

RTAP

BULLETIN

FLORIDA RURAL TRANSIT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

SUMMER—VOL. 15, No. 2

2 START TRAIN—THE-TRAINER

REGISTRATION IS OPEN: NATIONAL RTAP CONFERENCE

3 SPOTLIGHT—ROSS SILVERS

REGISTRATION IS OPEN: TD TRAINING WORKSHOP

4 UPCOMING EVENTS

FPTA/FDOT/CUTR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP AND SUMMIT

National RTAP Provides a Wealth of Information and Training Resources

National Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) is a program of the Federal Transit Administration dedicated to creating public and rural transit solutions in America through technical assistance, partner collaboration and FREE training and other transit industry products. Five major categories of the resources provide by National RTAP include: a resource library, numerous training programs, web applications, webinars, and toolkits on various topics. Best of all, all these resources are provided at no cost!

The [National RTAP website](#) provides access to all of these FREE and useful resources:

In this issue of the Florida RTAP Bulletin, our focus is on one of these products, the ADA Toolkit. This is an overview of the toolkit and the ADA topics covered.

ADA Toolkit

According to the [Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice](#), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 “prohibits discrimination and ensures equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in employment, State and local government services, public accommodations, commercial facilities, and transportation.”

The information in this toolkit focuses on United States Department of Transportation regulations [49 CFR Part 37-Transportation Services for Individuals with Disabilities \(ADA\)](#) and [49 CFR Part 38-Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\) Accessibility Specifications for Transportation](#)



[Vehicles](#), which can be accessed on the FTA website by using the links above. Throughout this toolkit, however, it will link directly to either Part 37 or Part 38.

While this toolkit is not an exhaustive collection of requirements, it is meant to give transit managers an overview of their responsibilities under ADA regulations to provide equal service to all passengers. This toolkit begins by listing ADA requirements by service type, and this is a good place for a transit manager to start. The rest of the toolkit is broken into various topics that will apply to the majority of agencies providing public transportation (with the possible exception of the ADA Complementary Paratransit section). All of the sections contain links to information sources and related resources, and there is an extensive Resources section at the end of the toolkit that provides links to reports, regulations, best practices, and informational guides all relating to the ADA.



START Train-the-Trainer Scheduled for St. Johns County – November 2017

The Florida Department of Transportation's Florida Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP), administered by the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) will present the two-day National RTAP's START (Safety Training and Rural Transit) Train-the-Trainer Workshop, November 6-7, 2017 at Emergency Operations Center facility in St. Johns County, Florida.

The provision of transit services in a safe, secure, and customer-oriented manner demands that bus and van operators (drivers) are well trained and knowledgeable about the equipment they operate, the conditions under which they drive, and the passengers they serve. The National RTAP developed START course guidebook as a training tool to help guide operators in these three very important areas of knowl-

edge and skill. This course provided a guide for trainers on how to effectively use the START materials when training transit drivers.

The START program has been designed to train new and veteran trainers and drivers in community transit safety and security. The three unit modules that were taught include: Vehicle Safety, Driver Safety, and Passenger Safety

Registration for this training opportunity will open in mid-summer.

For information on the Florida RTAP program and the professional development opportunities available for Florida rural transit agencies, contact Florida RTAP Project Manager Jay Goodwill at jaygoodwill@cutr.usf.edu.

Registration is Open: 2017 National RTAP Conference: Transportation at the Center

Registration is now open for National RTAP's 2017 Technical Assistance Conference! Join RTAP in Omaha, Nebraska October 29 to November 1 for this conference focused on training, tools, and practical solutions for rural and tribal transportation.

The program includes free half-day pre-conference workshops; breakout sessions with presentations and panels; keynote speakers, including updates from FTA; an EXPO of 30+ vendors; and plenty of networking opportunities.

In Omaha we will feature "Routes" on Administration and Planning, Operations, Compliance, Coordination, and

Technology. If you are a rural or tribal transit manager, state program manager, training specialist, or are interested in National RTAP tools or transit hot topics, register now to join in on the training and fun!

Visit the conference website for more information.

www.cvent.com/events/national-rtap-2017-technical-assistance-conference/fees-58e71e25033d445496bd7700acb-f81cc.aspx

Save the Date

October 22–25, 2017
West Palm Beach, Florida

Florida Public Transportation Association Annual Conference



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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.

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SPOTLIGHT—Ross Silvers, Mobility Manager, Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority

Each SPOTLIGHT edition highlights one of our many energetic Florida RTAP transit professionals and allows these individuals to introduce themselves in their own words. In this issue, the SPOTLIGHT is on Ross Silvers, Mobility Manager, Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority.



Name: Ross Silvers

Title: Mobility Manager

Birthplace: New Orleans, Louisiana

Education: Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology and a Minor in Communications from Tulane University.

Professional History: Currently the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Mobility Manager – which includes the oversight of three programs: Community Transportation Coordinator, Transportation Disadvantaged Program, and Demand Response Transportation Program (DART).

Previously, I held several positions including: Independent Living Skills Coordinator at the Center for Independent Living in Washington D.C.; American Association for Retired Persons (AARP) ADA Coordinator; and, the Disability Rights Coordinator for the City of Tampa.

Years Working with Current Agency: 7 years

Years Working in Transit Industry: 7 years.

Biggest Surprise Working in Paratransit: A private contractor can perform over 1,200 trips per day with 99% on-time performance and still be less expensive than if we were to provide the service in-house.

Biggest Challenge Working in Paratransit: The schizophrenic industry view of ADA paratransit as a cost that agencies wish to avoid/reduce versus how critical and meaningful the service is to those who need and use it.

Personal Benefit Working in Paratransit: The great feeling of satisfaction in providing such a vital service.

Personal Background: I enjoy kayaking, biking (including tandem), attending my kid's soccer games and traveling. I am also a foodie and enjoy live music and cultural events.

Community Involvement: I am on the Board of Directors of our county's Center for Independent Living, Council on Aging

Childhood Ambition: To live in a community where I could have meaningful work, a loving family, and diverse fun activities available without being dependent upon rides from other people to enjoy them.

Inspiration: God's creations all around us.

Favorite Book: Moving Violations by John Hockenberry

Favorite Color: Blue

Favorite Candy: Watchamacallit

My Motto: Set the same types of expectations for those with disabilities as for their peers who do not have a disability yet.

Registration is Open

5th Annual Transportation Disadvantaged Training Workshop & EXPO

August 29-30, 2017
Orlando, Florida

The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) will be hosting its Transportation Disadvantaged Annual Training Workshop & EXPO at the Renaissance Orlando Hotel at Sea World from August 29-30, 2017. There will be a Commission business meeting on August 31, 2017. We look forward to seeing you in Orlando!



www.fdot.gov/ctd/events/2017ConferenceAwards/2017ConferenceAnnouncement.htm

2017 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 will find a course announcement and registration form for each course at www.floridartap.org in the Training Calendar section. Click on the course name to download or view training class details. If you have an idea for a training course or would like to host a course, please contact Jay Goodwill at jaygoodwill@cutr.usf.edu.

July 24-28, 2017

Transit Supervisor Certification Course
(FT00545)—Tampa, FL

August 8-9, 2017

Advanced Mobility Device Securement Skills
Development Workshop—Tampa, FL

August 29-30, 2017

CTD Annual Training Workshop and EXPO—
Orlando, FL

Save the Date: October 22–25, 2017

Florida Public Transportation Association Annual
Conference—West Palm Beach, Florida

2017 PDW and Summit Well Attended

Close to 250 transit professionals representing transit systems, Florida DOT central and district offices, consultants, and other organizations gathered in Tampa at the USF Embassy Suites on June 5-7, 2017 for the 2017 FPTA/FDOT/CUTR Professional Development Workshop (PDW) and Transit Safety and Operations Summit. The workshop and summit were jointly sponsored by the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA), Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and the USF Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR). The workshop theme was “Training – the Key to Success.”

The fifth annual Florida Transit Safety and Operations Summit, hosted by the FDOT Florida Transit Safety and Operations Network (FTSON), started off the three days of professional development and attracted 119 transit professionals. State and national safety experts provided informative presentations on a wide variety of topics related to transit safety.

The sixteenth PDW offered a unique professional development opportunity for Florida's public transportation supervisors, front-line employees, and other key staff in operations, maintenance, marketing, planning and administration. The one-stop workshop provided attendees with 22 different sessions that offered an



excellent opportunity to learn from industry experts, attend professional development training, learn about research updates, and network with their peers. All of Florida's transit networks – safety and operations, maintenance, marketing and planning – played active roles in developing and presenting timely workshop content.

This year's workshop included several sessions of relevance for Florida's small urban and rural transit agencies.