packets to all agencies in the coming weeks. Make sure you are watching your emails.

If you know of any vendors you would like to see at the conference call Pam Shepherd at 859-233-0066 or email pshepherd@ftsb.org.

Any member who would like to be on a committee, help with the conference, or have ideas for training sessions please let Pam know.

Other special events include the KPTA Golf outing at the Kearney Golf Course off Georgetown Road in Lexington.

Check out the KPTA's website (kypublictransit.org) for additional conference information.

KPTA/KYTC Fall Mini Conference

"Going the Extra Mile"

KPTA/KYTC held their Mini Conference on August 25-27, 2010 at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Frankfort.



Kentucky Transportation Secretary Mike Hancock was the presenter during the mini-conference.

Shirley Cummins with RTEC was the chair of the mini conference. KPTA wants to thank Shirley for all her hard work.

"Going the Extra Mile" was the theme.

The opening reception began on Wednesday, August 25 at 6 p.m. with "The McClain Cloggers" a clogging group from Georgetown, Kentucky including Pat Puckett with OTD and music provided by Charles Redden, the Disc Jockey. The hospitality hour was sponsored by American Bus and Accessories, National Bus Sales and Accessories and TESCO Bus Sales.

The official conference began on Thursday, August 26, 2008 with Vickie Bourne, Executive Director of the Office of Transportation Delivery, giving the welcome. Kentucky Transportation

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From the Desk of the President

Dear KPTA Members:

Spring is here as far as I am concerned; I have had enough of winter.

On a more serious note the House voted 235-189 in favor of a Fiscal Year 2011 budget containing \$60 billion in spending cuts. This would fund the government thru September of this year. The budget under consideration contains deep cuts to transportation. Please contact your Congress persons and let them know this budget would be devastating to the transportation industry's future and present growth. Please let them know we fully support President Obama's fiscal year 2012 transportation budget proposal. From significantly adding to vital formula funding programs to addressing the operating flexibility that so many urban areas so desperately need, this budget proposal supports the sustained growth that we have long held for the public transportation industry.



At the State level it is our hope that House Bill 305 would pass which would transfer revenues from next year's budget to balance this year's Medicaid budget. This is being done because as the stimulus ends on June 30, 2011, the percentage of Medicaid Revenues the Federal government will reimburse the States will be reduced effective July 1, 2011.

Please don't forget to register for the Community Transportation Association of American conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, June 4th – 10th, 2011. This will be the 25th Anniversary of the CTAA Expo and this is where it started some twenty-five years ago in Indianapolis. Take advantage of this conference being within driving distance which will help your agency not having to purchase airline tickets. You can go the CTAA website to register, www.ctaa.org

Sincerely,
Beecher Hudson
KPTA President
Director of Louisville WHEELS Transportation

KPTA/KYTC Mini

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Secretary Mike Hancock gave opening remarks and said he was very thankful to have a team like Vickie Bourne who has received national recognition for her work and is someone he feels comfortable he can trust.

Robert Buckley, Community Planner with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) was the main speaker during the conference. Buckley and Bourne discussed the triennial review and State Management Review for small 5311/5307 transit systems. He made them aware of all the information, which needs to be in everyone's office for the reviews. Issues of interest during the conference were FTA Guidelines, Requests for Toll Credits/Reports and Safety and Security.

Bourne discussed Kentucky was the first state to complete an ARRA project. Wheels Transportation in Louisville completed the first ARRA project in Kentucky. Bourne said her office had 24 million dollars of ARRA money flow through their office for transit projects. Office of Transportation Delivery has been asked for assistance from the state of Rhode Island and Georgia on the makeup and success of the brokerage program in Kentucky.

Other sessions included as always an insightful talk from Dr. Greg Elam with National Toxicology Specialists about drug and alcohol testing changes.

The entertainment was provided by Todd Bodenheimer an Elvis impersonator.

2010 KPTA/KYTC Mini-Conference in Frankfort



Robert Buckley (FTA), and Vickie Bourne (OTD) during the 2008 Mini Conference.



Petra Espinosa with FTSB is entertained by Elvis during the evening activities.



Taylor Veatch and Wanda Trimble with BUS, George Lafollette and Jodi Alford with TACK listen to speakers during the conference.



Rebecca Hall and Betty Burris with Frankfort Transit during the information session of the Mini Conference.

Kentucky Transit Providers attend activities at KPTA/KYTC Mini Conference in Frankfort.



OTD employees Dee Stamper, John Devine and Ann Estes.



Chuck Steinhofner (WHEELS), Twana Johnson (PACS), Donna Tooley (Bowling Green) and Lana Hatcher (Glasgow Transit).

Go bg Transit's ridership on the rise

GO bg continues to set records for its ridership.

Ken Meredith, Transit Coordinator for the service offered by Community Action of Southern Kentucky, said ridership was up 37 percent over the same time last year.

Meredith said 9,800 people rode buses and used other services during the month, with an estimated 35, 837 for the year that began July 1.

"We are knocking on the door of 10,000 riders a month," Meredith said. "For a service to have been around so few years and to have five fixed routes, that is saying a lot."

Community Action's service began as a demand-only service and then in 2006 was rebranded as GO bg with the establishment of fixed routes.

The service was recently featured in two national publications that noted the service's innovative practices. GO bg uses both fixed-route services and on-demand services for clients who are Americans With Disability Act paratransit approved. That approval requires an application to be filed with Community Action.

Meredith said the agency continues to make strides in improving its service. A customer satisfaction survey released this summer showed a high level of satisfaction with the existing service. There was some request for further expansion.

And a feasibility study suggested that an expansion of service is called for, but that will greatly depend on available funds.

The agency just last week accepted a \$838,750 federal grant to renovate what will become a light maintenance facility. The property at 304 E. 11th Ave. had its first life in 1968 as Goodyear Tire Service Center. Most recently it was the law offices of current Appeals Court Judge Kelly Thompson.

"The building is structurally sound, but we had the building evaluated and the electrical, plumbing, and other physical plant needs updating," Meredith said.

The grant will help pay for a new roof, insulation, energy-efficient heating and cooling, and other things. Also, solar panels will be installed on bus stop shelters and in parking lots.

"We want to be able to increase safety and hold down on costs, so we can afford to maintain things and spend more money on providing service," he said.

The maintenance facility will help extend the life of the buses, Meredith said.

Eventually, Meredith said, the downtown facility could include shelters for bus transfers. After all the required paperwork for the project is completed, Meredith said it will be five or six months before work can begin.

Taken from The Daily News, November 7, 2010, by Robyn L. Minor.

**Rodeo Judges and Drivers needed for KPTA Rodeo Competition on August 22, 2011
Contact Wanda Trimble:
502-695-4290**

RTEC offers EPG Technology

RTEC is initiating a new project to offer Electronic Payment Gateway (EPG) technology to its customers. The new system will allow the use of pre-paid cards for passengers as a bus pass alternative to handling cash fares.

Passengers can pay for rides in advance by uploading funds from their debit or credit card

via the internet. When they board the bus, all they will have to do is swipe their card and take a seat and let the bus take them to their destination.

This will increase security and decrease the time consuming likelihood of incorrect change. AVAIL Technologies was the successful bidder on the EPG system for RTEC.



Hughes new General Manager PATS



Michael Hughes has become the new General Manager for Paducah Area Transit Authority.

Hughes was a former employee of Audubon Area Community Service, Inc., GRITS in Owensboro.

Governor's Holiday Food Drive donates 1,400 pounds of goods to local shelters

More than 1,400 pounds of non-perishable food items were collected to support families in need during the Governor's Holiday-Food Drive this year.

All canned goods and monetary donations are being equally divided between two local Franklin County foods banks—Access Soup Kitchen and the Franklin County Women's Shelter, both of which are currently serving at full capacity.

Throughout the month-long drive, collection bins for canned goods and nonperishable food items were set up in six state office buildings including outside the Governor's office in the Capitol.

Other participating buildings include the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, the Department for Libraries and Archives, State Central Lab, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and the State Office Building.

Frankfort Transit also participated in this year's Governor's Holiday Food Drive by collecting canned goods from individuals who ride the local buses or trolley.

During the month-long drive, Frankfort Transit waived the bus fare for passengers in return for the donation of a canned good. They collected enough food to fill three 40-gallon garbage cans.

We kicked off this food drive during Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week to help raise the awareness of those among us who are less fortunate and in need of everyday items that many of us take for granted," Mrs. Beshear said.

"We are grateful to all who participated by bring canned goods or giving money to help stock the shelves of Frankfort's local shelters. Your donations mean so much to those in need."

2011KPTA/KYTC Conference

Vendor Expo

August 24, 2011

Reserve Your Space Now!!!

Call: Pam Shepherd 859-233-0066

email: pshepherd@fts.org

TANK Partners with NKU College of Informatics to bring technology to passengers

New year, new app... TANK and NKU's College of Informatics have released a second mobile app for the ever-growing number of tech savvy transit riders.

A new mobile application (app) called **myTANK** is now available for download to Android devices. The app joins the myTANK lineup of mobile resources to provide passengers with on-demand, location-aware bus routes, times, and trip planning tools in Northern Kentucky. TANK first released an iOS version of the application for iPhone in 2010.

In 2010, Android became the top-selling smartphone operating system according to NDP Group and Androlib reported the Android Market reached 200,000 just as 2010 came to a close. As the mobile market further diversifies, Android was the next logical platform to host the myTANK app.

Both myTANK mobile apps were built as part of a research partnership with the NKU College of Informatics, providing another way transit passengers can get TANK information at their fingertips. Students in the college contributed a significant portion of the research and development to create both applications. These applications are the culmination of technologies that resulted from the partnership into a single handheld app – no matter what type of mobile device you have, there's a way for you to receive TANK information. The applications utilize the robustness of mobile technologies, such as maps, GPS location, and alert notifications to provide TANK riders the information they need to make better transportation decisions.

myTANK application features (for both iPhone and Android devices) include: myTANK alerts, TANK's news and detour information, Bus stop locator, Bus schedule information (Time & Location), Find a route, Easy TANK mobile web access, TANK videos, TANK coverage area map and TANK schedule.

"Social media and mobility has changed the way the world communicates, and at TANK we are no different. TANK is proud of all of our research work with NKU and pleased to roll out both an iPhone app and an Android app to serve the growing needs of our tech-savvy passengers," commented Gina Douthat, project manager for TANK.

"It has been exciting to be a part of the development and growth of these transportation

technologies. This project has really transformed how transportation information can be obtained and understood in Northern Kentucky," stated Eric Rolf, mobile applications coordinator at NKU. Eric began his work on the project as an NKU student, and following graduation has had the opportunity to provide continued project support and oversight at NKU. "This project's effect on my professional development really underscores the importance of community partnerships with the NKU College of Informatics," added Rolf.

In 2008, TANK and the College of Informatics at Northern Kentucky University began to partner to bring technology to TANK riders. The first project, bringing TANK information to Google Transit, has become the foundation for pushing information to passengers using a variety of technologies.

In addition to these mobile applications, TANK and the College of Informatics students have partnered to bring several other pieces of technology to the transit riders in Northern Kentucky— wi-fi and video screens on part of TANK's fleet; a TANK mobile website; myTANK alert system (to send detour info via text message or email to passengers signing up for the service) and Google Transit Web Trip Planner.

"During a time when transit systems, including TANK, are facing budgetary constraints, TANK looked to the students and researchers at NKU to innovate and help meet some of the technology expectations of today's transit rider—that information will be easily accessible and simple to use. From the Google Transit trip planner to the mobile apps, there is truly a way for just about everyone to get information about TANK in the way that they prefer to receive it," said Andrew Aiello, TANK General Manager. "Students at the University really have a feel for what's going to be 'the next big thing'...having them brainstorm ideas with us and research and develop new products has really helped us attract new riders to our system."

The project with the College of Informatics was initially funded by a grant for transportation technology.

The myTANK application can be downloaded on Android devices via the Android Marketplace. A QR code containing a URL to the application in the Marketplace is shown. Use your Android device's camera and a barcode application to view the URL.

Public Transit Providers appear before Legislators

Public Transit leaders from across Kentucky testified before the Budget Review Subcommittee on Transportation, with an effective "twist" in their request for additional state funding.

Leaders from the three large urban public transit agencies, TARC, TANK, and LexTran, were joined by Beecher Hudson president of the Kentucky Public Transit Association (KPTA). KPTA represents over 40 transit agencies from across the state, which includes the largest systems. These systems account for amazing 29.1 million transit trips a year in Kentucky.

The group noted that the three large urban-transit agencies connect Kentucky employers and Kentucky employees over 12 million times a year. Moreover, major employers, such as Amazon and Fidelity in Northern Kentucky, Central Baptist Hospital and Lexmark in Lexington, and Humana, UPS and General Electric in Louisville, depend daily on public transit to help their employees get to their place of employment.

But, increasingly, there's an educational impact to public transit, too. The University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville and the Community and Technical College system all cite the availability of public transit as key to an educated

workforce. "Partnerships with colleges help Kentuckians obtain college degrees," said Barry Barker, Executive Director of TARC. "Nine percent of Kentucky households don't have a car," Barker said. "Ridership demand is increasing, although operating budgets are flat. Current state funding available for systems to use as local match is \$1.1 million to \$1.2 million, annually, but the need is really for \$4 million or 5 million annually."

Barker noted that consistent, reliable funding would be a great advantage, because it would improve long-term capital improvement planning. "We need something akin to the Six Year Plan for public transit," he concluded.

In an unrelated but encouraging development yesterday, it was announced that Louisville's TARC received three federal grants totaling \$9 million to make three major improvements that will help TARC for years to come.

The three grants will pay to install new electronic fare-collection systems in TARC buses, purchase eight new hybrid buses, and install more energy-efficient features in TARC's historic headquarters building, Union Station in downtown Louisville.

LexTran receives grand reviews for service at World Equestrian Games

By all accounts, LexTran, Lexington's public transit system, was a local hero of the recent Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games. Glowing anecdotes abound from people who parked their cars downtown and hopped aboard a bus, many for the first time ever, to make the 10-mile trek to the Kentucky Horse Park. And the kudos for his staff and system have made a happy man of LexTran General Manager Rocky Burke.

Most important to me are those people saying that they have a new appreciation for the bus system, Burke said.

Much has been written and said about the prompt, on-time service; the cleanliness of the buses; the cheery, helpful drivers and the delight among formerly skeptical or unaware locals of discovering the pleasures of leaving the driving to someone else. LexTran's stock-in-trade has never been higher. The question now is how to keep that momentum rolling.

Both Burke and LexTran board chair George Miller, a downtown attorney who often rides the bus, said it was too early to be certain how this success story will influence future operations and service. At the time of their interviews for this article, the LexTran board had not yet convened its first monthly meeting following the Games, and the October agenda already was crowded with matters not related to the system's service during the event. It will require some time to collect, digest and assess all of the WEG data.

But in Miller's view, one high value return on LexTran's investment of resources already has been identified

"It was publicity that we couldn't have purchased. WEG showcased a lot of positive things about Lexington. I'm very happy that LexTran was one of them," Miller said.

Portions taken from Business Lexington October 27, 2010

Lextran holds local Roadeo

On Saturday, May 22nd, 2010, twenty-three LexTran coach operators competed in the second annual LexTran Bus Roadeo at the University of Kentucky's Commonwealth Stadium parking lot. The event showcased the driving abilities of the best of the best, with 5 additional operators qualifying for the 2010 competition. A kick-off event and spirit day were held prior to May 22nd in order to build excitement for the competition.

Contestants were judged on appearance as well as driving skills in real-life simulations such as judgment stops, turning, and clearing obstacles. A total of eleven driving issues were presented, with each event worth a set number of points. The events included:

- √ Serpentine, testing the driver's ability to negotiate tight turns
- √ Offset Street, requiring the contestant to drive through two separate narrow lanes offset by one full lane's width from each other
- √ Rear Duals Clearance, requiring the operator to drive through a lane with right dual tires



Roadeo participants from LexTran at local event.

- √ Right Turn, testing the driver's ability to negotiate a tight 90 degree turn
- √ First Customer Stop, simulating a customer stop
- √ Left Hand Reverse, testing ability to turn around at a route terminal and back up to the left

- √ Left Hand Turn, testing ability to make a tight left turn in a close situation
- √ Second Customer Stop, simulating a second customer stop
- √ Right Hand Reverse, testing ability to turn around at a route terminal and back up to right
- √ Diminishing Clearance, judging the position and speed of the vehicle
- √ Judgment Stop, testing the driver's ability to judge close distances

In addition, contestants were scored on safety habits, smoothness of operation, and total course time.

The event was judged by current and former LexTran board members, community leaders, civic agency representatives, and transit and safety professionals.

Winners of the 2010 LexTran Bus Roadeo were Hany El-Shaarawy (1st place, 2 years of service), Randy McDonald (2nd place, 12 years of service), and James Hodge (3rd place, 7 years of service).



Leek receives award from OTD

Kevin Leek, FTSB Public Transit and HSTD Manager was presented an award from Jeremy Thompson, OTD Branch Manager. The award was a Subcontractor Submission Award FY'11 for outstanding job in gathering organizing and submitting HSTD subcontractor information.

TARC driver honored for Outstanding service

TARC driver William Cunningham received the 2010 Recognition of Service Excellence (ROSE) award on November 12, 2010 for outstanding service and was recognized for performing an act of bravery that helped save a life.

Cunningham received the award from



William Cunningham

and tourism professionals. ROSE awards are given each year for outstanding service in the hospitality industry by frontline employees. Cunningham, a TARC driver for 13 years, won in the transportation category.

Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson and Louisville Convention & Visitors Bureau President Jim Wood at a banquet at the Marriott Louisville Downtown attended by 500 guests

He was driving a TARC bus on Route #72, crossing the Clark Memorial Bridge into Southern Indiana, on a cold morning last February when he saw a man hanging above the water from the railing on the bridge and another man trying to pull him back. After determining it was safe to stop, Cunningham parked the bus, asked passengers to call 911 and helped pull the man to safety. Louisville Metro Police Sgt. Kelly Jo Higgs wrote TARC to commend Cunningham, citing his "extreme act of bravery." The letter said, "Not only did he save the life of a suicidal individual, but he may also have prevented injury to another civilian already assisting."

A resolution adopted by the TARC Board of Directors recognized him for "going above and beyond his normal duties" and thanking him for his "quick response and commitment to helping others." In a news release announcing the winners, Wood said: "It is an honor to publicly thank the many men and women who work tirelessly to make Louisville a special place to live, work and visit. They are the many reasons our city stands out among other destinations in hospitality and service. They are making a difference and contributing to the economic vibrancy of our city by creating a positive experience for our visitors."

**KPTA/KYTC Conference
August 22-26, 2011
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Lexington, KY**

Lextran's COLT Trolley Honored

LexTran and the COLT Trolley were recently honored by the Downtown Lexington Corporation at their annual Awards of Excellence celebration.

Given annually to the organization, business or individual that has a great impact on how people feel about Downtown Lexington, the Smiley Pete award is named in honor of the longtime canine resident of Main and Limestone, and created as the ultimate in compliments for one who helps everyone enjoy being Downtown. The COLT Trolley received the Smiley Pete award, often referred to as one of the most coveted by those who know and understand downtown Lexington.

The COLT Trolley service is a recent addition to the streets of downtown, with regular day and evening service beginning last April. Prior to their April debut, trolleys had been missing from downtown Lexington for close to twenty years. Since the reinstatement of service, the trolleys have transported nearly 40,000 people in downtown Lexington.

The COLT Trolley was recognized and honored by the Downtown Lexington Corporation for "contributing to Downtown

Lexington by making it a cleaner and safer place, as well as providing the means for more people to see downtown in a new and convenient manner."



Rockey Burke, LexTran's General Manager, was honored by the Downtown Lexington Corporation for the COLT Trolley

Wallace competes in CTAA Rodeo

Ollie Wallace, a FTSB driver, competed in CTAA Rodeo in Long Beach, California. Wallace finished second in the KPTA Rodeo in 2009.

Wallace has been a driver for FTSB since 2005 and was a former over the road truck driver.

He represented KPTA and FTSB in the National Rodeo.

