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APTA Announces 2011 Bus Safety & Security Excellence Awards *Recognizing public transit systems with top safety and security programs in North America*

The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) announced the winners of the 2011 Annual Bus Safety & Security Excellence Awards yesterday at the opening session of the annual APTA Bus & Paratransit Conference in Memphis, TN.

“Congratulations to the 2011 Bus Safety & Security Excellence Award winners,” said APTA President William Millar. “These winning public transportation systems have exemplary programs that create and sustain exceptional workplace cultures of safety and security and add value to all of us in the bus transportation industry.”

Awarded in four categories determined by annual ridership for public systems and one category for contracted systems, the APTA Bus Safety & Security Excellence Awards recognize public transportation organizations for their positive and proactive safety and security programs which are dedicated to improving safety and security for the employees, passengers and the public. The top honor is the *GOLD Award*, which is given to organizations with the best overall bus safety or bus security program selected by an independent panel of judges. A *Certificate of Merit* is given to organizations in recognition of exceptional achievement in safety or security.

The 2011 Bus Safety & Security Excellence Award winners are as follows:

Category I: Bus systems with fewer than 4 million passenger trips annually **Safety Excellence Award:**

- *GOLD Award for Safety* – Southwest Transit – Eden Prairie, Minnesota

Category II: Bus systems with more than 4 million and fewer than 20 million **passenger trips annually**

Safety Excellence Awards:

- *GOLD Award for Safety* – Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority – Des Moines, Iowa
- *Certificate of Merit* - Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority – Cincinnati, Ohio

Security Excellence Award:

- *GOLD Award for Security* – Pierce Transit – Lakewood, Washington

Category III: Bus systems with 20 million or more passenger trips annually

Safety Excellence Awards:

- *GOLD Award for Safety* – Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority – Cleveland, Ohio
- *Certificate of Merit for Safety* – Maryland Transit Administration – Baltimore, Maryland
- *Certificate of Merit for Safety* – Orange County Transportation Authority – Orange, California

Security Excellence Awards:

- *GOLD Award for Security* – New York City Transit – New York, New York
- *Certificate of Merit*- Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County – Houston, Texas
- *Certificate of Merit*- Regional Transportation District – Denver, Colorado

Category IV: Private contractors providing transportation management and services to bus transit systems

Safety Excellence Award:

- *GOLD Award for Safety* – Forsythe Transportation, Arlington Transit – Arlington, Virginia

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The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) is a nonprofit international association of nearly 1,500 public and private member organizations, engaged in the areas of bus, paratransit, light rail, commuter rail, subways, waterborne passenger services, and high-speed rail. This includes: transit systems; planning, design, construction, and finance firms; product and service providers; academic institutions; transit associations and state departments of transportation. More than 90 percent of the people using public transportation in the United States and Canada are served by APTA member systems.