

Oregon's partnership in passenger safety

The Motor Carrier Transportation Division has, over the past few years, prioritized inspection of passenger-carrying motor vehicles (buses). Oregon inspectors use a variety of approaches to review vehicles, drivers and operations, such as destination inspections, roadside inspections at fixed facilities and terminal inspections. In 2013, we conducted more than 400 inspections of passenger-carrying vehicles, resulting in a vehicle out of service rate of 22.7 percent and a driver out of service rate of 2.7 percent.



Mychal Cherry, Spirit Mountain Casino marketing manager, receives ODOT's Partners in Passenger Safety Award.

In addition to enforcement activities, MCTD has worked with bus operators and other industry officials to develop partnerships aimed at improving passenger safety in Oregon.

"One often overlooked industry segment is the smaller private business operators," said MCTD Safety and Federal Program Manager David McKane. "Bus operations are often times incidental to a primary business. Examples include retirement homes, assisted living facilities, and medical facilities." McKane said his team has reached out to the Oregon Health Care Association and provided information and expertise to help private businesses of smaller buses operate safely.

Programs result from working together

One of the new programs, Partners for Passenger Safety, allows ODOT and the Northwest Motorcoach Association to recognize private entities and motor carriers that assist in the efforts to ensure safe travels on buses and motor coaches in Oregon.

Recognition certificates issued to participating carriers and destinations thank partners for providing safe locations to conduct bus and motor coach inspections. This acknowledgement of participation also recognizes the commitment each has to the safety of the traveling public. In addition, the Partners for Passenger Safety program lists participants on MCTD's website.

This is similar to the Oregon Trusted Carrier Partner Program, or TCP. Recently, passenger-carrying motor carriers were allowed to participate in our TCP. Established 15 years ago, this program recognizes motor carriers with exemplary records of compliance with registration, tax and safety requirements. Passenger-carrying motor carriers in the TCP program also agree to periodic inspections of their buses and motor coaches.

"Efforts like these demonstrate that we at ODOT are working with industry members to further the goal of a safe, efficient and responsible transportation system for all Oregonians," McKane said.