

*Supporting the needs of Texas' public transportation systems through statewide advocacy and education.*

## Capital Metro Bus Rapid Transit Tour (BRT)

Alliance Transportation Group, (ATG) lead a tour in collaboration with Capital Metro of the Metro Rapid 801 from Downtown station at Republic Square to South Congress Transit Center on Friday, September 13. The event hosted Mayors and City officials from Northwest Arkansas where ATG is involved



in a number of projects including [Connect NWA](#), a regional transit development plan. Members from Metro McAllen where ATG recently finished Move McAllen, a Short Range Transit Plan, and the [Texas Transportation Association \(TTA\)](#) president, Mario Delgado and new Executive Director, Allen E. Hunter were also on the tour.

## Daylight Savings Time

*Sunday November 3rd*

*Remember to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night.*



## Call for Abstracts for the 2020 TTA State Conference:

*Do you have a specific message, presentation, or idea for a pressing Transit Topic?*

*If so, please be sure to provide detailed information so that we can include you and/or your idea in this year's agenda. Submit to: [Info@txtransit.org](mailto:Info@txtransit.org)*



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## DART Accepts APTA Innovation Award for GoPass® App



*Left to right: Nicole Fontayne-Bárdowell, DART EVP/Chief Administrative Officer; Michele Wong Krause, Vice Chair, DART Board of Directors; Tina Morch-Pierre, DART AVP Innovation; Gary Thomas, DART President/Executive Director; and Christopher P. Boylan, APTA Awards Committee.*

Dallas Area Rapid Transit's (DART) ongoing dedication to developing innovative programs that provide North Texas riders with greater access to public transit has earned the 2019 Innovation Award from the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). DART accepted the award at the annual TRANSform Conference in New York.

The APTA Innovation Award honors public transit agencies that demonstrate innovative concepts or effective problem-solving techniques not previously applied in the public transportation industry.

DART's winning entry, the GoPass® app, is the first public

transit ticket-purchasing app in the nation that involved multiple transit agencies and different types of transportation. The all-in-one travel tool gives customers mobile ticketing for transit throughout North Texas including DART, Trinity Railway Express (TRE), Trinity Metro and the Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA).

Since its initial launch in September 2013, the DART GoPass app has continued to evolve to serve the needs of riders, providing new options and features that make traveling easier and more comprehensive. In 2016, corporate annual and college semester passes were added. One year later ride-sharing services were integrated into the app, like DART's GoLink micro-transit service that provides customers an on-demand first mile-/last-mile solution.

In 2018, the agency released DART GoPass 2.0, which continued to revolutionize how riders transact with DART. New features and benefits included fare capping, cash-to-mobile payment option, Apple Pay and GoPass Wallet.



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## VIA offering free fare on election day for San Antonio Voters on November 5

VIA Metropolitan Transit reminds you to exercise your “ride to vote” on **Election Day, Tuesday, November 5**. Fare-free transportation will be available for passengers presenting a valid voter registration card to the bus or van operator on November 5.

Ride VIA to Vote provides complimentary public transportation on municipal, state, and federal election days for passengers who present a **valid voter registration card** to the bus or van operator.

The complimentary service will be available for regular bus service and VIAtrans paratransit service throughout the VIA service area on November 5. Registered VIAtrans customers should schedule their trip in accordance with VIAtrans policies and procedures.

Customers can plan their trip to vote at their respective precincts with the VIA goMobile app. They may use VIA’s free systemwide 4G LTE WiFi to manage their goMobile account while making a trip or visiting one of our Transit Centers. The free app is available on Apple and Android smartphones. Visit <https://www.viainfo.net/purchase-passes/#gomobile> for more information.



*Passengers presenting a valid voter registration card receive complimentary fare all day*

For additional information regarding routes and schedules on Election Day, call (210) 362-2020, and for information on elections, visit [Elections.Bexar.org](http://Elections.Bexar.org).

# Sun Metro in El Paso Introduces two new RTS Systems

Sun Metro in El Paso, TX introduced two new RTS Systems, the Alameda Brio and Dyer Brio with a ribbon cutting ceremony. These RTS systems connect two main corridors in the El Paso area bringing an overall improvement to the public transit connectivity. Riders can now take advantage of faster and more efficient transportation options that span from the North-east, Westside and Lower Valley areas of El Paso into the downtown area.

These two additions are the second and third bus rapid transit routes to be operational, with Mesa Brio being the first in 2014. The fourth and final RTS system for this project, the Montana Brio, is under design with a plan to be operational in 2021.



*Picture from right to left:*

*Jay Banasiak – Director of Sun Metro, Dr. Sam Morgan – District 4, Cissy Lizarraga – District 8, Dee Margo – Mayor of El Paso, Aleksandra Annello – District 2, Peter Svarzbein – District 1, Henry Rivera – District 7, Canssandra Hernandez – District 3, Claudia Ordaz Perez – District 6, Tommy Gonzalez – City Manager, Ted Marquez – Deputy City Manager of Public Works and Transportation*

Passengers now have access to all the systems' benefits like free WiFi at the stations and on board, improved frequencies, and enhanced pedestrian pathways and lighting.

Other system amenities include: uniquely branded 60-foot articulated buses; frequencies of 10 minutes (peak service) to 15 minutes (off-peak service); branded stations; exclusive artwork incorporated onto each station.

In accordance with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), El Paso is the first city and agency to open up two RTS Systems on the same day.

## **Alameda Corridor by the Numbers**

Length: 14.5 miles  
Total number of buses: 14  
Number of stations: 29

## **Dyer Corridor by the Numbers**

Length: 11.4 miles  
Total number of buses: 10  
Number of stations: 22



## Tyler Transit Launches New Pilot Program

Tyler Transit has partnered with the University of Texas at Tyler to provide a pilot student shuttle service for quality of life accessibility to shopping, banking, social services, and other critical services to mention connectivity to the existing Tyler Transit fixed route service which operates close to 60% of the day. This partnership will

aid in ridership increase to the Transit system and give the University the ability to mobilize their students and save in parking and attendance. In addition, this program will also relieve the University's staff from conducting such services themselves as it continues to grow with



## Boost your fleet performance with the ENGIE CAD/AVL



### Real-time fleet management

Dispatchers and supervisors are provided with real-time information about the traffic and their vehicles, so they can make decisions about services based on what's happening in real-time.



### Operator terminal

The bus operator interface allows sign in and sign out, trip switching, headway spacing indicators for on-time performance assist, emergency alerting, dispatch messaging, manual counting, pre-trip inspection and maintenance indications and troubleshooting.



### Headway management

The smart headway management system provides dispatch and operators with the spacing indicator, automatically adjust departure times at timing point to avoid bunching.



### High-speed and secure communications

Using cellular coverage, your operators are in constant communications with dispatchers and supervisors, with the ability to send canned messages, driver issues, or use Voice over IP communications.

### Real-time Passenger Information System

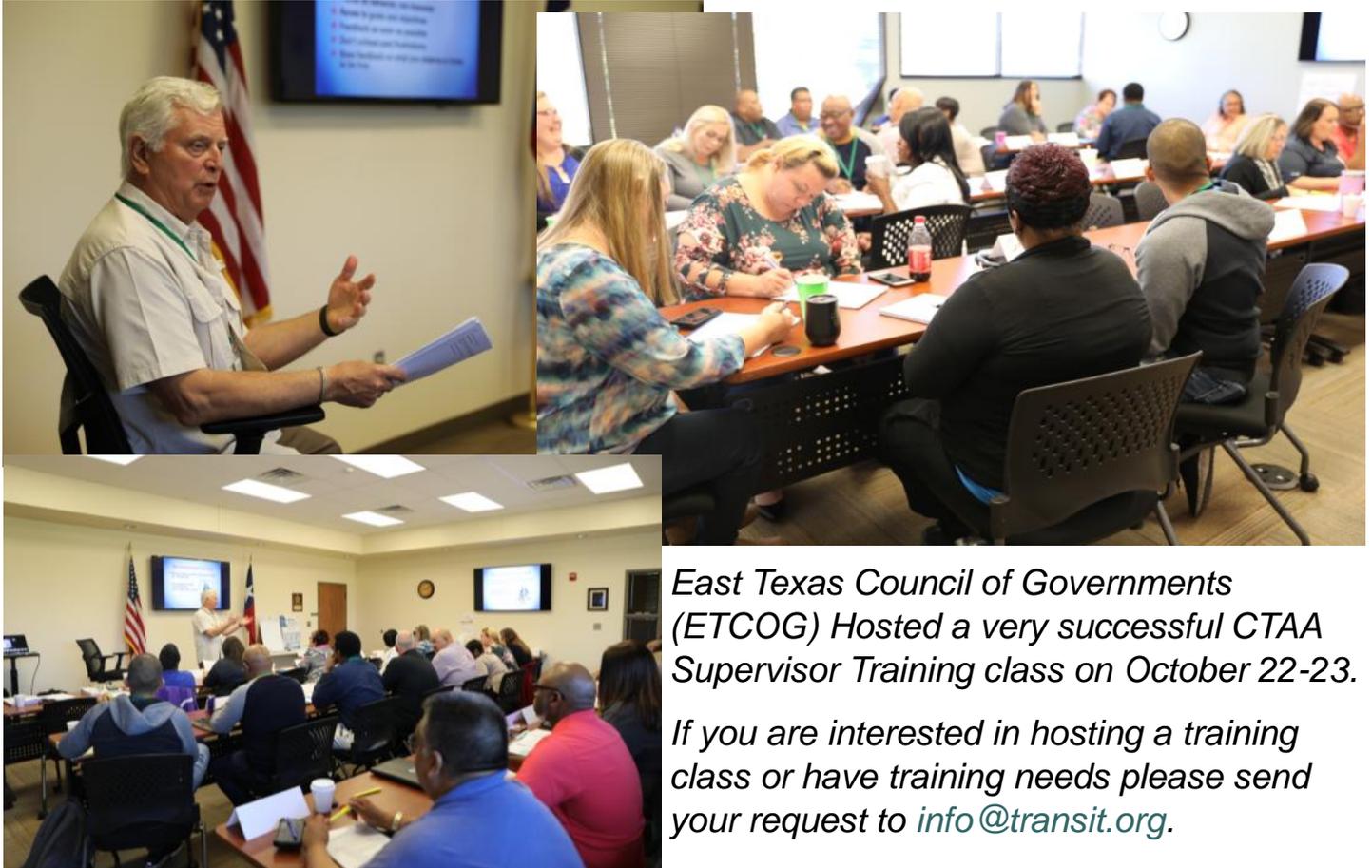
#### Innovation in Solar Technology

ENGIE solar-powered digital bus stop sign is a cost-saving and sustainable solution for real-time arrival information to your community.



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+1 571 428 9392

## ETCOG Hosts CTAA Supervisor Training



*East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) Hosted a very successful CTAA Supervisor Training class on October 22-23.*

*If you are interested in hosting a training class or have training needs please send your request to [info@transit.org](mailto:info@transit.org).*

## Interested in getting more involved?

Serve on one of the many different committees and start making a difference today. Simply, send an email to [info@txtransit.org](mailto:info@txtransit.org) and let us know which committees you are interested in.

[Education & Events Committee](#)

[Legislative Committee](#)

[Finance Committee](#)

[Membership Committee](#)

[Organizational Structure and By-Laws Committee](#)

[Communications & Marketing Committee](#)



## What Is Mobility On Demand And How Will It Shape The Future?

[Mobility on Demand \(MoD\)](#) refers to the ability of individuals to utilize varying transportation modes [to make their journeys more efficient or complete](#). Technology is the bedrock of this approach, often because it allows people to be better informed of the mode options and therefore more productive or efficient.

Transportation solutions can come from private companies, public entities, and even things such as ride-hailing apps, which utilize independent contractors. Many technologies can be used. Apps now exist that can show people the best routes to take based on travel preferences. They can also show which private and public transportation options exist around their current location, which is especially useful for frequent travelers.

Transportation services and the people that use them can now make use of real-time-data. This ability has become paramount.



### Benefits of MoD

The norm of individual car ownership is waning in some parts of the country. This is especially the case for dense, urban areas. Some people find owning a car to be too costly or too burdensome. Others worry about the environmental impact of too many cars on the road and if they can do without car ownership, they may choose to. Some might not be able to drive a car due to a disability and therefore would not own one.

In the future, individual car ownership may be regarded more of a luxury than a necessity.

### The Implementation of MoD

Many organizations and people are working with or on MoD solutions. This includes private and public entities. Services operated by cities or counties in cooperation with microtransit and TNCs like Uber and Lyft are prime examples.

Where are we with MoD? It is much easier to find MoD services in urban areas than it is in rural areas because the populations in urban areas are denser. However, there is a high demand for MoD in rural areas, as well, despite short supply. In suburban communities, many people use MoD to either commute right into the city or to fixed rail that would bring them into the city.

So, in every situation, there is demand for MoD. It is just a matter of making it available to the communities for their specific purposes.

### The Future of MoD

MoD is where the future is headed. The transformation of transportation services is already upon us, spurred on by an increasingly urban population and mushrooming technological achievements.

There are already numerous apps that aim to make traveling easier. Some even facilitate travel services such as [ride-hailing apps](#). Others simply make it easier to connect to transportation services or to pay for them.

Further technological advances will continue to shape MoD. For example, Uber recently ordered 500,000 driverless vehicles. [Autonomous and electric vehicles](#) will hopefully make MoD safer and more efficient.

[Contact a business development director today](#) to find out how Ecolane can help maximize the efficiency of your MoD service.



# Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Longview Transit's Newly Completed Transfer Center on November the 4th

The goal of the final phase of the master plan for Longview's Multimodal Transportation Facility was to construct a Transfer Center for passengers of Longview Transit, Greyhound, Amtrak's thru-way bus service, and the rural provider GoBus.

The City of Longview's master plan in 2010 designed for the future multimodal transportation facility. The anchor of the multimodal facility was the soon-to-be renovated Amtrak Train Depot. The vision of the multimodal facility was to bring together the transportation providers Amtrak, Longview Transit, Greyhound, and GoBus.

Longview Transit administration and maintenance has been located across the street from the train depot since 2007. Using federal funding, the City of Longview was able to purchase the property at the entryway to the multimodal facility in April 2013. Through the Texas Department of Transportation FY2012 Coordinated Call for Projects, the City of Longview was awarded Intercity Bus Funds of \$300,000 for the completion of Phase I of the master plan which included bringing Greyhound Bus to the multimodal facility. The other major component of the Phase I funding was to construct a new driveway entry onto the property from Moberly Avenue, on purchased property (902 East Pacific Avenue), to allow for safe ingress and egress of buses, vehicles, and pedestrians due to the increased traffic from the inclusion of the intercity bus provider Greyhound at the facility. This final component of Phase I was completed in May 2016.



After securing \$2.8 million in funding from local (\$600,000), state, and federal sources, the Amtrak Train Depot was restored to its 1939 historical purity as certified by the Texas Historical Commission. The ribbon cutting for the completed depot took place in May 2014.

In February 2016, the City of Longview Transit applied for Intercity Bus funding in the amount of \$1.4 million through the Texas Department of Transportation Coordinated Call for Projects. Funding was requested to purchase the property, construct the facility, and other related costs including but not limited to Demolition, Engineering, Environmental, and Design.

On June 30, 2016, the Texas Transportation Commission awarded the City of Longview \$1,400,000. The \$1.4 million required some local cash match with both the City and Gregg County participating.

After 3.5 years of planning, designing, and construction (including many environmental and weather challenges) the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Official Grand Opening of the City of Longview Transit's Transfer Center will take place on Monday November 4<sup>th</sup> at approximately 10:50am, a few minutes prior to the buses pulling out for their 11am routes.



## THE SKY'S THE LIMIT BY USING SWART'S PUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEM



*Long time SWART rider, Jennifer Gilleland.*

“The Southwest Area Regional Transit District (SWART) has been a very essential asset in my ability to obtain some of my goals as well as some bucket list items. See, I was born with cerebral palsy which directly affects my ability to walk. I have utilized an electric wheelchair for over thirty years. This mode of transportation has helped me maintain my independence along with my mom who was the force behind me.

Then, about twenty years ago I was introduced to the rural public transportation system in town which opened many more doors in my life. Their transportation services provided the means to pursue my associates, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees. Now having met my educational goals you would think that my life is all work and no play that's just not me. I've used their services to go to the airport

to travel the United States to experience some amazing adventures. SWART has been very beneficial to me and I hope it will continue to be for many years to come.” **By Jennifer Gilleland.**

Jennifer began utilizing SWART services when she was 18 years old and needed services to access higher education at the Southwest Texas Junior College in Uvalde. After earning her Associates Degree from SWTJC, Jennifer then utilized SWART to obtain her Bachelor's and Master's degree from Sul Ross State University Rio Grande in Uvalde. She earned her Doctoral Degree from St. Mary's University in counseling where Jennifer would literally wake up and board SWART vehicles at 5 AM each day and travel to San Antonio for classes.

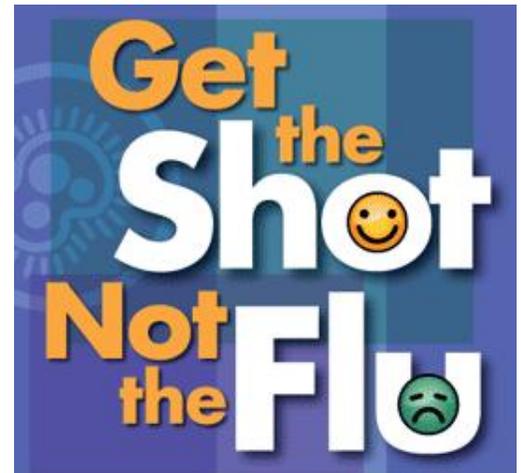
Public transportation has also given Jennifer the key to experiencing and living life to its fullest. She access the San Antonio Airport via SWART and has traveled to various places across the country. She has driven a NASCAR vehicle in Daytona Beach, has seen the Philadelphia Marathon and has gone skydiving in Miami. She has been to Orlando and recently visited Las Vegas during the Labor Day Holiday. Through SWART's assistance she has also been given mobility management services to coordinate transportation services once she lands in all these great places she has traveled to. She has also traveled our great state and has visited Dallas, Houston, Galveston, and Laredo to name a few.

Jennifer's vibrant and outgoing personality is well known in the Uvalde Community. She has run for Mayor, been an advocate for those with disabilities, and is the ADA representative on the Regional Transportation Planning Stakeholders Committee. Jennifer even started her own non-profit organization, Ray of Hope, which flourished for many years and helped raise funds to assist those with disabilities. Her main focus was to give others opportunities to experience more than what the boundaries of Uvalde had to offer.

“We have had the privilege of watching Jennifer become an active member of our community who not only we respect for her determination but for her caring nature and independence. Her success is a prime example that through kindness, effort, and passion, anything is possible. We are proud that she is an advocate of rural public transit. One thing is for sure, Jennifer is fearless”, states Sarah Hidalgo-Cook, SWART General Manager.

# Flu Vaccinations

**Who should get vaccinated this season?** The Center for Disease Control recommends that everyone 6 months of age and older should get an influenza (flu) vaccine every season with very rare exception. Statistics indicate that getting a flu vaccination can reduce your chances of having to go to a Doctor for flu by 40%-60%.



## Why should people get vaccinated against flu?

Influenza is a potentially serious disease that can lead to hospitalization and sometimes even death. Every flu season is different, and influenza infection can affect people differently, but millions of people get flu every year, hundreds of thousands of people are hospitalized and thousands to tens of thousands of people die from flu-related causes every year. An annual seasonal flu vaccine is the best way to help protect against flu. Vaccination has been shown to have many benefits including reducing the risk of flu illnesses, hospitalizations and even the risk of flu-related death in children.

## How do flu vaccines work?

Flu vaccines cause antibodies to develop in the body about two weeks after vaccination. These antibodies provide protection against infection with the viruses that are used to make the vaccine.

The seasonal flu vaccine protects against the influenza viruses that research indicates will be most common during the upcoming season. Most flu vaccines in the United States protect against four different flu viruses; an influenza A (H1N1) virus, an influenza A (H3N2) virus, and two influenza B viruses. There are also some flu vaccines that protect against three different flu viruses (“trivalent”); an influenza A (H1N1) virus, an influenza A (H3N2) virus, and one influenza B virus. Two of the trivalent vaccines are designed specifically for people 65 and older to create a stronger immune response

## When should I get vaccinated?

You should get a flu vaccine before flu viruses begins spreading in your community, since it takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body and provide protection against flu. Make plans to get vaccinated early in fall, before flu season begins. CDC recommends that people get a flu vaccine by the end of October, if possible. *Getting vaccinated later, however, can still be beneficial and vaccination should continue to be offered throughout the flu season, even into January or later.*

Getting vaccinated early (for example, in July or August) is likely to be associated with reduced protection against flu infection later in the flu season, particularly among older adults.

Children who need two doses of vaccine to be protected should start the vaccination process sooner, because the two doses must be given at least four weeks apart.

For more information regarding the benefits of flu shots please go to the CDC’s website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/keyfacts.htm>

## Central Texas Rural Transit District introduces New Boardroom

Board of Directors for the Central Texas Rural Transit District held their bi-monthly meeting at their new Board meeting room located in Early, Texas. New members were impressed with the multi-modal facility which includes training room, conference room and guest offices.



*Left to Right. Allen E. Hunter, Executive Director of TTA and Rich Sampson, Executive Director of SWATA take an opportunity to network while at the APTA Conference in New York*

### TTA would like to congratulate some recent promotions from around the State

***Perry D'Armond***, Appointed to the position of Director of Transportation in June at Fort Bend County

***Doug Provance***, Recently appointed as the General Manager EZ-Rider in Midland-Odessa (RATP Dev.)

***Serena Stevenson***, Recently appointed as the General Manager at Waco Transit System and McLennan County Rural Transit District (RATP Dev.)

***Wendy Weedon***, Recently appointed as the General Manager/Executive Vice President at Brazos Transit District

***Remember if you have any key position changes that you would like listed in the TTA Newsletter please submit to: [info@TxTransit.org](mailto:info@TxTransit.org)***



# Important Dates

## Texas Transit Association

100 Congress Ave, Suite 2000  
 Austin, Texas 78701  
 Phone: (512) 900-0550  
 Email: [info@txtransit.org](mailto:info@txtransit.org)

<https://txtransit.org/>

*TTA's Mission is to support the needs of Texas' public transportation systems through statewide advocacy and education.*

- November 3rd** Daylight Savings Time, (*Fall Back*)
- November 5th** Election Day
- November 14th** Texas Transportation Commission Meeting
- November 14th** TTA Board Meeting, San Antonio
- November 28th** Thanksgiving Day
- December 12th** Texas Transportation Commission Meeting
- December 25th** Christmas Day
- January 21st** TTA Board Meeting, *All Member Meeting and Evening Reception Austin, TX (Save the Date)*
- January 22nd** TX DOT Semi Annual Operators Meeting

<https://txtransit.org/events/>

# Newsletter Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsoring the TTA newsletter, by purchasing ad space, can be a powerful way to reach decision makers at member agencies across the state. It will also help to increase exposure in a receptive environment (your customers inbox) and can subtly promote your brand whilst gaining goodwill throughout the entire association. TTA newsletters are a particularly useful tool for communicating with customers, building engagement, and directing customers to key content.

Please be aware, there is a limited number of space available so be sure to lock yours in today. There are sponsorship levels available for any budget. You are able to sponsor a single issue or the entire year (6 issues).

For information on pricing or to start your ad please contact:

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