



# Network News

AASHTO Multi-State Technical Assistance Program  
Winter 2010

## SCOPT and MTAP Hold Annual Conference in Phoenix



Surface transportation authorization, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, safety and security initiatives, and mobility management were hot topics at this year's winter meeting of AASHTO's Standing Committee on Public Transportation and the Multistate Technical Assistance Program, which took place December 1-4, 2009 in Phoenix, Arizona.

During his welcoming remarks, Joseph Marie, Connecticut transportation commissioner and SCOPT chairman, discussed the status of a six-year surface

transportation authorization bill pending in Congress that contains greater investment in public transportation. Marie also praised the Phoenix Valley Metro Light Rail system, which opened in December 2008. It was established, in part, due to his efforts as director of operations at the Metro Light Rail system just over one year ago.

Kate Mattice, director of policy at the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and Ron Epstein, director of finance at New York State Department of Transportation and SCOPT vice chairman, briefed the

group on upcoming legislation, including the surface transportation authorization bill and the climate-change bill. Mattice mentioned the importance of the U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood's Livability Initiative and the economic priorities of the Obama Administration. Epstein informed attendees about the job-creation bill making its way through Congress, the proliferation of FTA programs, and the likely prospects of public transportation getting a larger share of funding in the next authorization.

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## SCOPT and MTAP Hold Annual Conference in Phoenix | *Continued*



During another workshop, Sean Libberton, deputy associate administrator at FTA, and other FTA staff updated attendees on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the importance of submitting grants on time. Libberton said there is \$766 million in recovery act funds for non-urbanized grants administered by state transportation departments. Of that amount, \$608.2 million of this money (79 percent) has been awarded to date.

Safety and security were the focus of another session. Gary Gleason of Nusura LLC; Ream Lazaro, technical lead for the FTA Bus Safety and Security Program; and Scott Friedson, Arizona Department

of Transportation state safety oversight manager, spoke about safety initiatives and the need for a Federal takeover of the State Safety Oversight Program. This session prefaced the U.S. Department of Transportation call on Congress earlier this month to enact Federal oversight requirements for transit authorities.

During the December 2nd luncheon, Arizona DOT Director John Halikowski gave a presentation on projects his department has implemented over the past few years. Halikowski emphasized the importance of partnering with local transit agencies such as Valley Metro Light Rail and how recovery act funds have provided the state with opportunities to

carry out crucial vehicle replacements and to build necessary bus shelters.

Wulf Grote, director of program development at Valley Metro Light Rail, gave an overview of the new system and the projects that have been conducted since its inception in December 2008.

A session on mobility management was one of this year's new additions to the MTAP/SCOPT winter meeting agenda. Representatives from the American Public Transportation Association, Community Transportation Association of America, Easter Seals, and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation briefed attendees on how their organizations are implementing mobility management so that all citizens have access to mobility options. These options include one-stop call centers and the implementation of mobility managers throughout states so residents can have easy access to transit without having to go through multiple steps and organizations.

The meeting concluded with an award presentation. Steve Billings of the Missouri Department of Transportation received the *Multistate Technical Assistance Program Outstanding Service Award* for his efforts on the MTAP Steering Committee. He was presented with this award for the breadth of knowledge he has provided throughout the years to MTAP and SCOPT on FTA circulars and program updates.

– **Brian Alberts**  
*MTAP Coordinator, AASHTO*  
*(Article first appeared in the December 18, 2009 AASHTO Journal)*

## MTAP's Outstanding Service Award

Since 1996, MTAP has annually recognized an individual for making exceptional contributions to MTAP. This honor, formally called *The MTAP Outstanding Service Award*, was developed in 1995, and first implemented in 1996. Initially, eligibility for this recognition was limited to MTAP members who did not serve on MTAP's Steering Committee (then known as the Project Steering Committee (PSG)). In 1999, eligibility was expanded to include Steering Committee members.

Eligibility to receive MTAP's Outstanding Service Award is based on the contributions made by a member during the twelve-month period following the previous award. The specific criteria considered each year include the following:

- ◆ Attendance and active participation at MTAP meetings, and conference calls.
- ◆ Participation on MTAP committees, subcommittees, task forces and MTAP's assigned Emphasis Area.
- ◆ Participation in MTAP networking activities including active involvement with MTAP alerts and MTAP's website.

The Award is presented each year at MTAP's Annual Winter Meeting, and the individual selected receives a plaque at a special luncheon held during this event.

To determine which individual to honor each year, members of MTAP's Steering Committee are asked to submit a nomination form documenting the reasons why they believe their nominee deserves to receive this special recognition. Nomination forms are forwarded to the designated chairman of the MTAP Outstanding Service Award Committee which is among the annual MTAP activities assigned to the person who administers MTAP's Special Activities Emphasis Areas. This position is currently held by

Jerry Wray from Nebraska Department of Roads. The committee chairman, in consultation with other committee members, which include MTAP's current Steering Committee chairman and MTAP coordinator, ultimately decide which candidate is most deserving to receive this award. Recipients of the *MTAP Outstanding Service Award* include:

- ◆ 1996–Tom Mauser, Colorado DOT
- ◆ 1997–Steve Kish, Georgia DOT
- ◆ 1998–Carla Cefaratti, Ohio DOT
- ◆ 1999–Bobby Killebrew, Texas DOT
- ◆ 2000–Jan Simpson, New York DOT
- ◆ 2001–Dave Spacek, Illinois DOT
- ◆ 2002–Bill Sapper, Arizona DOT
- ◆ 2003–Linda Lovejoy, Wisconsin DOT
- ◆ 2004–Jim Slakey, Washington State DOT
- ◆ 2005–Charles Carr, Mississippi DOT
- ◆ 2006–John Dockendorf, Pennsylvania DOT
- ◆ 2007–Mike Johnson, Florida DOT and Janet Weaver, Idaho DOT
- ◆ 2008–Donna Allan, Minnesota DOT
- ◆ 2009–Steve Billings, Missouri DOT

Any member who receives this award is no longer eligible to receive this award in a subsequent year.

MTAP's future success depends on the voluntary contributions of its members! Members are encouraged to be as active as possible in attending meetings, participating in conference calls, and submitting and responding to MTAP Alerts each year. As a result of the periodic rotation of Steering Committee members, there are vacancies on MTAP's Steering Committee every year. Any member who desires to become a member of this group is eligible to be a candidate to serve on the committee and help us select future candidates for MTAP's Outstanding Service Award.

– **John Dockendorf**  
*NCHRP 20-65 Panel Chairman,*  
*Pennsylvania DOT*

## 2009 MTAP Outstanding Service Award

Presented annually, the *MTAP Outstanding Service Award* recognizes leadership and contributions above and beyond the norm by an MTAP member in the area of public transportation and state DOT administration. Attendance and participation at regional and national MTAP meetings, leadership initiative and participation in MTAP committees and task forces, and contributions provided through participation in MTAP alerts, conference calls, and other networking activities are hallmarks of past recipients of the award.

Steve Billings from the Missouri DOT actively participates in the MTAP Steering Committee conference calls, as well as MTAP and SCOPT meetings and is this year's well deserved recipient of the award. Steve has demonstrated outstanding interest, dedication, effort, and professionalism in taking on the task of reviewing and providing comment from MTAP's perspective on the numerous FTA rule-making initiatives, Federal regulations, and Federal guidance issues. He also keeps MTAP members aware of deadlines for comment on these subjects. If a particular initiative impacts another Federal agency or program or is driven by some other program, Steve goes beyond the call of duty by tracking these impacts as well.

Congratulations, Steve!

– **Jerry Wray**  
*Nebraska DOT*

# UW-Milwaukee Courses on Transit

Spring 2010

The UW-Milwaukee Center for Transportation Education and Development is offering the following courses for Spring 2010:

**April 12–13, 2010**  
**Efficiencies in**  
**Paratransit Scheduling**  
**and Dispatching**



**May 10–12, 2010**  
**Passenger Assistance:**  
**Certification for Trainers**

**May 18–19, 2010**  
**Fundamentals of**  
**Public Transit**



For more information about attending one of these courses, please contact Ken Woodall at (414) 227-3332 or [woodall@uwm.edu](mailto:woodall@uwm.edu).

If you would like to schedule a *Fundamentals of Public Transit* course in your state, please contact Brian Alberts, MTAP Coordinator at (202) 624-5838 or [balberts@ashto.org](mailto:balberts@ashto.org).

## Upcoming Activities

**APTA Bus and Paratransit**  
**Conference in Cleveland, OH**  
*May 2–5, 2010*

**CTAA Annual Expo in Long Beach, CA**  
**State DOT Roundtable Session**  
*May 23–28, 2010*

**MTAP/SCOPT-APTA-CTAA**  
**Summer State Partnerships**  
**Meeting in Seattle, WA**  
*August 4–6, 2010*

**TRB 19th National Rural Public**  
**and Intercity Bus Transportation**  
**Conference in Burlington, VT**  
*October 24–27, 2010*

**MTAP/SCOPT 2010 Annual**  
**Winter Meeting**  
Midwest or Southern Region:  
Kansas City, KS/MO; Oklahoma City, OK;  
San Antonio, TX; or Savannah, GA  
*First week of December, 2010*

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
STATE HIGHWAY AND  
TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS

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