

# RTAP

## BULLETIN

FLORIDA RURAL TRANSIT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

SPRING 2008—VOL.6, NO.2

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## 2008 Florida Transit Professional Development Workshop goes green!

The 2008 FDOT/FPTA/CUTR Professional Development Workshop was held at the Embassy Suites-USF in Tampa on June 3-5, 2008, with the theme “A Greener Path for Transit.” Subject matter experts addressed the concepts of transit sustainability and discussed the idea of minimizing transit’s carbon footprints. The “green” professional development sessions at the workshop compared the different types of alternatively-fueled vehicles, discussed the safety and evaluation of alternative-fuel facilities and equipment, and identified the 2010 emission standards requirements and changes. The goal of offering “green” sessions at the workshop was to open up a line of communication with Florida transit professionals to aid in the establishment of sound transportation solutions to help minimize the impact of transit on our environment.

In addition to the “green” sessions, the workshop offered other valuable professional development opportunities such as business writing, transit-specific website design guidelines, public involvement techniques, successful transit planning, effective communications through email, emergency preparedness, and effective transit marketing techniques.

In these challenging financial times when our transit budgets are being reviewed, realigned, and reduced, the workshop offered a “one-stop” training opportunity for professional development, information sharing, knowledge gathering, and networking.

If you would like more information on training and conferences, please contact Molly Buffington at (813) 974-7810 or [mbuffington@cutr.usf.edu](mailto:mbuffington@cutr.usf.edu).

FDOT/FPTA/CUTR  
Professional Development Workshop  
June 3-5, 2008  
USF Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center  
Tampa, Florida

17 to Sarasota

0601 SCAT

a GREENER PATH for transit

florida public transportation association | USF UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA | STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



# Above and Beyond Award

The Florida Department of Transportation's Public Transit Office awarded its annual "Above and Beyond" Award to an exemplary paratransit driver at the 2008 Paratransit Rodeo in Tallahassee at StarMetro. At an event on Friday evening, April 11, 2008, the award was presented to Barbara Hohmann, paratransit driver from Space Coast Area Transit in South Brevard County.

The purpose of the "Above and Beyond" award is to honor a driver who consistently performs in an outstanding manner and shows great care and concern for passengers with special needs.

"Barbara is very conscientious and caring in her daily responsibilities," said her nominator. "She also distinguished herself with several awards for outstanding performance. The most noteworthy occurred on April 3, 2007. She arrived at a passenger's home at 6:10 a.m. to transport him to kidney dialysis. While attempting to board the passenger in his wheelchair, she noticed he was having trouble breathing. She expressed concern to his wife, and then noticed that he had actually stopped breathing. She immediately called dis-

patch to request an ambulance. Barbara and the wife lifted the man from his wheelchair and lowered him to the ground, and Barbara started CPR. She continued to assist the EMTs with CPR after the ambulance arrived. They were able to restore his pulse before transporting him to the hospital."



Congratulations to Barbara Hohmann for displaying exemplary customer service and for going "Above and Beyond" the call of duty!

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) hosted its national conference, EXPO 2008, in New Orleans, June 1-6, 2008. We are proud to announce that three Florida agencies were presented Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) awards in three different categories this year:

**Community Transit System of the Year**—St. Johns County Council on Aging

**Urban Community Transportation System of the Year**—Broward County Mass Transit

**State Leadership Award**—Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged

The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (FCTD) received the State Leadership Award at the Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, June 3, 2008. Broward County Mass Transit and St. Johns County Council on Aging received their awards at the Awards Banquet Tuesday evening, June 3, 2008. Congratulations!



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Please direct all questions or comments to:

### RTAP BULLETIN

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### OUR MISSION

The Florida RTAP provides training, continuing education, and technical assistance to those who provide or assist in the provision of public transportation services in rural and small urban communities in order to promote the coordinated delivery of safe, efficient, and effective transit services.

Editor: Yolanda Moore Designer: Wendy Teague

# Analysis of Drug and Alcohol MIS Data

Following the tedious endeavor of compiling and entering the annual drug and alcohol testing data into the Federal Transit Administration's Drug and Alcohol MIS Internet Reporting system, many transportation providers are interested in the outcome of the analysis of the data.

Each year, FTA compiles and measures the drug and alcohol testing data submitted by transit systems nationally. The country is divided into 10 FTA regions, Florida is in Region 4. The compilation of the data by regions facilitates the comparison of drug and alcohol test results and the identification of regional trends. The FTA report entitled "Drug and Alcohol Testing Results Annual Report" is the product of this analysis. The annual report for 2005, released in January of 2008, is the most current analysis available. The report can be downloaded from the FTA's website at <http://transit-safety.volpe.dot.gov/Publications/order/default.asp>.

FDOT conducted a similar analysis of the data entered by Florida's Section 5311 sub-recipient agencies. A review of the 2007 testing data analysis revealed that a total of 1,013 urine drug tests were conducted by our rural transportation providers; 26 were reported as verified positive results and one was reported as adulterated. Using the criteria established by FTA, this equates to a positive rate of 0.27%. This percentage is slightly higher than the 2006 positive rate of the same systems, which was 0.23%. However, these positive rates are substantially lower than the national positive rate for testing from 2005 (the most recent year that the statistic is available) of 0.79%.

Of the 26 verified positive drug results, 73% were pre-employment tests, 19% were from random testing, 4% were from reasonable suspicion testing, and 4% were from post accident testing. Return to duty and follow-up testing produced no positive results.

Marijuana continues to be the prohibited substance most frequently reported on positive test results, totaling 77% of the positive results in 2007. Cocaine constituted 19%, and opiates made up the remaining 4%.

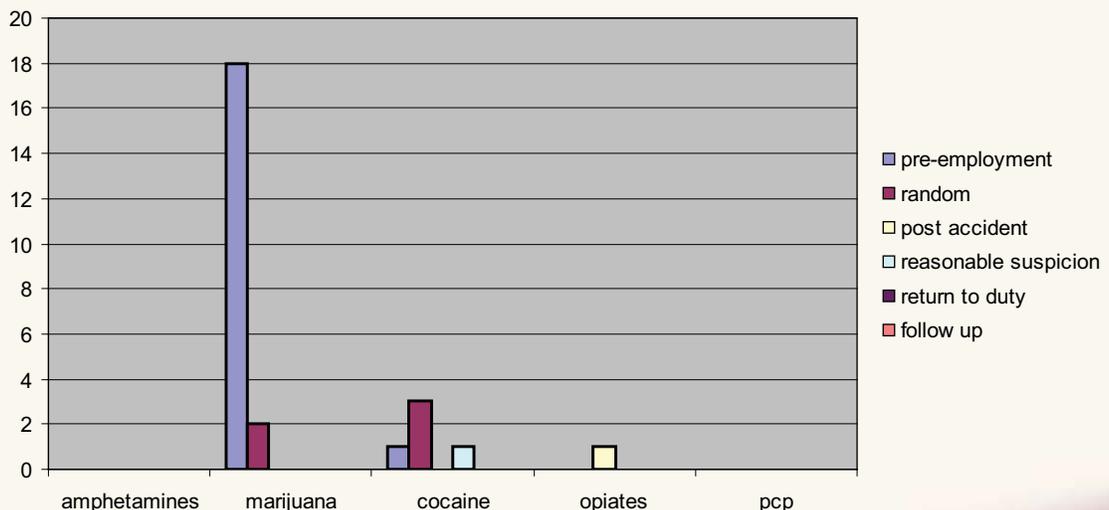
The drug class amphetamine and its sub-class methamphetamine were noticeably absent from the positives reported for 2007, as they were in 2006. This is an encouraging sign that perhaps Florida's rural transit industry has remained unaffected by the epidemic of "crystal meth" that has plagued other parts of the country.

Among Florida's Section 5311 sub-recipient agencies, there were no reports of positive alcohol tests in 2007.

Florida's rural transit systems have made it their goal to provide safe and dependable transportation to their patrons. The drug and alcohol testing program continues to be a valuable tool in reaching that goal.

For further information, please contact Diana Byrnes, Substance Abuse Management Specialist; Center for Urban Transportation Research, (813) 426-6980 or [byrnes@cutr.usf.edu](mailto:byrnes@cutr.usf.edu).

2007 Data showing positive results by Drug and Test Type



## 2008 UPCOMING EVENTS

The classes and conferences listed below are sponsored by the Florida Department of Transportation and the Center for Urban Transportation Research at the University of South Florida in Tampa. If you would like to attend any of the courses, you may find a brochure and registration form for each course at <http://www.floridartap.org> in the Upcoming Events and Training section. If you have any questions, please contact Molly Buffington at (813) 974-7810.

July 15, 2008

NTI Violence in the Transit Workplace  
—St. Petersburg FL

August 19-21, 2008

Florida Paratransit Driver's Qualification  
Train-the-Trainer—Cocoa, FL

September 15-16, 2008

Building & Retaining Ridership:  
A Self-Assessment Tool—Tampa, FL

October 16, 2008

NTI Terrorist Activity Recognition &  
Reaction, PSTA

November 5-6, 2008

Fatigue Awareness Seminars—Tampa, FL

November 11-13, 2008

Florida Paratransit Driver's Qualification  
Train-the-Trainer—Tampa, FL

### Congratulations 2008 Florida RTAP ROADEO Winners!

#### 2008 Florida Paratransit Roadeo—Van Category



1st Place  
Raymond "Elmo" Aylmer  
*Gulf County Transportation*

2nd place  
Chris Crosby, *JTRANS*

3rd Place  
Michael Wimberly  
*Calhoun County Transit*

#### 2008 Florida Paratransit Roadeo—Small Bus Category



1st Place  
Howard Jones, *JTRANS*

2nd Place  
Linda Attaway  
*Calhoun County Transit*

3rd Place  
Jeno Demers  
*Sarasota County Area Transit*

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