

38th Annual MPTA Transit Awards



**Mayo Civic Center
Rochester, Minnesota**

2020 Transit Awards

Distinguished Career

Dave Jacobson, SouthWest Transit

Carla Montgomery, Duluth Transit Authority

Transit Professional of the Year

Cathleen Amick, United Community Action Partnership

Brian Funk, Metro Transit

Transit System of the Year

Rochester Public Transit

Management Innovation

Metro Transit for their **Transit Assistance Program**.

This program allows lower income residents to use a bus or train for just \$1 per ride with a Go-To Card.

Minnesota Bus Operator of the Year

Melanie Benson, Metro Transit



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Distinguished Career

2019	Scott Thompson John Dillery Steve Mahowald	2004	Sandra Otto
2018	Tim Kirchoff Tony Knauer	2003	Loren Ewert
2017	Robin Selvig	2002	John Dillery
2016	Bonnie Buchanan Sarah Brodt Lenz Bill Wilkin	2001	Judy Hutchinson
2015	Beverley Miller	2000	John Sweeney
2014	Bob Apitz	1999	Bette Undis
2013	David Tripp Silas Sharp	1998	Roger Huss
2012	Dennis Jensen	1997	Hazel Sitz
2011	Mark Hoisser Robert "Bob" Gibbons	1996	Barbara Latham Lussier
2010	Kris Barrett	1995	Michael Ehrlichman
2009	Jacqueline Forner Sam L. Jacobs	1994	Randal Halvorson
2008	Donna Allan Mary Fosston	1993	Shirley Briffett Jim Heilig
2007	Bob Works	1992	Judy Hollander
2006	Aaron Isaacs	1991	John Capell
2005	Natalio Diaz Richard Graham	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.

Transit Professional of the Year

2019	Voni Vegar	2001	Linda Elfstrand
2018	Erlene Welshons	2000	David Jacobson Sandy Otto
2017	LuAnn Bleiler	1999	Arthur Leahy
2016	Tony Knauer	1998	Bob Ulland
2015	Gregory Negard John Harrington	1997	Jacqueline S Forner
2014	Mark Fuhrmann	1996	Brian Lamb
2013	Helen Pieper	1995	Bob Apitz Deb Fick
2012	Lori Van Beek Jan Homan	1994	Debra Schroeder Linda Ness
2011	Tony Kellen	1993	Aaron Issacs
2010	Jim Heilig	1992	Michael Christenson
2009	Mark Anderson	1991	Jeanette Aguirre Greg Failor
2007	Bernadette “Bernie” Struck	1990	Natalio Diaz
2006	Deborah Little	1989	Matthew C Peterson
2005	Larry Rolf	1988	David Tripp John R Farrell
2004	Leonard Simich	1987	Judy Byman Joyce Lundstrom
2003	Mark Hoisser		
2002	Connie Donaldson		

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

2019	Minnesota Valley Transit Authority	2003	City of Rochester Public Transit
2018	Maple Grove Transit	2002	Metro Mobility, St. Paul
2017	White Earth Public Transit	2001	Rum River Transportation Collaborative, Inc.
2016	SMART Transit	2000	Rainbow Rider
2015	St. Cloud Metro Bus	1999	SouthWest Metro Transit Commission
2014	Metro Mobility	1998	Dawson Heartland Express
2013	AMCAT Austin/ Mower Area Transit	1997	Plymouth Metrolink
2012	Hiawathaland Transit	1996	River Rider Heartland Express
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	Minnesota Valley Transit Authority
2007	Paul Bunyan Transit	1991	Chisago County Heartland Express
2006	Pipestone County Transit	1990	Le Sueuer Heartland Express
2005	St. Cloud Metro Bus	1989	Moorhead Area Transit
2004	Kandiyohi Area Transit		

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

- 2019** Mobile Community Center — Prairie Five Community Action Council, Inc.
- 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

2019	Charlie Sanow, Lyon County	1997	Representative Bernie Lieder
2014	Trailblazer Transit Joint Powers Board Tri-CAP Transit Connections Board	1996	Congressman Martin Olav Sabo
2012	Senator John Pederson Senator Roger Reinert Willis E Branning	1995	Senator Carol Flynn
2010	Representative Frank Hornstein	1994	Congressman James Oberstar Marina Vork
2009	Representative Terry Morrow	1993	Senator Keith Langseth
2008	Senator Scott Dibble Representative Kathy Tingelstad Commissioner Arne Engstrom	1992	Dean Massett William Crawford
2007	Representative Shelley Madore	1991	Ruth Franklin Morris Benson
2006	Senator Keith Langseth	1990	Fred Corrigan
2005	Representative Ron Erhardt Senator Sharon Marko	1989	John E Derus Representative Henry Kalis
2004	Commissioner Peter McLaughlin	1988	Natalie Haas Steffen Senator Gary DeCramer
2003	Senator Dean Johnson	1987	Phyllis W McQuaid Representative Bernie Lieder
2002	Governor Jesse Ventura	1986	Senator Keith Langseth Representative Bob Gunther
2001	Senator Dean Johnson	1985	Congressman James Oberstar Senator Steve Novak
1999	Senator Janet Johnson Representative Dan McElroy	1984	Bill Hopkins Helen Wilke
1998	Mayo Clinic and Transportation Staff		

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

National Friend of Transit

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

Friend of MPTA

2013	Tony Kellen
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