

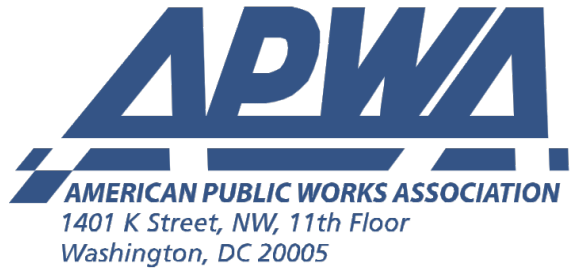
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Contact: Becky Wickstrom

Media Affairs Manager

(202) 218-6736; bwickstrom@apwa.net



RTAP Readies Make-Over for Essential Training Modules

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Rural Transit Assistance Program (National RTAP) is beginning an extensive update of its training products library with the revision of three of its mainstay training modules as interactive training DVDs: a new trend for the 20 year-old assistance program.

At the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) Expo in June 2008, National RTAP plans to release three training modules currently under revision: Boards That Perform, Safety Training And Rural Transit (START), and Essential Skills for Dispatchers and Schedulers.

Boards That Perform is a primer for transit board members and transit managers on the roles, responsibilities, and structures for effective transit boards. START covers the basics of vehicle and passenger safety for drivers at rural transit systems. Essential Skills for Dispatchers and Schedulers will lead rural transit agency schedulers and dispatchers through the key functions of their jobs and their role within the agency.

The update of these resources follows a trend National RTAP began last year to modernize the program. With the development of a new logo, website, and the release of its first DVD training module, the Threat and Vulnerability Toolbox, National RTAP is working to ensure that its products and resources are keeping pace with the demands of the industry.

These new products, like the Toolbox, will boast several interactive functions: a glossy interface, video vignettes and an online risk assessment tool, all aimed at helping rural transit systems across the country to assess their vulnerabilities and take steps to reduce risk.

"It is an interactive world," said David Barr, National RTAP Director. "We want to harness that technology in the new generation of training products we are developing to ensure that rural transit operators are receiving the highest quality training for the lowest cost in funding, time, and personnel."

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Funded by the Federal Transit Administration and administered by the American Public Works Association, National RTAP provides training products and technical assistance at the national level for use by state Departments of Transportation and local transit agencies. For more information on these resources and National RTAP, visit www.nationalrtap.org.

The American Public Works Association (www.apwa.net) is a not-for-profit, international organization of more than 27,000 members involved in the field of public works. APWA serves its members by promoting professional excellence and public awareness through education, advocacy and the exchange of knowledge. APWA is headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri, and has an office in Washington, D.C.