

U.S. Department of Transportation news:



Office of Public Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, July 7, 1978

DOT 99- 78
Contact: Howard Coan
Tel. : 202/426-4321

DOT AIDES TO EXAMINE RURAL PUBLIC TRANSIT

Several high-level U.S. Department of Transportation officials will visit Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa July 10-12 in the first of four field trips to explore possible ways of providing more effective public transportation in small cities and rural areas.

During these trips, senior officials from the department's Federal Highway Administration, Urban Mass Transportation Administration and Office of the Secretary, along with other federal agency officials and Congressional staff members, will meet in a number of state capitols and elsewhere with state and local officials, transit operators and area residents. The group also will inspect small transit systems already in operation.

The trips' purpose is to help DOT and other federal agencies better fill the transportation needs of rural areas and small cities.

DOT has proposed legislation that, for the first time, would make operating expenses of rural and small-urban transit systems eligible for federal aid and also increase the flexibility of transit programs designed for non-metropolitan areas.

The task force members will meet July 10 in Lansing, Mich., with senior officials of the Michigan DOT, a representative of the governor's office, operators of small urban and rural transit systems within Michigan, consumer groups and individual transit riders.

Similar meetings with state DOT officials and other groups are scheduled for July 11 in Wausau, Wis. and July 12 in Ames and Ottumwa, Iowa.

Three more trips are planned for the South, West and Northeast.

The trips will examine closely the difficulties of providing transportation in small cities and rural communities, which have different transit problems from those in larger cities and in intercity operations.

The second trip will be to the south on July 25-27, visiting Raleigh, N.C., Columbia, S.C., Tallahassee and Lake City, Fla., Athens and Nashville, Tenn.

The officials will travel west Aug. 1-4 to Portland, Eugene, and Salem, Ore., and Humboldt County, Sacramento and Solano, Calif.

In the Northeast the group will visit Harrisburg and Ridgeway, Pa., Burlington, Rutland and Bethel, Vt., Greenfield-Montague County and Barnstable, Mass. Dates for the tour will be announced later.

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U. S. Department of Transportation news:



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, July 10, 1978

DOT 100-78
Contact: Howard Coan
Tel. : 202/426-4321

BOOKLET IS ISSUED ON SAFE
HANDLING OF DANGEROUS CARGO

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Department of Transportation have issued instructional booklets and posters for personnel -- and their supervisors -- at transportation terminals who handle packages containing radioactive materials.

The booklets and posters are designed to provide cargo workers with simple instructions on how to prevent unnecessary radiation exposures when handling shipments of radioactive materials. The booklets also provide basic information on radiation and radioactive materials packages and emergency procedures to be used following an accident involving these packages.

Studies of radiation exposures to cargo workers conducted at six major airports in 1975 indicated that cargo workers get very little radiation exposure from handling packages of radioactive materials. However, some of the exposures received were attributable to unnecessary contact with these packages. Such exposures can be reduced by relatively simple changes in procedures for placement and handling of packages of radioactive materials.

The two booklets are entitled "How to Handle Radioactive Materials Packages - A Guide for Cargo Handlers" and "All About Radioactive Materials Packages - A Guide for Supervisors at Cargo Terminals." The two posters are entitled "Radioactive Materials Packages - How to Handle Them" and "Radioactive Materials Packages - Rules for Handling".

- more -

All of these instructional materials are available for public inspection in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Public Document Room at 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Copies may be obtained from U.S. Department of Transportation, Research and Special Programs Administration, Materials Transportation Bureau, Information Services Division, Washington, D.C. 20590. Phone: (202)426-2311.

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U. S. Department of Transportation news:



Office of Public Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY
JULY 12, 1978

DOT 101-78
Contact: R. Beasley
Phone : (202) 426-2147

WANTED: 33 TRUCKERS

There are less than two weeks left for big-rig truck operators to accept the U. S. Department of Transportation's "Double Nickel Challenge". ("Double Nickel" is CB jargon for the 55 mph speed limit.)

The Department is sponsoring the competition to determine once and for all whether it is more fuel efficient to drive the 18-wheelers at speeds greater than 55 mph, the national speed limit.

Thirty-three truck drivers will be selected to drive their big rigs 50 miles each at 55 mph and at any higher speed they believe to be more fuel efficient.

The test will be conducted at the Transportation Research Center in East Liberty, Ohio, on August 1, 2, and 3.

Application forms are available at all National Association of Truck Stop Operators (NATSO) truck stops and at truck dealerships throughout the country. Or drivers can write directly to:

Double Nickel Challenge
Suite 305
1001 N. W. 62nd Street
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33309
Telephone: (305) 772-5180

- more -

Selection of participants will be made to provide a cross section of equipment. Initial selection of drivers and rigs will be made on July 17 with the final drivers and alternates to be selected by July 24.

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FOR RELEASE THURSDAY
July 13, 1978

DOT-9578
Contact: Howard Coan
Phone: (202) 426-4321

DENVER EDUCATOR SELECTED TO HEAD NEW DOT AGENCY

James D. Palmer, the president of Metropolitan State College in Denver, was named today by Secretary of Transportation Brock Adams as administrator of the department's newest operating administration.

He will be sworn in by Secretary Adams on Aug. 28.

A native of Washington, D.C., Palmer will head the Research and Special Programs Administration, a unit with more than 900 employees formed in a departmental reorganization last year.

Palmer, 48, has served since 1971 as president and professor of computer and management science at Metropolitan State College and also as a professor of electrical engineering at the University of Colorado.

Among its varied functions the new DOT administration deals with hazardous materials shipments, pipeline safety, transportation security and emergencies, and university research. Besides its Washington, D.C.-based activities, the administration also includes the Transportation Systems Center in Cambridge, Mass., and the Transportation Safety Institute in Oklahoma City.

From 1966 to 1971, Palmer was dean of science and engineering and professor of electrical engineering at Union College in Schenectady, N.Y.

He previously had taught electrical engineering for nine years at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, eventually reaching the rank of full professor and also becoming director of the School of Electrical Engineering and the Systems Research Center. In addition, he was project director of the university's Research Institute for seven years.

Palmer received his doctorate in engineering science from the University of Oklahoma in 1963. He earned a B.S. degree in 1955 and an M.S. in 1957, both in electrical engineering from the University of California at Berkeley. While he was a graduate student there, he was chief engineer in the university's Motor Vehicle and Illumination Laboratory.

Palmer is a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Advisory Committee and the Colorado Governor's Council on Science and Technology.

In Denver he has served as president and board member of the Catholic Community Services and has been a member of numerous other organizations there, including the Hispanic Institute of North America, the Institute for International Education and the Red Cross.

He is married to the former Margret Krupa. The couple has three sons.

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FOR RELEASE FRIDAY
July 14, 1978

DOT-10278
Contact: Jerry Clingerman
Phone: (202) 426-4321

DOT RESCHEDULES HEARING ON INCREASING TRANSPORTATION ACCESSIBILITY TO HANDICAPPED

A public hearing on proposed rules to make the nation's transportation system more accessible to the handicapped scheduled for July 26 in Washington, D.C., has been rescheduled, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced today.

Instead of the one hearing in Washington, DOT will hold public hearings in five cities throughout the nation in September. The cities are New York, Chicago, Denver, San Francisco and Washington, D.C. Exact hearing dates and locations will be announced shortly.

The proposed new regulations are designed to ensure that handicapped persons are not discriminated against in transportation programs receiving DOT financial aid.

The department also has extended the time for written comments on its proposals to October 20, 1978.

The DOT action changing the public hearing dates and adding four cities to the schedule is in response to requests for additional hearings and for further time to comment on the proposed regulations.

The announcement rescheduling the public hearing appears in today's Federal Register.

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U.S. Department of Transportation news



Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 20, 1978

DOT-10478
Tel: 202/426-3574
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SEAWAY CORPORATION'S 1977 ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS RECORD TONNAGE YEAR

The Department of Transportation today announced that the 1977 annual report of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation has been submitted to the Congress by President Carter.

According to the report, the 1977 Seaway navigation season was the most successful in history. Overall tonnage through the Montreal-Lake Ontario section reached 63.3 million tons -- eclipsing the previous high of 57.6 million in 1973. Last year, tonnage records also were set for bulk cargo, total grains, wheat, iron ore and containers.

In his letter to the President, Secretary of Transportation Brock Adams terms 1977 a year of real accomplishment from the standpoint of both Seaway traffic and because the issue of increased Seaway tolls was resolved with Canada. He states that the three-year phase-in of the new Seaway Joint Tariff of Tolls, which began in 1978, addresses one of the foremost concerns of the Great Lakes maritime industry. He notes that the new tariff also "realistically addresses the financial needs of both nations."

Seaway Corporation Administrator David W. Oberlin explains in the report that during 1977, his organization's revenues also reached a record total. Compared to the previous year, revenues rose 18 percent, to \$8.6 million. Of that amount, \$1 million was returned to the U.S. Treasury as payment on the outstanding debt. This reduced the debt to \$115.5 million. Oberlin notes that the new Seaway tolls allow the Seaway Corporation to meet its statutory requirement to recover its costs through tolls, while minimizing the effect of higher tolls on Seaway commerce.

Total tonnage moved through the Seaway in 1977 was up 16.4 percent over the previous year. In addition to the record-breaking tonnages registered in five cargo classes, 1977 general cargo shipments soared 50 percent to 6.8 million tons -- the Seaway's fifth best year for this class.

Single copies of the annual report may be obtained at no charge from: the Office of Communications, Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, P.O. Box 520, Massena, New York 13662.

U.S. Department of Transportation news:



Office of Public Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY
July 28, 1978

DOT-10578
Contact: Robert Beasley
Phone: (202) 426-4321

33 TRUCKERS WILL COMPETE IN DOUBLE NICKEL CHALLENGE

Thirty-three big-rig truck operators from 20 states will challenge the U.S. Department of Transportation in a fuel economy competition at the Transportation Research Center, East Liberty, Ohio, on August 1, 2 and 3.

The competition, billed as the "Double Nickel Challenge", is being conducted jointly by the Department's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the 200-member Voluntary Truck and Bus Fuel Economy Improvement Program as a demonstration of comparative fuel efficiencies.

DOT hopes to prove the validity of its claim that 18-wheelers operate far more efficiently at 55 mph, the national maximum speed limit, than at higher speeds. Challenging that claim is the owner-operator segment of the trucking industry which has contested the national 55 mph speed limit's fuel-saving value.

Eleven trucks representing various makes, models, engines and transmissions, will run each of the three days beginning on August 1 at 7:00 a.m. Starting times will be staggered and the last truck should complete its run at 4:00 p.m. daily.

Each driver will make two separate 50 mile runs around the 7 1/2 mile oval track at the Transportation Research Center. The first run will be at 55 mph and the second run will be made at any speed above 55 mph that the owner-driver chooses. Fuel will be fed through auxiliary fuel tanks, which will be removed and weighed before and after each run, permitting precise measurements of the actual fuel consumed. The results will be posted for public viewing after each run.

The thirty-three trucks participating in the "Double Nickel Challenge" were selected by random drawing from 161 volunteers.

Drivers and alternates are as follows:

PARTICIPANTS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Billy D. Denny - Homer, Ill. | 18. Thomas A. Johnson - Kane, Pa. |
| 2. Robert E. Bradbury - Newalla, Ok. | 19. Robert A. Hall - Olive Hill, Ky. |
| 3. Richard S. Johnson - Omaha, Neb. | 20. Thomas W. Pelham - Cleveland, Ohio |
| 4. Harry E. Meyers - Clifton Park, N.Y. | 21. Richard T. Galvin - Palmyra, Ohio |
| 5. James E. Sinsel - Tampa, Fla. | 22. William E. Goodwin - Aurora, Colo. |
| 6. John H. Daw - Valley Grove, W. Va. | 23. James G. Savage - Pennellville, N.Y. |
| 7. John Averill - Seattle, Wash. | 24. Matthew Hamilton - Ft. Scott, Ks. |
| 8. Robert J. Evans - Port Jervis, N.Y. | 25. Donald F. Bruntmyer, Sr. - Independence, Mo. |
| 9. Ronald Goeden - Ripon, Wisc. | 26. Gary P. Tetreault - Rome, N.Y. |
| 10. Robert C. Lewis - Oberlin, Ohio. | 27. Virgil E. Palmer - Rogersville, Tenn. |
| 11. M. E. and Dawn Whiteley - Tuscon, Ariz. | 28. C. Rupert McCully - Bellefontaine, Ohio |
| 12. Albert A. Travis - Englewood, Colo. | 29. Robert A. Kash - Tecumseh, Mich. |
| 13. Raymond Abshire - Lanham, Md. | 30. Ms. Constance J. Kyler - Montoursville, Pa. |
| 14. Dennis Lafferty - Indianapolis, Ind. | 31. Robert W. Moran, Sr. - Henrietta, N.Y. |
| 15. Don Pugh - Canton, Ohio | 32. Vern White - Pleasanton, Calif. |
| 16. John L. Dayton - Oklahoma City, Ok. | 33. Overdrive Magazine entry (Name to come) |
| 17. Irwin L. Groff - New Holland, Pa. | |

ALTERNATES

1. John Dietz - East Brunswick, N.J.
2. William Carr - Palymra, Wisc.
3. Robert L. Zedeker - Dayton, Ohio
4. Tom Wade - Vermillion, Ohio
5. David W. Rose - Morrow, Ohio
6. William R. Clem - Hedgesville, W. Va.

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