



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Bev Thomas, executive director
515-778-1288
apmsthomas@aol.com

Iowa Public Transit Association Crowns State's Top Bus Drivers

DES MOINES, Iowa – July 15, 2014 – Two men earned the prestigious designation of Iowa's top bus drivers by out-performing the field of 40 finalists at the 28th annual Iowa Public Transit Association (IPTA) "Roadeo" in Davenport.

Paul Klimesh with Ames Transit/CyRide and Dan Dopson with Clinton MTA took home top honors in the large bus and small bus division competitions, respectively. In addition to championship hardware and cash prizes, the winners qualify to compete in International Roadeo events next spring in Fort Worth, Texas, and Tampa, Fla. Klimesh, who successfully defended his state title this year, also will vie to repeat as champion at the international event.

"The annual Roadeo is a great way to celebrate the professional bus operators who serve Iowa's public commuters daily," said IPTA Executive Director, Bev Thomas. "The participants are tested on a multitude of driving skills, as well as time efficiency. All of the drivers did an excellent job, and we are proud to send two of our members to compete on the international stage."

Competitors were tested and timed on a pre-trip inspection check, an obstacle course and a wheel-chair loading test. The challenges are designed to both test and teach drivers about universal best practices for the safety and security of public transit passengers.

In the pre-trip inspection test, drivers sought out eight equipment-related defects and one security hazard. These abnormalities are designed to replicate real-life scenarios.

-more-

Throughout the Bus Roadeo obstacle course there are 11 driving obstacles and three other scoring opportunities. Staff of the Iowa Department of Transportation, IPTA membership, and local transit and community volunteers acted as judges for the competition.

“Iowa’s public transit system fulfills a vital need for thousands of Iowans every single day, and our drivers have a long-standing tradition of outstanding work and service,” said Thomas. “Events, such as this, are a fun and friendly arena where these public servants are celebrated and awarded for the skills they provide Iowa’s commuters.”

The Iowa Public Transit Association includes 35 public transit systems that provide local transit services in all of the state’s 99 counties. Iowa’s public transit system includes 19 urban and 16 regional systems.

Operating in all 99 counties, Iowa’s public transit system has provided 130 million rides during the past five years. For more information visit www.iapublictransit.com.

IOWA’S TOP BUS DRIVERS	
Large Bus Division First: Paul Klimesh Ames Transit/CyRide	Small Bus Division First: Dan Dopson Clinton MTA
Second: Carl Nelson Iowa City Transit	Second: Jean Dalsing Region 8, RTA
Third: Cesar Chavez Des Moines/DART	Third: Nathan Shimanke Region 8, RTA
Fourth: Nick Hanger Iowa City Transit	Fourth: Kurt Mackel-Wienderanders Des Moines/DART
Fifth: Adam Wiederholt Ames Transit/CyRide	Fifth: Bert Madden, Jr. Western Iowa Transit
Sixth: Patricia McCauley Coralville Transit	Sixth: Kay Ribbink Muscatine-MuscaBus
Seventh: Howard Barrett Sioux City Transit System	Seventh: Patrick Coil Western Iowa Transit
Eighth: Clint Matthews University of Iowa/Cambus	Eighth: Julie Mooney-Meyer Bettendorf Transit
Ninth: Abay Mengistu Des Moines/DART	Ninth: Jason Bollman Ames Transit/CyRide
Tenth: Tyler Pleggenkuhle University of Iowa/Cambus	Tenth: Bob Marshall HIRTA