

**Welcome to the first issue of *The Resource*, published by the Massachusetts Rural Transit Assistance Program (MArtap) for 2006. On behalf of the MArtap Advisory Committee, we wish you a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.**

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#### **What is MArtap?**

The Massachusetts Rural Transit Assistance Program (MArtap) is a federally funded, state-administered program that offers training, education and other benefits to public transportation providers in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Due to the amount of funding MArtap receives, most of its services are free.

MArtap receives its funding from the Federal Transit Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Transportation. Here in Massachusetts, the state's Executive Office of Transportation (EOT) has contracted with the Massachusetts Association of Regional Transit Authorities (MARTA) to administer the MArtap program.

As a MArtap member it is important to have an understanding of MArtap's services. MArtap is designed to meet the needs of transportation providers in rural and small urban regions of Massachusetts; however, agencies that serve larger regions are also eligible for help. We try to make our products and services easily accessible and simple to use. MArtap's services include training to drivers of public transportation buses and vans, training scholarships, *The Resource*, which is published bi-monthly, and a lending library of resource materials. Visit [www.martap.org](http://www.martap.org) for additional MArtap services.

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## MARTap Training Scholarships are Available Now

MARTap Training Scholarships are now available. The funding for fiscal year 2005-2006, which began July 1, is \$11,000. Training scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, depending on available funds. MARTap will continue to offer 100 percent of conference/training tuition and expenses for eligible agencies such as private, non-profit organizations and councils on aging that provide transportation; 90 percent per conference/training tuition and expenses, will be reimbursed for regional transit authorities and their operating companies. The training programs must be pre-approved, transportation related, and result in the improvement of your transportation services.

Each eligible agency may receive up to two scholarships per year, with a maximum of \$750 per scholarship, as long as funds remain available.

To be eligible you must follow MARTap Training Scholarship guidelines, complete a simplified pre-approval application and expense form, which are available on the MARTap website, [www.martap.org](http://www.martap.org).



### *The Resource* Advertisement

MARTap is accepting advertising in *The Resource*.

Advertising in this publication gives you an opportunity to send your company's message to over 400 readers in the transit industry.

#### *The Resource* Advertising Rates

Standard Black & White (ad size is approx.)

Half Page	7½" (w) x 5" (h)	Cost	\$ 85.
Quarter Page	3¾" (w) x 5" (h)	Cost	\$ 55.
1/8 <sup>th</sup> Page	1¾" (w) x 2½"(h)	Cost	\$ 30.

Five ads any size 15% discount

Contact Carol Tally at 877- MARTap1 (627-8271) to reserve your ad space.

**WEBSITE NEWS:** The Massachusetts Rural Transit Assistance Program's (MARTap) website is complete. Visit [www.martap.org](http://www.martap.org) for up-to-date information on programs. Your comments and questions are welcome, and we encourage you to submit articles for publication in *The Resource*.

Please check the name and address listed on the mailing label. Forward any corrections to [info@martap.org](mailto:info@martap.org) or to P.O.Box 155, Foxboro, MA 02035. You may call us at 877-MARTap1 (627-8271). Be sure to include your organization name.



### LEND and LEARN LIBRARY

MARTap is proud to offer the Lend and Learn Library, which is complete with self-training videos and workbooks, available at no charge. Agencies may borrow the modules, paying only for return postage; when the training materials are returned, you will be asked to evaluate them. We are always looking for new material so if you have a training program you would like to share, forward it to MARTap and we will make it available to others. For a complete list of training information, visit [www.martap.org](http://www.martap.org) and visit "Lend and Learn" or call MARTap at 877-MARTap1 (627-8271) and we will forward a list to you.

## MARTA Driver Training

The Executive Office of Transportation (EOT) has mandated that all vehicle acceptance recipients under the Mobility Assistance Program (MAP) agree to ensure all vehicle drivers receive proper training; therefore, the following training courses are required each year.

These training courses, offered free of charge to all MAP recipients through the MArtap program, can be scheduled by contacting MArtap by phone, fax or e-mail or simply complete the MArtap Driver Training Request Form on [www.martap.org](http://www.martap.org). All requests will be confirm by mail and Jack Mastrangelo, MArtap Trainer, will contact you to schedule the training. All training requests must be submitted to MArtap prior to scheduling.

**Required Training Courses:**

Defensive Driving  
Wheelchair Lift & Securement Training  
CPR

In addition, drivers are required to have two (2) other training courses every three (3) years.

**Required Training Courses:**

Passenger Sensitivity Training  
First Aid

Various trainings are offered to help meet Federal & State laws, including Drug & Alcohol training for Supervisors and Drivers, including Bus Operator refresher training.

<b>MARTA January 2006 Scheduled Driver Training (Weather Permitting)</b>		<b>MARTA February 2006 Scheduled Driver Training (Weather Permitting)</b>	
Monday 01/09/06	Safe Transport of the Public under the ADA COA, 118 Church Street, Williamstown, MA 10:00AM/2:00PM	Wednesday 02/01/06	Supervisor Post Accident Drug and Alcohol Training BRTA, 67 Downing Parkway, Pittsfield, MA 12:00PM-4:00PM
Tuesday 1/10/06	Safe Transport of the Public under the ADA CCRTA, Transit Center, Hyannis, MA 10:00AM/2:00PM	Saturday 02/04/06	Coaching the Van Driver 8:00AM-12:00PM Wheelchair Securement Training 12:15PM-4:00PM Community Transit 573 South Street, Athol, MA
Saturday 1/14/06	Coaching the Van Driver 8:00AM/12:00PM Wheelchair Lift & Securement Training 12:15PM/4:00PM CCRTA, Transit Center, Hyannis, MA	Tuesday 02/07/06	Employee & Supervisor Drug & Alcohol Training CATOC, 3 Pond Road, Gloucester, MA 7:00PM-11:00PM
Wednesday 01/18/06	Coaching the Van Driver COA, 37 Chestnut Street, Ludlow, MA 8:00AM/12:00PM	Saturday 02/11/06	Defensive Driving-4 8:00AM-12:00PM Wheelchair Securement Training 12:15PM-4:00PM FRTA/Kuzmeskus, 52 Main Road, Gill, MA
Saturday 01/21/06	Coaching the Van Driver SCM, 167 Holland Street, Somerville, MA 9:00AM/1:00PM (postponed)	Wednesday 02/15/06	Dealing with Problem Passengers COA, 458 Ocean Grove Avenue, Swansea, MA 4:00PM-8:00PM
Tuesday 01/24/06	Coaching the Van Driver CCRTA, Transit Center, Hyannis, MA 10:00AM/2:00PM (postponed)	Saturday 02/18/06	Safe Transport of the Public under the ADA SSCAC, 265 South Meadow Road, Plymouth, MA 8:00AM-12:00PM Emergency & Accident Handling Procedures 12:15PM-4:00PM
Thursday 01/26/06	Drivers Job Responsibilities under the ADA COA, 144 School Street, Woburn, MA 9:00AM/1:00PM		

## Winter Driving Tips

During the winter months, remember that we may not be able to just hop in our vehicles and drive away. Snow on the windshield, frozen windshield wipers, slippery roads and low visibility are just a few obstacles the cold weather may bring.

For your safety, as well as others, remember to:

- Clean off your windshield and other windows
- Clean off your lights and license plate
- Keep your windshield washer fluid topped off
- Make sure your tires are in good condition
- Always check behind your vehicle before backing up
- Give yourself plenty of room between you and the vehicle in front of you
- Be extra careful at intersections; and at snow banks
- Allow yourself plenty of time
- Slow down and take your time
- Getting there slowly is the right way to get there
- Drive Safely

For up-to-date weather in your area, visit [www.nws.noaa.gov](http://www.nws.noaa.gov) or [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com).

For an up-to-date traffic report, visit MASS HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT at [www.mhd.state.ma.us](http://www.mhd.state.ma.us).

Have a safe winter.....See you in March....  
The next edition of *The Resource* will be published in March.  
Visit [www.martap.org](http://www.martap.org) for updates.