

37TH ANNUAL  
MPTA TRANSIT AWARDS

MPTC  
MINNESOTA  
PUBLIC TRANSIT  
CONFERENCE  
2019

PLANNING FOR  
GREATNESS

2019

St. Paul, Minnesota

# 2019 TRANSIT AWARDS

## DISTINGUISHED CAREER

SCOTT THOMPSON, METRO TRANSIT

JOHN DILLERY, METRO TRANSIT

STEVE MAHOWALD, METRO TRANSIT

## TRANSIT PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

VONI VEGAR, ARROWHEAD TRANSIT

## TRANSIT SYSTEM OF THE YEAR

MINNESOTA VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

## MANAGEMENT INNOVATION

PRAIRIE FIVE COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL, INC.

MOBILE COMMUNITY CENTER

## FRIEND OF TRANSIT

CHARLIE SANOW, LYON COUNTY

## MINNESOTA BUS OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

THERESA COLLINS, METRO TRANSIT

PETE MUGG, ST. CLOUD METRO BUS

## DISTINGUISHED CAREER

2018	TIM KIRCHOFF TONY KNAUER	2002	JOHN DILLERY
2017	ROBIN SELVIG	2001	JUDY HUTCHINSON
2016	BONNIE BUCHANAN SARAH BRODT LENZ BILL WILKIN	2000 1999	JOHN SWEENEY BETTE UNDIS
2015	BEVERLEY MILLER	1998	ROGER HUSS
2014	BOB APITZ	1997	HAZEL SITZ
2013	DAVID TRIPP SILAS SHARP	1996	BARBARA LATHAM LUSSIER
2012	DENNIS JENSEN	1995	MICHAEL EHRLICHMAN
2011	MARK HOISSER ROBERT "BOB" GIBBONS	1994	RANDAL HALVORSON
2010	KRIS BARRETT	1993	SHIRLEY BRIFFETT JIM HEILIG
2009	JACQUELINE FORNER SAM L. JACOBS	1992	JUDY HOLLANDER
2008	DONNA ALLAN MARY FOSSTON	1991	JOHN CAPELL
2007	BOB WORKS	1990	JOHN MORLEY
2006	AARON ISAACS	1989	RAY C. OLSON JACK C. HOUSE
2005	NATALIO DIAZ RICHARD GRAHAM	1988	DOUG DIFFERT
2004	SANDRA OTTO	1987	JIM LORENZ
2003	LOREN EWERT	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.

# TRANSIT PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

2018	ERLENE WELSHONS	1997	JACQUELINE S FORNER
2017	LUANN BLEILER	1996	BRIAN LAMB
2016	TONY KNAUER	1995	BOB APITZ DEB FICK
2015	GREGORY NEGARD JOHN HARRINGTON	1994	DEBRA SCHROEDER LINDA NESS
2014	MARK FUHRMANN	1993	AARON ISSACS
2013	HELEN PIEPER	1992	MICHAEL CHRISTENSON
2012	LORI VAN BEEK JAN HOMAN	1991	JEANETTE AGUIRRE GREG FAILOR
2011	TONY KELLEN	1990	NATALIO DIAZ
2010	JIM HEILIG	1989	MATTHEW C PETERSON
2009	MARK ANDERSON	1988	DAVID TRIPP JOHN R FARRELL
2007	BERNADETTE "BERNIE" STRUCK	1987	JUDY BYMAN JOYCE LUNDSTROM
2006	DEBORAH LITTLE		
2005	LARRY ROLF		
2004	LEONARD SIMICH		
2003	MARK HOISSER		
2002	CONNIE DONALDSON		
2001	LINDA ELFSTRAND		
2000	DAVID JACOBSON SANDY OTTO		
1999	ARTHUR LEAHY		
1998	BOB ULLAND		

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

2018	MAPLE GROVE TRANSIT	2001	RUM RIVER TRANSPORTATION COLLABORATIVE, INC.
2017	WHITE EARTH PUBLIC TRANSIT	2000	RAINBOW RIDER
2016	SMART TRANSIT	1999	SOUTHWEST METRO TRANSIT COMMISSION
2015	ST. CLOUD METRO BUS	1998	DAWSON HEARTLAND EXPRESS
2014	METRO MOBILITY	1997	PLYMOUTH METROLINK
2013	AMCAT AUSTIN/ MOWER AREA TRANSIT	1996	RIVER RIDER HEARTLAND EXPRESS
2012	HIAWATHALAND TRANSIT	1995	MAPLE GROVE TRANSIT
2011	MINNESOTA VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY	1994	ARROWHEAD TRANSIT
2010	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA TRANSPORTATION SERVICES	1993	ROCK COUNTY HEARTLAND EXPRESS
2009	DULUTH TRANSIT AUTHORITY	1992	MINNESOTA VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY
2008	SOUTHWEST TRANSIT EDEN PRAIRIE	1991	CHISAGO COUNTY HEARTLAND EXPRESS
2007	PAUL BUNYAN TRANSIT	1990	LE SUEUER HEARTLAND EXPRESS
2006	PIPESTONE COUNTY TRANSIT	1989	MOORHEAD AREA TRANSIT
2005	ST. CLOUD METRO BUS		
2004	KANDIYOHI AREA TRANSIT		
2003	CITY OF ROCHESTER PUBLIC TRANSIT		
2002	METRO MOBILITY, ST. PAUL		

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

- 2018 ROUTE 440 DAKOTA COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE —  
MINNESOTA VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY
- 2017 MOBILE APP — METRO TRANSIT
- 2016 ANDY STONE — BRAINERD-CROW WING PUBLIC TRANSIT
- 2015 STUDENT PASS — METRO TRANSIT  
MOBILITY TRAINING CENTER — ST. CLOUD METRO BUS
- 2013 CEDAR BRT — METRO RED LINE  
TRANSIT ASSET MANAGEMENT — SOUTHWEST TRANSIT
- 2011 METRO TRANSIT  
SOUTHWEST TRANSIT
- 2010 MINNESOTA VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ITS INSTITUTE
- 2009 SMART LINK — TROY BEAM AND ALAN HERRMANN
- 2008 ADA/STS COMPLIMENTARY PARATRANSIT SERVICE —  
SCOTT COUNTY TRANSIT
- 2007 DULUTH TRANSIT AUTHORITY
- 2004 DULUTH TRANSIT AUTHORITY
- 2003 JIM ANDERSON, MNDOT
- 2002 TRANSIT CONTROL CENTER — METRO TRANSIT  
CORE PROJECT TEAM — METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
- 2000 SOUTHWEST 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.

# FRIEND OF TRANSIT

2014	TRAILBLAZER TRANSIT JOINT POWERS BOARD TRI-CAP TRANSIT CONNECTIONS BOARD	1995	SENATOR CAROL FLYNN
2012	SENATOR JOHN PEDERSON SENATOR ROGER REINERT WILLIS E BRANNING	1994	CONGRESSMAN JAMES OBERSTAR MARINA VORK
2010	REP. FRANK HORNSTEIN	1993	SENATOR KEITH LANGSETH
2009	REP. TERRY MORROW	1992	DEAN MASSETT WILLIAM CRAWFORD
2008	SENATOR SCOTT DIBBLE REP. KATHY TINGELSTAD COMMISSIONER ARNE ENGSTROM	1991	RUTH FRANKLIN MORRIS BENSON
2007	REP. SHELLEY MADORE	1990	FRED CORRIGAN
2006	SENATOR KEITH LANGSETH	1989	JOHN E DERUS REP. HENRY KALIS
2005	REP. RON ERHARDT SENATOR SHARON MARKO	1988	NATALIE HAAS STEFFEN SENATOR GARY DECramer
2004	COMMISSIONER PETER MCLAUGHLIN	1987	PHYLLIS W MCQUAID REP. BERNIE LIEDER
2003	SENATOR DEAN JOHNSON	1986	SENATOR KEITH LANGSETH REP. BOB GUNTHER
2002	GOVERNOR JESSE VENTURA	1985	CONGRESSMAN JAMES OBERSTAR SENATOR STEVE NOVAK
2001	SENATOR DEAN JOHNSON	1984	BILL HOPKINS HELEN WILKE
1999	SENATOR JANET JOHNSON REP. DAN MCELROY		
1998	MAYO CLINIC AND TRANSPORTATION STAFF		
1997	REP. BERNIE LIEDER		
1996	CONGRESSMAN MARTIN OLAV SABO		

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.

# MINNESOTA BUS OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

2017 GEORGE RETEZEN  
RENEE STAFFORD

2010 DUANE DUFNER

2016 TOWANDA LOVING

2015 WILLIAM "BILL" BARRY

2014 JERRY GILLMAN  
JERRY OLSON

2013 TONY TAYLOR

2012 CHEROL DEE MCMANUS

2011 JENNIFER ANSARIPOUR

## 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 ASSN OF SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES

1986 DAVID RAPHAEL  
RURAL AMERICA

## FRIEND OF MPTA

2013 TONY KELLEN