

Transit Center Open House

On April 2, 2007, a new 5,100 sq. ft. Public Transit Center opened on the new Sitting Bull College campus.

Sitting Bull College established the Standing Rock Public Transportation Program in 1989 and since then has funded and managed the program.

“The new facility is a great asset to our transportation program, with no interruption to our current services,” said Pam Ternes, director and dispatcher for the SRPT program for the past nine years.

The new building houses the Standing Rock Public Transportation Program including five offices, a waiting area for customers, two mechanic bays and one wash bay.

“We will now be able to purchase and store bulk fuel and service our own vehicles, which will be more cost effective, thereby allowing us to continue to improve and expand our services,” Ternes said. “This will benefit our passengers so that we can continue to provide affordable transportation.”

In addition to providing four daily fixed routes on and near the Reservation and a once a week trip to Bismarck, ND for medical appointments and shopping, a recent agreement between Standing Rock Public Transportation Program and three other transportation organizations in the Dakotas has resulted in the start of bi-weekly bus service between Bismarck, ND and Rapid City, SD, including a route through Pierre, South Dakota. This extended service began Monday, February 26, 2007 and is referred to as the “North-South Shuttle.”

Glen Bahm, Transportation Coordinator is very happy about the move to the new facility. “The new facility will help us attract more passengers and definitely offers a larger and safer working environment to our staff,” Bahm said. “Our customers will also have a warm place to wait for their bus in our new waiting area.” Bahm, started with Sitting Bull College as a maintenance worker in 1997, but in 1999 began working for the Transit Program.

According to Bahm, the program continues to grow its customer base and is constantly looking for new ways to improve current services. “Besides our new extended routes, we’re doing a little over 40 roundtrips weekly between Mobridge, SD and Bismarck, ND,” Bahm said.

For more information about the transportation program or the new Transit Center please contact the SRPT office at (701) 854-8033.