

## National Friend of Transit

- 2010 Congressman Tim Walz
- 2008 Congresswoman Betty McCollum
- 2006 American Public Transportation Association
- 1998 Congressman Rod Grams  
Congressman James Oberstar
- 1995 Ream Lazaro
- 1990 William Henderson
- 1988 National Association of Specialized  
Transportation Alternatives
- 1986 David Raphael and Rural America

## Bus Operator of the Year

- 2016 Towanda Loving
- 2015 William "Bill" Barry
- 2014 Jerry Gillman  
Jerry Olson
- 2013 Tony Taylor
- 2012 Cherol Dee McManus
- 2011 Jennifer Ansaripour
- 2010 Duane Dufner

## Friend of MPTA

- 2013 Tony Kellen

## 35th Annual Minnesota Public Transit Association

## *Transit Awards*



2017  
St. Cloud, Minnesota

# 2017 Transit Awards

## Transit Professional of the Year

### *Distinguished Career:*

**ROBIN SELVIG, MINNESOTA VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

### *Transit Professional of the Year:*

**LUANN BLEILER, PAUL BUNYAN TRANSIT**

### *Transit System of the Year:*

**WHITE EARTH PUBLIC TRANSIT**

### *Management Innovation:*

**MOBILE APP, METRO TRANSIT**

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

**GEORGE RETEZEN, FIRST TRANSIT / UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**

**RENEE STAFFORD, METRO TRANSIT**

2016	Tony Knauer	1999	Arthur Leahy
2015	Gregory Negard John Harrington	1998	Bob Ulland
2014	Mark Fuhrmann	1997	Jacqueline S. Forner
2013	Helen Pieper	1996	Brian Lamb
2012	Lori Van Beek, Jan Homan	1995	Bob Apitz, Deb Fick
2011	Tony Kellen	1994	Debra Schroeder Linda Ness
2010	Jim Heilig	1993	Aaron Isaacs
2009	Mark Anderson	1992	Michael Christenson
2007	Bernadette "Bernie" Struck	1991	Jeanette Aguirre Greg Failor
2006	Deborah Little	1990	Natalio Diaz
2005	Larry Rolf	1989	Matthew C. Peterson
2004	Leonard Simich	1988	David Tripp John R. Farrell
2003	Mark Hoisser	1987	Judy Byman, Joyce Lundstrom
2002	Connie Donaldson	1986	Steve Griesert Dan Holter
2001	Linda Elfstrand		
2000	David Jacobson Sandy Otto		

*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

2016	SMART Transit	Counties
2015	St. Cloud Metro Bus	1999 Southwest Metro Transit Commission, Eden Prairie
2014	Metro Mobility	1998 Dawson Heartland Express
2013	AMCAT Austin/Mower Area Transit	1997 Plymouth Metrolink
2012	Hiawathaland Transit	1996 River Rider Heartland Express, Sherburne & Wright Counties
2011	Minnesota Valley Transit Authority	1995 Maple Grove Transit
2010	University of Minnesota Transportation Services	1994 Arrowhead Transit
2009	Duluth Transit Authority	1993 Rock County Heartland Express
2008	SouthWest Transit, Eden Prairie	1992 MN Valley Transit Authority, Apple Valley
2007	Paul Bunyan Transit Bemidji	1991 Chisago County Heartland Express
2006	Pipestone County Transit	1990 Le Sueur Heartland Express
2005	St. Cloud Metro Bus	1989 Moorhead Area Transit
2004	Kandiyohi Area Transit	
2003	City of Rochester Public Transit	
2002	Metro Mobility, St. Paul	
2001	Rum River Transportation Collaborative, Inc.	
2000	Rainbow Rider - Douglas, Pope, Stevens & Traverse	

*This award is given 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 organization's achievement of its goals and objectives. This award is given to systems that are in good standing with MPTA.*

## Management Innovation

2016	Andy Stone, Brainerd-Crow Wing Public Transit
2015	Metro Transit - Student Pass St. Cloud Metro Bus - Mobility Training Center
2013	Metro Red Line - Cedar BRT Transit Asset Management, SouthWest Transit
2011	Metro Transit SouthWest Transit
2010	Minnesota Valley Transit Authority University of Minnesota ITS Institute
2009	Troy Beam & Alan Herrmann, Smart Link
2008	Scott County Transit, ADA/STS Complimentary Paratransit Service
2007	Duluth Transit Authority
2004	Duluth Transit Authority
2003	Jim Anderson, MnDOT
2002	Transit Control Center, Core Project Team, Metro Transit, Metropolitan Council
2000	SW Metro Transit Commission / Laidlaw Transit

*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 or method of addressing 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.*

## Distinguished Career

2016	Bonnie Buchanan Sarah Brodt Lenz Bill Wilkin	2003	Loren Ewert
2015	Beverley Miller	2002	John Dillery
2014	Bob Apitz	2001	Judy Hutchinson
2013	David Tripp Silas Sharp	2000	John Sweeney
2012	Dennis Jensen	1999	Bette Undis
2011	Mark Hoisser Robert "Bob" Gibbons	1998	Roger Huss
2010	Kris Barrett	1997	Hazel Sitz
2009	Jacqueline Forner Sam L. Jacobs	1996	Barbara Latham Lussier
2008	Donna Allan Mary Fosston	1995	Michael Ehrlichman
2007	Bob Works	1994	Randal Halvorson
2006	Aaron Isaacs	1993	Shirley Briffett, Jim Heilig
2005	Natalio Diaz Richard Graham	1992	Judy Hollander
2004	Sandra Otto	1991	John Capell
		1990	John Morley
		1989	Ray C. Olson Jack C. House
		1988	Doug Differt
		1987	Jim Lorenz
		1986	Richard Braun

*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 part of his/her career working for or working with a transit system who is a member in good standing of the Minnesota Public Transit Association.*

## Friend of Transit

2014	Trailblazer Transit Joint Powers Board, Tri-Cap Transit Connections Board	1997	Representative Bernie Lieder
2012	Senator John Pederson Senator Roger Reinert Willis E. Branning	1996	Congressman Martin Olav Sabo
2010	Representative Frank Hornstein	1995	Senator Carol Flynn
2009	Representative Terry Morrow	1994	Congressman James Oberstar Marina Vork
2008	Senator Scott Dibble, Representative Kathy Tingelstad Commissioner Arne Engstrom	1993	Senator Keith Langseth
2007	Representative Shelley Madore	1992	Dean Massett William Crawford
2006	Senator Keith Langseth	1991	Ruth Franklin, Morris Benson
2005	Representative Ron Erhardt Senator Sharon Marko	1990	Fred Corrigan
2004	Commissioner Peter McLaughlin	1989	John E. Derus, Representative Henry Kalis
2003	Senator Dean Johnson	1988	Natalie Haas Steffen Senator Gary DeCramer
2002	Governor Jesse Ventura	1987	Phyllis W. McQuaid Representative Bernie Lieder
2001	Senator Dean Johnson	1986	Senator Keith Langseth Representative Bob Gunther
1999	Senator Janet Johnson Representative Dan McElroy	1985	Congressman James Oberstar Senator Steve Novak
1998	Mayo Clinic and Transportation Staff	1984	Bill Hopkins, Helen Wilke

*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 leadership.*