



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 26th 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 6 award categories described and included with the attached nomination form.

This year's annual conference will be held September 29th – October 1st, 2008 at the Rivercentre in St Paul, Minnesota. Award recipients will be honored on opening night at the MPTA Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony Monday, September 29th, 2008. Check out the conference website at <http://www.mpta-transit.org/events/conference> to download the awards information materials.

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS MONDAY SEPTEMBER 1st, 2008.

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.

2008 Minnesota Public Transit Association Awards

Nomination Form (Nominations Due September 1st, 2008)

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

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 Award Winners from the Past 5 Years

Friend of Transit

- 2007 Representative Shelley Madore
- 2006 Senator Keith Langseth
- 2005 Senator Sharon Marko and Representative Ron Erhardt
- 2004 Commissioner Peter McLaughlin
- 2003 Senator Dean E. Johnson

National Friend of Transit

- 2006 American Public Transit Association
- 1998 Congressman Rod Grams and Congressman James Oberstar
- 1995 Ream Lazaro
- 1990 William Henderson
- 1988 National Association of Specialized Transportation Alternatives

Distinguished Career

- 2007 Bob Works, MnDot Office of Transit
- 2006 Aaron Isaacs, Metro Transit
- 2005 Nacho Diaz, Metropolitan Council and Richard Graham, DARTS
- 2004 Sandy Otto, FAR North Public Transit
- 2003 Loren Ewert, City of Mankato

Transit Professional of the Year

- 2007 Bernadette “Bernie” Struck, Dawson Heartland Express
- 2006 Deborah Little, Northfield Transit
- 2005 Larry Rolf, Metro Transit
- 2004 Leonard Simich, South West Metro Transit
- 2003 Mark Hoisser, DARTS

Minnesota Transit System of the Year

- 2007 Paul Bunyan Transit, Bemidji, MN
- 2006 Pipestone County Transit
- 2005 St Cloud Metro Bus
- 2004 Kandiyohi Area Transit
- 2003 City of Rochester Public Transit

Management Innovation

- 2007 U-Pass Program, Duluth Transit Authority
- 2004 Smart Commute Program, Duluth Transit Authority
- 2003 Jim Anderson - Mn/DOT – Office of Transit
- 2002 Metro Transit Control Center Core Project Team
- 2000 Southwest Metro Transit Commission/Laidlaw Transit, Inc.