

# RTAP

## BULLETIN

FLORIDA RURAL TRANSIT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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## Advanced Mobility Device Securement Skills Workshop

Florida RTAP recently hosted the Advanced Mobility Device Securement Skills Development Workshop in Tampa. The train-the-trainer workshop provided classroom and on-vehicle instruction to agency representatives responsible for teaching securement techniques. Instruction included hands-on exercises utilizing a variety of mobility devices, an opportunity to address securement challenges, explore related issues with peers, and enhance their knowledge and skills.

Transit agencies have the responsibility to provide safe transportation and respect the civil rights of all passengers, including those who use mobility devices. In order to fulfill this responsibility, bus operators must be able to secure mobility devices and place seat belts on the passengers who use their mobility devices as transit seating.

This important task is becoming increasingly challenging as operators are confronted with a variety of powered mobility devices that often lack traditional securement points and may not have been addressed in basic securement training.

The workshop goal was to present, demonstrate, and practice problem-solving skills for securing powered mobility devices. Participants discussed federal requirements regarding securement and seat belt use, and pre-trip preparation tasks. They were instructed on how to identify

mobility device securement equipment and determine effective strap securement locations on diverse types of mobility devices.

Participants learned about the use and placement of seat belts and shoulder belts, how to recognize proper body mechanics, and exercises which can reduce the risk of on-the-job injuries. To accomplish these objectives, the workshop integrated lecture, visual aids, participant discussion and learning activities.

This National Transit Institute course is sponsored by the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center and funded by a grant from the Federal Transit Administration.

For further information on this training, contact Molly Buffington at [buffington@cutr.usf.edu](mailto:buffington@cutr.usf.edu).



NTI's Advanced Mobility Device Securement Workshop course participants and instructors, Michael Noel and John Cleveland.



# 2017 FPTA Annual Conference

Close to 400 transit professionals attended the 2017 Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA) Annual Conference in West Palm Beach from October 22-24, 2017. The 3-day event was an enjoyable event with a substantial and diverse program including topics for everyone in the industry, whether they provide fixed route or paratransit services. There were sessions on planning, operations, maintenance, marketing, financial management, and professional development.

At the traditional awards banquet, the best of the Florida transit industry for 2017 were honored and recognized:

**Best in Marketing – Best of the Best:** Miami-Dade Transit (Sustaining Campaign)

**Best in Marketing – Judge’s Favorite:** Space Coast Area Transit (Interior/Exterior Signage)

**Operator of the Year:** Melinda Demers, LYNX

**Technician of the Year:** Reuben Martinez, Miami-Dade Transit

**Bus Safety Excellence – Gold Safety Award (Tier 1):** Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority

**Bus Safety Excellence – Gold Safety Award (Tiers 2, 3, and 4):** Sarasota County Area Transit

**Innovation and Creativity Award:** Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority

**Outstanding System of the Year:** GoLine/Indian River Transit

**FPTA Hall of Fame Inductee:** Joel Volinski

As PSTA’s Brad Miller was acknowledged for his two years of service as the FPTA Chair, the new FPTA officers assumed the organizational reins. The FPTA 2018-2019 officers are Steve Sherrer, Votran, Chair; Katharine Eagan, HART, Vice Chair; and Muriah Dekle, St. Lucie County, Treasurer/Secretary.



The 2018 event will see the return of the combined FPTA/CTD Annual Conference & EXPO where FPTA and the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged join forces. This four day event will be held in Daytona Beach, Florida from October 14-17, 2018. Save the date!



2017 FPTA Award Winners



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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: Jay Goodwill Designer: Stephanie Lewis

## SPOTLIGHT—Roberta Jones Yegidis, Affiliate Faculty, CUTR

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 Roberta Jones Yegidis, Affiliate Faculty, CUTR.



**Name:** Roberta Jones Yegidis

**Title:** Affiliate Faculty, CUTR/USF

**Birthplace:** Bridgeport, Connecticut

**Education:** BS - Business

**Professional History:** Chief Operating Officer, Greater Bridgeport Transit Authority; International Importation Manager, Thule; International

Importation Manger, Saab/Scania of America; and Presidential Aircraft Support, Sikorsky A/C

**Years Working with Current Agency:** 5 years

**Years Working in Transit Industry:** 20

**Biggest Surprise Working in Paratransit:** Professional dedication of operators and staff to clients

**Biggest Challenge Working in Paratransit:** Supporting the needs of a diverse service area and level of client challenges, coupled with the vast array of “mobility devices”.

**Personal Benefit Working in Paratransit:** Personal satisfaction of helping those clients who require extensive assistance and support.

**Personal Background:** I have been married to my best friend Jeff for over 30 years, have two children, Michael, Robyn, and Lily (our boxer and the one who controls are family.)

**Community Involvement:** Alzheimer’s Association, Bridgeport First Day of School, Leadership Bridgeport

**Childhood Ambition:** Open a bridal shop in a Victorian mansion.

**Inspiration:** My father and husband

**Favorite Book:** A Christmas Carol

**Favorite Color:** Blue

**Favorite Candy:** Dark chocolate

**My Motto:** "Do the right thing, even when no one is looking," and "Lead people – manage projects"



## **Save the Date: 2018 Public Transportation and Transportation Disadvantaged Legislative Awareness Day**

**T**he annual 2018 Public Transportation and Transportation Disadvantaged Legislative Awareness Day has been scheduled for Thursday, February 1, 2018 at the Florida Capitol. This event is jointly sponsored by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA) and Florida Association of Coordinated Transportation Systems).

This is an opportunity for you to show support for Public Transportation and the Transportation Disadvantaged Pro-

gram. Make plans to join the hundreds of individuals, businesses and advocates expected at this gathering.

Questions concerning the 2018 Public Transportation and Transportation Disadvantaged Legislative Awareness Day should be directed by email to either FPTA to [LisaBacot@floridatransit.org](mailto:LisaBacot@floridatransit.org) or the TD Commission at the [CTDOmbudsman@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:CTDOmbudsman@dot.state.fl.us)

## **Save the Date: 2018 Florida Triple Crown Bus Rodeo**

**O**n April 27-28, 2018, Florida's best bus drivers and technicians will gather in Daytona Beach to participate in the 2018 Annual Florida Triple Crown Bus Rodeo. The Florida Triple Crown Bus Rodeo combines the FPTA and RTAP rodeos into a single, colossal weekend honoring all of Florida's bus maintenance technicians, paratransit and fixed route operators.

The year's event is a joint effort of the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA), the Florida Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP), the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and the Florida Association of Coordinated Transit Systems (FACTS), and hosted by Votran.

There will be training opportunities for the participants. The bus operator participant's skills will be tested with a written test and the on-course competition. The maintenance technicians will face similar challenges with a written test and a series of diagnostic tests.

As always, the event concluded will conclude with the Awards Banquet that crowns and recognizes the 2018 champions in the paratransit van and cutaway divisions, the fixed route bus division, and the maintenance technician's team competition.

Registration for the 2018 Annual Florida Triple Crown Bus Rodeo is expected to open in late February.

## **Save the Date: 2018 FPTA/FDOT/CUTR Professional Development Workshop and Transit Safety & Operations Summit**

**O**ver 250 transit professionals are expected to be in attendance at the 2018 FPTA/FDOT/CUTR Professional Development Workshop and Transit Safety & Operations Summit, which will be held at the USF Embassy Suites in Tampa on June 4-6, 2018. This annual workshop and summit is jointly sponsored by the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA), Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and the USF Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR).

The annual Florida Transit Safety & Operations Summit, hosted by the Florida Transit Safety and Operations Network, will be held Monday, June 4th. State and national transit safety and operations experts will provide informative presentations on a wide variety of topics.

The traditional 2-day 2018 Professional Development Workshop, which will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, will offer unique professional development opportunities for Florida's public transportation supervisors, front-line employees, and other key staff in operations, maintenance, marketing, planning and administration. The one-stop workshop provides public transit professionals with an excellent opportunity to learn from industry experts, attend professional development training, learn about research updates, and network with their peers.

Registration for this combined event is expected to open in early April.

## 2018 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](http://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](mailto:jaygoodwill@cutr.usf.edu).

**February 1, 2018**

2018 Public Transportation and Transportation Disadvantaged Legislative Awareness Day—Tallahassee, FL

**February 12-16, 2018**

Transit Industrial Safety Management (FT00457)—Tampa, FL

**April 27-28, 2018**

2018 Florida Triple Crown Bus Rodeo—Daytona Beach, FL

**June 4-6, 2018**

FPTA/FDOT/CUTR Professional Development Workshop and Transit Safety & Operations Summit—Tampa, FL

### **National RTAP START (Safety Training and Rural Transit) Train-the-Trainer Workshop November 6-7, 2017 | St. Augustine, Florida**

