



**TransNet**  
SUBURBAN TRANSIT NETWORK, INC.

# Braking News

## For TransNet Partners

# Winter 2020

[www.suburbantransit.org](http://www.suburbantransit.org)

(215) 542-7433

### Passenger Safety

Many TransNet consumers use a mobility device when traveling, such as a walker or cane. It is important for drivers and aides to know the proper protocol when providing passenger assistance. Here are a few simple steps to follow:

1. Move the mobility device to the side and away from the consumer.
2. Politely remove all items from the consumer's hands so he/she is able to hold onto something for balance while embarking and disembarking the vehicle.
3. Once the consumer is on the vehicle, continue to assist him/her into the seat to confirm the consumer is properly seated and buckled.

Implementing these steps for passenger assistance on a daily basis will ensure the safety of our consumers.



### Substance Abuse Policy Update

A minor change has been made to the Substance Abuse Policy. A citation does not have to be issued to the driver who was in an accident in order for the driver to receive a drug test. The updated policy states, "TransNet or a subcontractor may require at their discretion that a driver be tested."

### St. Patrick's Day Drunk Driving

St. Patrick's Day, Tuesday, March 17th, is one of the biggest drinking days of the year. During the years 2014 through 2018, 249 lives were lost due to drunk driving crashes on St. Patrick's Day. Always be aware of other drivers on the road to remain safe and keep your passengers safe. Use the information given during defensive driving training classes as a reference to avoid unsafe drivers on the road. When approaching an intersection slow down and look both ways multiple times to confirm that no one is driving through a red light. Always anticipate the worst and plan ahead in order to avoid a collision. Do not assume a vehicle is turning simply because the turn signal is on. Take the extra minute to see if the vehicle actually turns before you proceed.

### Fire Evacuation Awareness Month

March is fire evacuation awareness month. TransNet and our partners perform fire evacuation drills twice a year in March and September. All drivers and aides are required to participate in the drills as part of their overall training. Evacuation is the last resort which means the driver and aide need to decide when it is appropriate to evacuate the vehicle. Communication with the passengers is important to avoid panic and help everyone be aware of the situation. The driver and aide need to know the location of all exits on the vehicle and how to operate each one. Ambulatory passengers exit first while the nonambulatory passengers follow. Belt cutters are on all vehicles in case the seat belts are stuck. Assign a capable passenger to keep everyone together and out of danger once they exit the vehicle.

The first and ideal exit is the front door since the consumers use it every day. If the front door is blocked or inaccessible, exiting from the rear door is the second option. The driver and aide exit first so they are able to help the passengers off the vehicle. Each person should be instructed to sit and slide themselves down the back bumper of the vehicle to reduce the risk of injury. The emergency windows are the last evacuation option. The driver and aide remain inside the vehicle for this plan to help the passengers exit head first out the closest emergency window. If at any time the driver or aide need to go back inside the vehicle stay low to the ground since smoke and heat rise. Stay safe and always remember "every second counts".

### Winter Word Search

S	K	I	I	N	G	S	N	O	W	B	O	O	H	T
S	F	I	R	E	P	L	A	C	E	I	N	G	E	O
L	I	E	A	R	M	U	F	F	S	C	N	Y	T	S
E	W	S	B	C	O	L	T	R	A	E	S	T	A	C
D	I	M	L	R	O	W	S	N	O	U	G	H	E	A
D	N	U	I	A	U	L	O	W	P	S	H	T	O	R
I	T	F	Z	E	S	A	D	E	H	A	T	A	O	F
N	R	B	Z	B	A	E	R	O	W	P	L	Y	I	I
G	C	O	A	T	O	T	L	Y	D	M	W	L	C	R
I	T	O	R	H	A	F	R	O	T	A	S	U	I	E
P	O	T	D	E	C	E	M	B	E	R	I	L	C	L
L	A	S	N	C	R	O	V	I	N	C	L	O	L	R
O	A	D	H	J	K	T	C	E	S	H	O	V	E	L
W	J	A	N	U	A	R	Y	O	E	S	A	H	S	T
M	I	T	T	E	N	S	W	E	A	T	E	R	E	L

BLIZZARD	FIREPLACE	PLOW	BOOTS	SCARF
COAT	HAT	SHOVEL	ICE	MARCH
COLD	COCOA	SKIING	SNOW	ICICLES
SLEDDING	DECEMBER	WINTER	EARMUFFS	
MITTENS	FEBRUARY	FROSTY	JANUARY	
SWEATER				



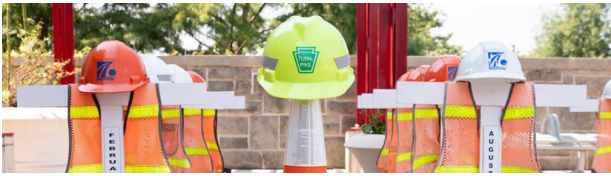
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## Automated Work Zone Speed Enforcement Program

The Pennsylvania General Assembly passed a law to allow an Automated Work Zone Speed Enforcement (AWZSE) program in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Drivers who are traveling through an active work zone more than 11 mph over the marked speed limit will activate the automatic camera which will take a picture of their license plate. A violation notice is then prepared and mailed to the vehicle owner. The penalties are:

- First Offense - warning letter.
- Second offense - violation notice and \$75 fine.
- Third (and subsequent) offense - violation notice and \$150 fine.
- Civil penalty only; no criminal penalty.
- No points on license or impact to merit rating for insurance purposes.
- Violations may be contested up to 30 days from the mailing of the notice.



## National and State Rodeos

Two drivers, Denise Babbitt and James Downam from TransNet's partner, Easton Coach Company, will be competing in the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) 2020 National Rodeo in Louisville, KY on Saturday, May 30th and Sunday, May 31st. Denise and James placed second and third overall in the 2019 Pennsylvania Public Transportation Association (PPTA) State Rodeo that was held in Williamsport, PA making them eligible to compete in nationals. Good luck to Denise and James!

The 2020 PPTA State Rodeo will be in Scranton, PA on Saturday, August 1st and Sunday, August 2nd. The rodeo consists of written and driving tests along with networking opportunities throughout the weekend. Please contact your supervisor if you are interested in competing in the state rodeo.

## Near Miss Safety Plan Reminder

Reminder: The Safety Concern/Near Miss Safety Plan was implemented approximately a year ago. Risk Management Director, Maria Church, along with the Safety Committee request that all employees complete a near miss form if they see a potential hazard throughout the day. The employee should report any potential hazard that was observed and where it was observed. The committee will then investigate the report to determine if there is a potential for danger, and if so, how to mitigate the danger. The employee's identity will remain confidential.



## New Payment Option for Riders

There is a new payment option for riders called Diminishing Balance, which gives our riders the ability to prepay for their trips. Ecolane keeps track of the consumer's balance as they ride. The consumers will prepay a set amount through PayPal which will be noted in their client file. As they ride, the cost of the trip will automatically be deducted from their balance. As the balance gets low, TransNet staff will notify the consumer that it is soon time to replenish their account. Consumers who take advantage of this new feature will no longer need to carry exact change on their trips.

When consumers embark the vehicle the driver's tablet will indicate if the consumer owes money for the trip or has a zero balance.

## Hazardous Weather and Driving

The weather is unpredictable and constantly changes. It can be sunny and 80 degrees one minute then rainy and 60 degrees the next. These changes can affect driving conditions such as visibility, vehicle traction, and steering control. Driving too fast, turning too fast, or stopping suddenly on slippery roads may cause your vehicle to skid. Weather related hazards that may contribute to crashes and violations include rain, fog, snow, sleet, loose gravel and dirt.

Some defensive driving techniques include:

- Determine if it is safe to continue to drive.
- Use the windshield wipers and washer fluid when necessary.
- Use your headlights when the windshield wipers are in use.
- Clear the windshield and all windows of snow, ice, and condensation or moisture.
- Use the defogging and defrosting settings on the heating/cooling system.
- Slow down to a safe speed for various road conditions.
- When there is fog use low-beam headlights to see and be seen. High beams reflect the light directly back into your eyes impairing your vision.

## Consumer Testimonial

"The purpose of this email is to let you know how truly remarkable one of your drivers, Harry Rose, is each day. I wish it was possible for my own children to be driven by him each day, because the peace of mind he brings to my life as a teacher is wonderful! Harry knows everyone's name and goes out of his way to greet them. He also knows us as people, and makes it a point to get to know us too. Working in an elementary school is a busy job and fast paced each day!...I think the most important thing to note about Harry is how the students run to see him every day. He is an important member of our school family, and we are lucky to have him each day. Harry truly deserves to be recognized as an exceptional employee of the year!"

Ms. Amy Mattioli, Pine Run Elementary  
Lower Moreland Township School District

To receive the monthly e-newsletter, send your email address to [dwiley@suburbantransit.org](mailto:dwiley@suburbantransit.org)