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## **HDPT Transit Drivers and Technicians Bring Home State Title**

Harrisonburg, Va. – The city of Harrisonburg and the Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation (HDPT) have something to be proud of after competing in the statewide roдео competition.

Last weekend, several city bus drivers and technicians competed against other agencies in the 2016 Virginia Transit Rodeo Competition that was hosted by Hampton Roads Transit in Hampton, VA. This year's competition had 10 transit agencies to include HDPT, Blacksburg Transit, Greater Roanoke Transit/Valley Metro, Greater Lynchburg Transit Company, Greater Richmond Transit Company, Fairfax Connector/MV Transportation, Alexandria Transit Company, Hampton Roads Transit, Potomac Rappahannock Transit Company/First Transit, and Arlington Regional Transit/National Express Transit.

The competition is divided up into different categories including a 35 foot bus operator competition, a 40 foot bus operator competition, and a maintenance team competition. There were a total of 39 competitors for both operator competitions and HDPT was represented with four drivers in the 35 foot bus operator competition. The roдео tests the driving and knowledge skills of bus drivers in an obstacle course that mirrors the specific driving maneuvers and encounters frequently experienced in the course of their daily driving.

HDPT transit bus drivers finished as follows:

- 5<sup>th</sup> - Sandy Leska
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Anthony Porras
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Lawrence Apted
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Jay Jones

A city team of three maintenance technicians (Robbie Payne, Aaron Billhimer, and Rob McDorman) also participated in the competition and competed against seven other technician teams from across the state. HDPT came in 4<sup>th</sup> place in this category. The areas of competition included: electrical wiring, brake systems, air conditioning, fuel injection and door operation. The timed events are to test the mechanics' ability to diagnose and repair systems that are not working properly.

While these individual places are worth noting, the department as a whole scored the greatest recognition by being named champions as they were awarded with the Overall Property Team trophy. This award is given to the team of operators and technicians that has the overall highest scores in each division.

**PRESS RELEASE: HDPT TRANSIT DRIVERS AND TECHNICIANS BRING HOME STATE TITLE**  
**PAGE 2**



*Pictured above: HDPT participants pose for a picture after competing in the 2016 Virginia Transit Rodeo Competition.*

Situated on a 16-acre site, HDPT’s newly constructed and award-winning administrative and maintenance facilities are home to approximately 175 employees and 117 buses, both school and transit buses. To learn more about HDPT, visit [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/HDPT](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/HDPT) or to follow them on social media visit their [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) sites.



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