



**Dear Transit Professional:**

Each year the Minnesota Public Transit Association recognizes outstanding transit programs and individuals deserving recognition for their professional efforts and achievements. On this 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Minnesota Public Transit Association Awards, it is especially important to celebrate and honor those public transit individuals and programs demonstrating professional excellence and exceptional achievements within the last year.

In the spirit of recognizing individual and organizational accomplishments, please take this opportunity to nominate an individual or organization worthy of recognition for one of the seven (7) award categories described and included with the attached nomination form.

This year's annual conference will be held September 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at Rochester, Minnesota. Award recipients will be honored at the MPTA Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony. Check out the conference website at <http://www.mpta-transit.org/events/conference> to download the awards information materials.

**DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS MONDAY, AUGUST 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010.**

Feel free to contact the awards committee Co-Chairs directly for further information.

Thank You,

Tony Kellen - President; Minnesota Public Transit Association

**Awards Committee Co-Chairs**

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# **Minnesota Public Transit Association Award Descriptions**

## **Friend of Transit**

This award is presented to individuals or organizations distinguishing themselves through exceptional service toward the development and improvement of public transit in Minnesota by policy or legislative initiatives and/or leadership.

## **National Friend of Transit**

This award is presented to individuals or organizations distinguishing themselves through exceptional service toward the development and improvement of public transit on the national level through policy or legislative initiatives and/or leadership.

## **Distinguished Career Award**

This award is presented to individuals who, by length of service and cumulative contributions of innovation, leadership or advocacy, have significantly improved public transit in Minnesota. The recipient of this award will have spent a significant part of her/his career working for or working with a transit system who is a member in good standing of the Minnesota Public Transit Association.

## **Transit Professional of the Year**

This award is presented to individuals who have designed and implemented a specific program demonstrating innovative concepts or effective problem-solving techniques of proven value. The recipient of this award will be employed by a transit system that is a member in good standing of the Minnesota Public Transit Association.

## **Transit System of the Year**

This award is presented to an organization that has demonstrated achievement in efficiency and effectiveness including reports on ridership, cost, safety, maintenance proficiency, agency policy and administration and the achievement of the organization's goals and objectives. The system receiving this award will be a member in good standing of the Minnesota Public Transit Association.

## **Management Innovation**

This award is presented to individuals or organizations that have implemented a project that is innovative to the field of transit or have established a creative new partnership, collaboration or other unique method of addressing transit and transit-related concerns of transit users. Consideration is given to projects demonstrating measurable results such as increased ridership, lower costs, new markets served, etc. The recipient(s) of this award will be part of a collaboration or other effort with a transit system that is a member in good standing of the Minnesota Public Transit Association.

## **Minnesota Bus Operator of the Year**

This award is presented to an individual who has consistently demonstrated high levels of achievement in all aspects of their performance including attendance, safety, customer service, leadership, and commitment to the organization. Overall contributions made by this driver have significantly improved the organization in which they work and the lives of the public transit customers they serve.

# 2010 Minnesota Public Transit Association Awards

## Nomination Form (Nominations Due August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010)

Award Nomination (check one):

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

### INDIVIDUAL/ORGANIZATION AWARDS

Nominee's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title/Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please describe the activity(ies) which is (are) the basis for the nomination. Feel free to use this document and submit electronically.**

**Organization Awards** - Describe achievements, operating statistics, reports on ridership, costs, safety, maintenance proficiency, agency goals, and objectives.

**Individual Awards** - Describe the role of the nominee in facilitating the activity(ies).

Nominator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title/Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail or Forward Electronically To Either Award Committee Co-Chair

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# **Minnesota Public Transit Association; Past Five Awards Presented**

## **Friend of Transit**

- 2009 Representative Terry Morrow, MN House of Representatives
- 2008 Senator Scott Dibble, Minnesota Senate  
Representative Kathy Tingelstad, MN House of Representatives  
Commissioner Arnie Engstrom, Sherburne County
- 2007 Representative Shelley Madore
- 2006 Senator Keith Langseth
- 2005 Senator Sharon Marko and Representative Ron Erhardt

## **National Friend of Transit**

- 2008 Congresswoman Betty McCollum
- 2006 American Public Transit Association
- 1998 Congressman Rod Grams and Congressman James Oberstar
- 1995 Ream Lazaro
- 1990 William Henderson

## **Distinguished Career**

- 2009 Jacqueline Forner, Chisago-Isanti County Heartland Express  
Sam L. Jacobs, Metro Transit
- 2008 Donna Allan, MnDot Office of Transit  
Mary Fossen, Arrowhead Transit
- 2007 Bob Works, MnDot Office of Transit
- 2006 Aaron Isaacs, Metro Transit
- 2005 Nacho Diaz, Metropolitan Council and Richard Graham, DARTS

## **Transit Professional of the Year**

- 2009 Mark Anderson, Greater Mankato Transit System
- 2007 Bernadette "Bernie" Struck, Dawson Heartland Express
- 2006 Deborah Little, Northfield Transit
- 2005 Larry Rolf, Metro Transit
- 2004 Leonard Simich, South West Metro Transit

## **Minnesota Transit System of the Year**

- 2009 Duluth Transit Authority
- 2008 SouthWest Transit, Eden Prairie
- 2007 Paul Bunyan Transit, Bemidji
- 2006 Pipestone County Transit
- 2005 St Cloud Metro Bus

## **Management Innovation**

- 2009 SmartLink Transit, Troy Beam & Alan Herrmann
- 2008 Scott County Transit, ADA/STS Complimentary Paratransit Service
- 2007 U-Pass Program, Duluth Transit Authority
- 2004 Smart Commute Program, Duluth Transit Authority
- 2003 Jim Anderson - MnDOT – Office of Transit

## **Minnesota Bus Operator of the Year**

- 2009 Shirley Lyons, Three Rivers Hiawathaland Transit System