

## Tribal Transit Management Course Launched

Building on the success of its *Principles of Transit Management* class, SURTC launched *Tribal Transit: Principles of Transit Management* Sept. 7-9 in Bismarck in conjunction with the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Northern Plains TTAP Transportation Conference and Tribal Leaders Summit. This intensive three-day course covers all aspects of transit management for operators of tribal transit programs across the country. This course is directed toward both experienced managers and managers who are relatively new to their positions. Front-line supervisors and those who are in a position to assist transit managers will also benefit from the training.

Jon Mielke, a SURTC researcher who specializes in tribal transit programs, facilitated the training, and Carol Wright, associate director of training and outreach, served as the primary instructor. Guest speakers were also invited to participate.

Lauren Tuzikow, FTA program analyst, presented on National Transit Database reporting. Jennifer Stewart, state & tribal program coordinator for FTA Region VIII, provided FTA's perspective on federal funding for tribal transit operations, and Keven Anderson, former modal coordinator with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, discussed state relationships with tribal entities.

(Tribal training continued on page 4)



Standing Rock Public Transit Van

## Tribal Transit Assessment Study Completed

SURTC recently completed a study to assess the impacts of the federal 5311(c) tribal transit program and to determine future program funding needs.



Jon Mielke

Associate research fellow Jon Mielke identified over 100 tribal entities that have received start-up or enhancement program funding since 2006. Grantees were surveyed to identify impacts associated with the receipt of program funds,

all of which are available for operating and capital purposes with no local match requirements. Program funding increased from \$8 million for FY 2006 to \$15 million for FY 2009, 2010, and 2011.

The study reviews prior work regarding personal mobility need indicators as they pertain to Indian reservations, as well as prior and ongoing work concerning the growth in local tribal transit services since the late 1990s.

Survey responses were analyzed to

(Tribal study continued on page 4)

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### Recent highlights from the SURTC Blog:

- Marginal Cost Pricing and Subsidy of Transit in Small Urban Areas Study Published
- Transit Ridership and the Built Environment Study Published
- Webcast Recording for Fargo-Moorhead Transit Development Plan Public Input Meeting
- SURTC Participates in Conference on Mobility of Older Adults

Visit our blog at:  
[www.surtc.org/blog](http://www.surtc.org/blog)



# Message from the Director

Fall is nature's time of change, and we are likewise experiencing changes within SURTC. We bid farewell to some and welcome others. We are grateful for the contributions and success of those who are leaving SURTC, and we look forward to the new ideas and energy of those who are new to our SURTC team. We are wrapping up projects and beginning new ones and look forward to working with all of you in the coming months. As always, please contact us with your research and training ideas. Thank you for reading our newsletter.



Jill Hough

## UGPTI Seminar Series Returns

Several SURTC staff members will be part of the UGPTI Transportation Seminar Series during the fall semester. This series, organized by SURTC director Jill Hough, provides updates on transportation research and issues at the local, regional, and national levels.

Del Peterson presented results from a study on the built environment and how it influences transit ridership on Oct. 18. On Nov. 1, Jeremy Mattson gave a presentation on marginal cost pricing and subsidy of transit in small urban areas. Jill Hough discussed ethics in the workplace in a seminar on Nov. 8, and on Nov. 15 Carol Wright will provide strategies and techniques for giving effective presentations. New staff member Keven Anderson described the basic structure and organization of transit in Greater Minnesota on Aug. 30.

For more information about the seminar series or to view presentations or recordings of completed seminars, visit [www.ugpti.org/events/seminar](http://www.ugpti.org/events/seminar)

## Farewell Gene Griffin



Gene Griffin

SURTC's parent organization, the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute (UGPTI), says farewell to long-time director, Gene Griffin, who will leave NDSU Dec. 31. During his 31 years of leadership the Institute grew in national stature. We wish him well in his next endeavors.

## Congratulations to MATBUS

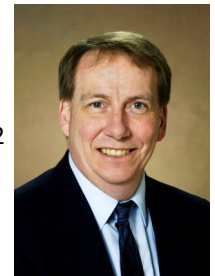
Metro Area Transit (MATBUS) recently won first place in two of the APTA



AdWheel categories. One award was for MATBUS's shoestring "Two-Ten in Twenty-Ten" campaign, and the other award was for its Social Media viral video: "A MATBUS Message from NDSU Student Leaders." Check out the video at [matbus.com](http://matbus.com). For questions about the campaigns contact Gregg Schildberger at [GSchildberger@cityoffargo.com](mailto:GSchildberger@cityoffargo.com)

## Welcome Keven Anderson

Keven Anderson has joined SURTC as coordinator of training and outreach. Keven brings nearly 20 years of transportation experience to the position. He most recently served as the transit project manager for the Minnesota Department of Transportation for 12 years. Prior to working at MNDOT, Keven managed a multi-county public transit system in Eastern Iowa.



Keven Anderson

## Best Wishes to Marc Scott

Marc Scott recently completed his Ph.D. in Transportation & Logistics at North Dakota State University and worked with SURTC as a graduate research assistant and research analyst before departing at the end of August. Marc is now a logistics analyst for Walmart at their corporate office. We wish him much success.



Marc Scott

## Events Calendar

TRB—91st Annual Meeting

TRF—53rd Annual Forum

APTA—2012 International Bus Roadeo

APTA—2012 Bus & Paratransit Conference

CTAA—EXPO 2012

APTA—Public Transportation & Universities Conference

Jan. 22-26, 2012 • Washington, DC

Mar. 15-17, 2012 • Tampa, FL

May 3-8, 2012 • Long Beach, CA

May 6-9, 2012 • Long Beach, CA

May 20-25, 2012 • Baltimore, MD

Jun. 16-19, 2012 • Fargo, ND

## Use of Technologies and Social Media for Transit Planning Being Studied

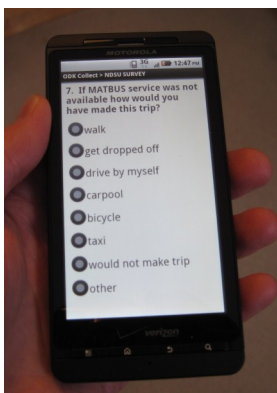
SURTC research may show transit agencies innovative ways to use technology and social media to improve public participation in transit planning.

SURTC is investigating the use of technologies such as webcasts, mobile electronic devices, and social media as tools for reducing barriers to participation in transportation planning.

Technologies being studied include mobile electronic devices for conducting on-vehicle rider surveys; webcasts to enable off-site attendees to view and comment on public input meetings; social networking tools for notifying individuals of opportunities to participate in planning activities

and disseminating planning documents; online surveys for collecting information; and blogs for further discussing transit issues.

The project is being conducted in Fargo-Moorhead. To date, two rounds of on-vehicle surveys have been conducted with the use of smartphones, and an online survey of



*Smartphones are being used for onboard surveys*

university students was also conducted.

In September, SURTC hosted a webcast of a public input meeting regarding the transit development plan. A recording of the webcast was made available online for individuals to view and comment on at any time. Additional webcasts and surveys are being planned.

The 18-month project, which was initiated by David Ripplinger and is being led by Jeremy Mattson and Del Peterson, began in 2010 and will be completed in early 2012.

For more information, visit [www.surtc.org/ptpproject](http://www.surtc.org/ptpproject)

## SURTC Participates in Conference on Mobility of Older Adults

SURTC researchers Jeremy Mattson and Del Peterson recently participated in a conference highlighting the latest research regarding safe mobility for older persons.

Mattson presented the results from a study analyzing the impacts of travel distance and access to transportation on use of



health care services in small urban and rural areas.

Peterson participated in a poster session, presenting the results from his Ride or Relocate study that examined costs of aging in place and using transit versus relocating to an assisted living facility.

These presentation and the studies they were based on can be downloaded from the

SURTC website. Visit the SURTC blog at [www.surtc.org/blog](http://www.surtc.org/blog) and view the Sept. 7 post.

The conference, titled "Emerging Issues in Safe and Sustainable Mobility for Older Persons," was hosted by the Transportation Research Board and the Committee of the Safe Mobility for Older Persons, Aug. 30-Sept. 1 in Washington, DC.

## Recording of Ride or Relocate Webinar Available Online

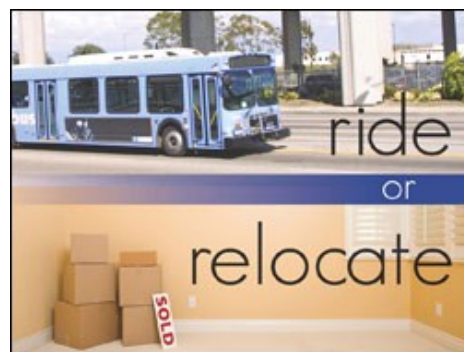
A webinar held by SURTC and the National Center on Senior Transportation (NCST) is now available for viewing online.

The webinar addressed results from a study conducted in North Dakota which quantified the cost of living at home and riding transit versus relocating to an assisted living facility. In addition, potential marketing strategies were presented utilizing the

results of the study to reach people who may be in the process of making these difficult decisions.

The webinar was cosponsored by the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) and the Community Transportation Assistance Program (CTAP) and was conducted on August 3.

A recording of the webinar is available at [www.surtc.org/training](http://www.surtc.org/training)





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### **(Tribal training continued)**

A highlight of the training was participation by Debbie McGlasson, transit director for Pelivan Transit in Oklahoma, and Pamela Ternes, director of Standing Rock Public Transit serving North Dakota and South Dakota. They discussed the development of their transit operations, the challenges they face, the successes they've achieved, and suggestions for best practices that other tribal transit programs could adopt.

Thirty participants from twenty-five tribes attended the training. Several other organizations and tribal entities have since requested that the training be delivered in other areas in 2012.

### **(Tribal study continued)**

identify former and current ridership levels, trip purposes, and funding sources. Results were also compared to National Transit Data findings on performance measures related to passenger trips per mile, operating expenses, and farebox recovery.

The study assesses how dependent tribal transit operators are on 100% 5311(c) funding. These assessments, along with projections regarding the initiation of new services, can serve as the basis for projecting future program funding needs.

For more information, contact Mielke at [jon.mielke@ndsu.edu](mailto:jon.mielke@ndsu.edu). The final report is available at [www.surtc.org/research/reports.php](http://www.surtc.org/research/reports.php).

### **Farewell Bill Millar and Welcome Michael Melaniphy**

The American Public Transportation Association has a new president, Michael Melaniphy, as of Nov. 1. SURTC extends its appreciation to Bill Millar, who is retiring after nearly 16 years as APTA president and 40 years of service to the public transportation industry. Bill has been supportive of SURTC, participating on the strategic planning committee and also guest lecturing for the public transit class. Michael is a nationally recognized leader and his entire career has been in public transportation. We look forward to a continued positive relationship with APTA and Michael. We appreciate Michael's interest in education, as evidenced by his guest lectures to the NDSU transit class.