



ASK Transit

Inquiry on Social Networking

Information compiled on May 18, 2010

The Question: Have you developed a policy or have an internal procedure addressing what employees can post on their own private social networking sites (Facebook, MySpace) as their posts relate to the security of transit operations? What would you do if you discovered an employee had posted pictures on their own social networking site showing security-related elements (security cameras, elements of buses) of your transit system?

Asotin County says ...No.

Grant Transit says... Our policy is not specific to security but prohibits dissemination of all “confidential information” of any nature that may be harmful to a client or the organizational interests.

Grays Harbor Transit says... We have an internet policy that states we use our computers for transit related purposes only. We do not specifically mention Facebook/MySpace in it.

Intercity Transit says... We don't have any policies or procedures addressing the issue of employees posting security-sensitive photos on social networking sites. Our personnel are generally aware of the need to be discreet about these things. I suppose that's the good thing about working in an organization with less than 300 employees.

We are launching a new training titled, “Security Awareness for Intercity Transit Employees.” We intend for all employees to attend this training between Fall 2010 and the end of 2011. We'll also conduct periodic refreshers (probably every three years). While developing this training, it became evident to me that virtually all of our employees have a keen sense of what is NOT appropriate to share. However, I think it would be useful to talk about this topic during training classes to ensure we're all on the same page.

At this time, we do not intend to create a policy to specifically address this issue. We have not run into problems and feel that we can prevent this from happening by incorporating discussion about it into our training.

Jefferson Transit says.... We have not addressed this issue.

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King County Metro says... We have, just about anything in plain view can be lawfully photographed. That does not, however, prevent law enforcement from conducting a field interview on someone photographing emergency fans, deluge systems, patrol car locations, etc based on the totality of the circumstances leading to the interview. Under Federal law, security system diagrams and any associated vulnerabilities are considered Sensitive Security Information subject to release approval by the GM or feds. If someone pastes a diagram or schematic of our camera system on line, we will go after them.

Kitsap Transit says... We do not have a policy regarding what employees can post on their own private social networking sites, per se. We do have language about professional conduct for our employees in some manner for either rep or non-rep. As far as what we would do about addressing security related elements, I guess that would depend on what we discovered after an investigation, so I'm not sure I could answer that at this time, as it seems to be too hypothetical.

Link Transit says....No policy.

Pacific Transit says... No policy and don't know.

Pierce Transit says... We do not have a specific policy at this time. We have asked our Chief Of Public Safety to review this question and respond. I will forward that answer when received.

Pullman Transit says... At this time we do not have anything relating to what the employees are allow to do outside of the 'work' area.

Skagit Transit says....We have a computer usage policy in place. That includes posting company information on personal sites including social networking sites. Violation of this policy would result in removal of internet privileges and disciplinary action up to and including termination. [Click here](#) to view our policy.

Spokane Transit says... We do not have a policy addressing what employees post on personal sites. When discovered we would inquire as to the purpose of the posting (with the employee); educate the employee and the possible implications and perceptions related to the postings and notify local DHS/TSA officials.

Whatcom Transportation Authority says...We have not addressed this specifically in policy. We did have a case where an employee was complaining about her supervisor and her job on her Facebook page. This got back to us. We counseled her about the very public nature of any internet posting and cautioned her to be more careful.

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Yakima Transit says...No policy.

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