



RTAP BULLETIN



A Bulletin of the Florida Rural Transit Assistance Program

December 2001

LET'S ROADEO MARCH 22 – 23, 2002



The RTAP Roadeo will be held in **Gainesville** this year. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), **Florida Association of Community Transportation Systems (FACTS)**, the **Gainesville Regional Transit System (RTS)** and the **RTAP Center** at the University of Florida and our wonderful **Sponsors** are all working hard to make sure this will be our best Roadeo ever!

The Gateway Grand Best Western was selected as the host hotel because it is extremely nice, is conveniently located, and can accommodate all of the participants. You can preview the site by visiting the hotel's website at www.bestwestern.com/gatewaygrand.

Although we have had a good turnout in the past years for the events, we want to encourage more agencies to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to support your drivers. The roadeo highlights your driver training program and allows you to reward excellence without having to scoop into your budget.

To get the most out of the roadeo, use it as an incentive to learn and exhibit good driving skills while taking advantage of the wheelchair and securement training at the roadeo.

More information about the roadeo will be mailed out in the coming months. If you have questions or would like more information, contact Ted Waters, Big Bend Transit, Treasurer of FACTS at (850) 574-6266. You may also e-mail Ted at twbtt@aol.com.

So, it's time to get moving. Announce to your drivers today that your agency will be participating. If you have never participated and don't think your drivers would get excited about this, talk to them. You might be surprised to find out how much this means to them. Feel free to contact other agencies that have participated to find out more about it. If you sent drivers in the past and, for whatever reason stopped attending, give the event another chance.



FLORIDA PARATRANSIT ROADEO LOGO CONTEST

Drivers and agency employees, it's your chance to be part of the creation of a "**Florida Roadeo Logo**" that would be distinctive to Florida.

The winning logo will be announced at the Roadeo Banquet on March 22, 2002 and the winner of the logo contest will be awarded a prize. In addition, the agency that employs the winner of the logo contest will also be awarded a prize.

The winning logo will be Florida's official "Roadeo Pin" and will be used on all RTAP brochures and documents relating to the Roadeo.

So, put your creativity to work!!!! Encourage your drivers and other employees to enter. Submit all entries to:

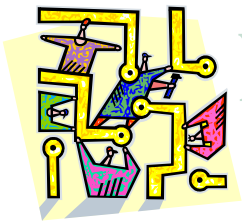
**Catherine J. Kelly
Florida Department of Transportation, MS 26
605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399**

A flier has been attached that you can post at your agency to encourage your employees to enter the contest.

ARE YOU GETTING E-MAIL FROM US?

If not, you are **OUT OF THE LOOP!!!!** That means that we do not have your correct e-mail address; or you do not have e-mail.

If you have e-mail and you have not received anything from us, please e-mail Jeanne Wise at jwise@ce.ufl.edu so that you may be included in all of our information exchange. We will be using e-mail increasingly in promoting and advising agencies of upcoming training activities.



NEW TRAINING TOOLS NEW TRAINING TOOLS

Toolkit for Medical Transportation

The RTAP Resource Center has extra copies of the Toolkit for Medical Transportation on CD that was developed by CTAA to assist agencies with developing their programs and policies.

We printed out the Introduction to the document along with the Table of Contents and attached them to this bulletin so that you can decide if you can use the tool in your program.

To obtain a copy of this CD, fax a request Jeanne Wise at (352) 392-3224 or send her an e-mail at jwise@ce.ufl.edu.

MOBILE TRAINING PROGRAM

The Florida RTAP Center has been conducting the Mobile Training Program for six years now and each year, more agencies are taking advantage of this opportunity. We will work with you to arrange refresher training for **your** drivers at **your** agency at **your** convenience at **no cost**. We work with you to decide how much time your agency will have to conduct the training and what needs to be included.

Courses offered through the mobile training program are defensive driving, safe lift operation, wheelchair securement, passenger restraint, passenger assistance, sensitivity, customer relations, bloodborne pathogens, ADA awareness and substance abuse awareness.

We can also provide a course in your area for your trainers in using the Florida Paratransit Driver's Qualification Program. This course would provide awareness and materials to your agency's trainer on how to train adults in small groups or one-on-one and how to evaluate skill transfer. It would also provide guidance on record-keeping and the importance of training documentation.

To arrange for a training session at your agency or in your area, give Jeanne Wise a call (352) 392-2371, ext. 226 or send her an e-mail at jwise@ce.ufl.edu.

TRAINING ON REVISIONS TO 49CFR PART 655

The FDOT has arranged for FTA to conduct training on the revisions to 49CFR Part 655 in Tampa on February 7, 2002. The training session will be conducted at the Blaise F. Alfano Conference Center.

The objective of the training is to provide participants with the technical knowledge necessary to perform a comprehensive assessment of their drug and alcohol testing programs to ensure compliance with the rule. The intended audience is Drug and Alcohol Program Managers.

Pre-registration is required but there is no fee. An agenda for this training is attached. You may register on-line by going to <http://transit-safety.volpe.dot.gov/training/Conferences.asp> or call Jennifer Whalley at 617-494-3898.

WHEELCHAIR SECUREMENT AND PASSENGER RESTRAINT SYSTEMS TRAINING

In the past few years, we have conducted a series of train-the-trainers for wheelchair securement and passenger restraint systems. Our training was basic, focusing on how to train and proper techniques. We used local systems buses and reviewed a number of different styles of buses and restraint systems.

We have decided this year to offer courses conducted by the manufacturers that will offer their certification to the participants. Since the state vehicle procurement program offers two different manufacturers for the systems, we will be offering two different courses in four areas of the state. We also know that many agencies have both systems in their fleet. We are encouraging all of you to send your trainers and managers to these training classes. Tentative schedule with locations is shown on the Upcoming Training Schedule on page 3.

To get information on how to register your participants, e-mail jwise@ce.ufl.edu or fax a request to Jeanne Wise at (352) 392-3224. Exact locations and times are still being coordinated.

TENTATIVE UPCOMING TRAINING SCHEDULE

TRAINING TOPIC	AREA OR LOCATION	DATE	CONTACT
Substance Abuse Management Training on Revisions to 49 CFR Part 655	Tampa	February 7	Jennifer Whalley at (617)494-3798
Wheelchair Securement & Passenger Restraint (all Sure-Lok systems)	Mariana	February 11	Jeanne Wise jwise@ce.ufl.edu fax (352) 392-3224
Wheelchair Securement & Passenger Restraint (all Sure-Lok systems)	Gainesville	February 12	Jeanne Wise jwise@ce.ufl.edu fax (352) 392-3224
Wheelchair Securement & Passenger Restraint (all Sure-Lok systems)	Fort Pierce	February 13	Jeanne Wise jwise@ce.ufl.edu fax (352) 392-3224
Wheelchair Securement & Passenger Restraint (all Sure-Lok systems)	Sarasota	February 14	Jeanne Wise jwise@ce.ufl.edu fax (352) 392-3224
Wheelchair Securement & Passenger Restraint (all Q-Straint systems)	Mariana	March (TBA)	Jeanne Wise jwise@ce.ufl.edu fax (352) 392-3224
Wheelchair Securement & Passenger Restraint (all Q-Straint systems)	Gainesville	March (TBA)	Jeanne Wise jwise@ce.ufl.edu fax (352) 392-3224
Wheelchair Securement & Passenger Restraint (all Q-Straint systems)	Fort Pierce	March (TBA)	Jeanne Wise jwise@ce.ufl.edu fax (352) 392-3224
Wheelchair Securement & Passenger Restraint (all Q-Straint systems)	Sarasota	March (TBA)	Jeanne Wise jwise@ce.ufl.edu fax (352) 392-3224

FPDQP UPDATE

Our Florida Paratransit Drivers Qualification Program was developed two years ago and has been up and running for a while now. We find that some agencies are using the program as it was designed, some are using it as it fits into their program, and some are not using it.

We have worked to develop a program that would assist you in designing your driver training program and give you materials and training tools to conduct that training. We are working to improve the program. If you do not have the materials, if you do not know what program I am referring to or if you would like assistance in getting the program up and going within your agency, we can help. Let us know where you stand with it and what we can do to help you improve your driver training program.

As always, our assistance is free. There won't be a consulting fee or any costs associated with our help. The goal of the RTAP Center is to provide training, technical assistance and resources to rural and small urban transit agencies. Call Jeanne Wise today at (352) 392-2371, ext. 226 or send an e-mail to jwise@ce.ufl.edu