

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

The Texas Transit Association welcomes two new board members



*Randy Clarke
Capital Metro
Austin, TX*

The Texas Transit Association Board of Directors appointed Randy Clarke of Capital Metro and Serena Stevenson of Waco Transit System to fill two open board positions on August 26th, 2020. We are excited to have both Randy and Serena as part of our board and are looking forward to the leadership and expertise that each will bring to the association.

Also, we are currently seeking individuals to serve on a number of committees. If you or a member of your agency is interested in serving on a committee please

email: allen@txtransit.org.

Click here for a complete list of [committees](#)



*Serena Stevenson
Waco Transit System
Waco, TX*

Flu vaccinations can prevent influenza (flu).

The Flu is a contagious disease that spreads around the United States every year, usually between October and May. Anyone can get the flu, but it is more dangerous for some people. Infants and young children, people 65 years of age and older, pregnant women, and people with certain health conditions or a weakened immune system are at greatest risk of flu complications.

The CDC recommends everyone 6 months of age and older get vaccinated every flu season. It takes about 2 weeks for protection to develop after the vaccination.

There are many flu viruses, and they are always changing. Each year a new flu vaccine is made to protect against three or four viruses that are likely to cause disease in the upcoming flu season. Even when the vaccine doesn't exactly match these viruses, it may still provide some protection.

Please note: The Influenza vaccine does not cause flu. Information taken from the [CDC](#).



Houston METRO Named Outstanding Public Transportation System of the Year



METRO has received a national award recognizing the transit agency's numerous achievements over the last three years. The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) has honored the Authority with its 2020 **"Outstanding Public Transportation System Achievement Award."** METRO President & CEO Tom Lambert made the announcement at the transit authority's August board meeting. Lambert commended staff for its contributions to the organization and the community, and thanked Board members for their leadership and support. This is the second time in five years and the third time in the agency's history to receive the award.

The annual award acknowledges excellence among public transportation providers in North America. APTA Award winners are touted as role models of excellence, leadership, and innovation whose accomplishments have greatly advanced public transportation.

METRO competed and won in the awards category for largest transit agencies, those providing at least 20 million or more passenger trips annually. The Authority was judged on safety, operations and maintenance, customer service, financial management, sustainability, workforce development, attendance and employee costs, diversity and inclusion, equity, marketing, policy administration, and community relations. Quantitative measures including ridership were also considered.



TTA would like to congratulate Carole Warlick of Hill Country Transit District on her recent Retirement

After 35+ years of dedicated service, Carole Warlick, General Manager of Hill Country Transit District has retired effective July 31. Carole has a tremendous history of local, state, and national involvement in transit issues and has consequently served in numerous organizations including: President & Board Member, Texas Transit Association; Board Member, South West Transit Association; State Delegate to the Community Transportation Association of America; Chairman of the State Bus and Paratransit Rodeo Committee; Chairman of the TxDOT Transit Operations Advisory Committee; Chairman of the TxDOT Section 18 Funding Formula Committee; Board Member of Central Texas Transportation Alliance; Committee Member, TTI Project "One Stop Shop for Transit Coordination"; Chairman of the Central

Texas Regional Transportation Advisory Group; Technical Committee Member, Central Texas Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO); Member of the Transportation Planning-Policy Board for the Killeen-Temple MPO; and Member of numerous TxDOT Ad-HOC Planning Committees.

She has received the 1996 TxDOT Friend-of-Texas Transit Award as well as the 2004 Community Transportation of the Year (National) Award. Also, during Carole's time as HCTD General Manager, Hill Country Transit District received the 2007 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Annual-Award for Success in Enhancing Ridership; as well as the FTA Region VI 2015 Transit System of the Year Award. Region VI consist of TX, OK, AR, LA, and NM. Carole has also received an honorary lifetime membership from the Texas Transit Association.

HCTD has also had some extraordinary accomplishments under Carole's leadership as General Manager. These include, but are not limited to the following: Accomplished two perfect FTA Triennial-Reviews and a third Triennial with only one finding (triennials, are three-year all-inclusive compliance audits). Purchased property and completed a new 6,500 square foot administrative facility in 2011 and moved all administrative functions from a small warehouse. Purchased a 15+ acre commercial property and rehabilitated it into a Central Operations Complex consisting of an operations management building, an eight-bay maintenance shop, a central dispatch and drivers-lounge building, a fueling facility with ample parking, and an automated bus wash. Notably so, Carole's wisdom will be greatly missed in Central Texas.

Carole has been married 48 years to husband Gary, which is just another testament to her commitment and dedication. We wish her well in the next chapter of life where she will continue enjoying her passion for horses and caring for all sorts of farm animals, as well as her longtime hobby of designing and creating southwestern arts & crafts.

The Texas Transit Association would like to wish Carole the best of luck as she begins this next chapter of her life.

Hosted by Texas Transit Association (TTA)

Presented by ADA Guru

ADA Requirements for Bus & Paratransit Services Webinar

DATES



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th

&

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th



EACH SESSION HELD FROM 9:30AM - 12:00PM CST

Course Description & Audience

Held over 2 days, this 5-hour course will review the operating elements required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in providing fully accessible fixed route bus and paratransit services to people with disabilities. The course is designed for Public Transit professionals working for cities & transit agencies, their contractors and consultants. Staff recommended to attend includes Operations Managers, Safety Analysts, Trainers, Road Supervisors, Dispatchers and Bus Operators.

Registration Information

~~\$225~~ **\$165 per person – reduced rate! – TXDOT scholarships available to Texas transit professionals!**

Credit card users can make payment and register at ADAguru.co/workshops. For payment via check, please email Jess Segovia at yourADAguru@gmail.com.



TOPICS INCLUDE

- **Impacts of COVID**
- Service Animals
- Denying Service
- Assisting riders with disabilities using wheelchairs & walkers
- Paratransit Equivalency Requirements
- Reasonable Modification & more!

WORKSHOP HISTORY

Past participants include transit staff from various agencies from around the country, including L.A. METRO, Charlotte CATS, TriMet, Access Services, OCTA, Valley Metro, NAIPTA, First Transit, RATP Dev, and many others.

ABOUT THE PRESENTER

Jess Segovia is a public transit professional with two decades of experience working for L.A. Metro, Access Services and Parsons Brinckerhoff.

He has also facilitated sessions at National RTAP, AzTA, CalACT and SWTA conferences.

Items of Interest from TxDOT's Public Transportation Division (TxDOT-PTN)

Comprehensive Training Program – Online Courses

Did you know: TxDOT-PTN's Comprehensive Training Program offers a wide variety of useful online courses for all levels of transit staff.

A month-by-month calendar of upcoming training opportunities is available on our public web page: <https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/public-transportation.html>. Each entry lists the provider, includes the cost, and provides a link to register. You'll also find a concise description of each course.

Scholarships are available to cover training expenses. To apply, contact Justin Smith at Justin.Smith3@txdot.gov or (512) 486-5956.

Courses through the end of 2020 offer valuable education focused on these topics and more:

- Project Management
- Financial Management
- Business Plan Development
- HR Management
- Performance Measurements
- Customer Service
- Workplace safety and COVID-19

For more information on TxDOT Comprehensive Training Program: Adam.Bailey@txdot.gov or (512) 486-5953.

Public Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting to be Conducted Virtually on October 27

Meeting Begins 10am.

Link to join

(no password needed):
<https://txdot.webex.com/txdot/onstage/g.php?MTID=ea432830a20a485aceb01c930add81f51>

Texas Transportation Commission Actions

July 2020 – Planning Program funds

These awards reflect the allocation of state funds and federal §5304 funds to locally designated lead agencies for the Regionally Coordinated Transportation Planning 5 Year Plan update.

THE PROTERRA CATALYST® BATTERY-ELECTRIC BUS

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The purpose-built design of the Catalyst vehicle enables the best placement of battery packs, creating a lower center of gravity for the greatest stability. Designed from the cell level up for heavy-duty transit usage, Proterra® batteries have a ruggedized, commercial-grade housing to withstand harsh environments.

Sensors throughout each pack enable continuous monitoring for faster diagnostics and service, while active thermal management software ensures optimal operation in any climate. Built in Proterra's Silicon Valley battery manufacturing facility by the best minds in battery engineering, Proterra battery systems are designed to be compact, safe and powerful.



YOUR RESOURCE AT PROTERRA

Lauren Cochran Scoville

Lauren Cochran Scoville is Proterra's Senior Director of Sales for the Southwest, working with transit agencies to drive bus electrification in the region. For more than a decade, Lauren has worked to deploy and research new technologies in transit, working in operations and then innovation at Houston METRO, transit mobility research at the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, and operations and maintenance at Foothill Transit. At Foothill Transit, Lauren co-led the project that resulted in Proterra's first electric bus deployment. Lauren holds a master's degree in Public Administration from the USC and a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the UT San Antonio. Lauren can be reached directly at lcochran@proterra.com.

TTA WELCOMES PROTERRA AS A NEW MEMBER

proterra.com



Federal Transit Administration's updates from Region 6 office:

FTA and Emergency Preparedness

As the Atlantic hurricane season enters its most active phase, FTA is actively working to keep their recipient emergency contact information up to date. When a storm heads toward the Gulf of Mexico, FTA will send out an email to the recipients most likely in the path of the storm to provide updates related to any **planned or proposed evacuation services**, including steps taken to protect equipment and facilities, requests you may have for FTA assistance, and steps you are taking to ensure social distancing during the pandemic. If no activities are planned, please let FTA know that as well.

If you are activated to provide emergency evacuation services, or your services/ facilities/ equipment are impacted in any way, please provide FTA the following information **on a daily basis**:

- Emergency transportation services being provided, including number of passengers. If number of passengers cannot be provided, please provide the number of trips, and types/capacity of vehicles so that number of passengers can be estimated.
- Status of regular service.
- Damages to vehicles and facilities.
- Impacts to transit employees.

Please send your responses to these requests to Terence Plaskon (terence.plaskon@dot.gov) and Laura Wallace (laura.wallace@dot.gov).

FTA would like to remind recipients that they may assist with evacuations or other movement of people that might otherwise be considered charter transportation when that transportation is in response to an emergency declared by the President, governor, or mayor, or in an emergency requiring immediate action prior to a formal declaration. Please make sure you keep records of transportation services provided to evacuees and the cost of these services as they may be reimbursed by FTA or FEMA.

FTA has posted information for transit agencies on its hurricane and natural disaster response page. ([For entire article](#))

<https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grant-programs/emergency-relief-program/fta-hurricane-natural-disaster-response>

Additional guidance is provided in the *Federal Register* Notice to Establishment of Emergency Relief Docket for Calendar Year 2020 related to the temporary relief from FTA administrative and statutory requirements.

Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Regulation

The [PTASP regulation](#) requires all operators of public transportation systems that are recipients and subrecipients of FTA's [Urbanized Area Formula Grants](#) (Section 5307) to develop safety plans that include the processes and procedures to implement [Safety Management Systems \(SMS\)](#). FTA has deferred applicability of this requirement for operators that only receive funds through FTA's [Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Formula Program](#) (Section 5310) and/or [Rural Area Formula Program](#) (Section 5311).

As part of the Annual Certifications and Assurances, transit operators must certify they have a safety plan in place for meeting the requirements of the rule by July 20, 2020. However, in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, on April 22, 2020, FTA issued a [Notice of Enforcement Discretion](#), effectively extending the PTASP compliance deadline to December 31, 2020. All plans will be reviewed starting October 1, 2021 through FTA's oversight process. For guidance and updates to assist in the preparation and implementation of the PTASP Final Rule, please visit FTA's website at www.transit.dot.gov/PTASP.



GoPass® Approved for STAR Transit

Passengers can soon use the GoPass app to ride in Kaufman County, Rockwall County, Mesquite, Balch Springs, Seagoville, Hutchins and DeSoto.

The Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) board has approved an interlocal agreement with STAR Transit for licensing of the GoPass® Mobile App and its supporting systems for the next three years.

Created by DART and launched in 2013, GoPass® is the simple way to pay and ride - without the hassle of carrying cash. It was the first public transit ticket-purchasing app in the nation that involved multiple agencies and different types of transportation.

GoPass®, approved by STAR Transit's Board on July 21, is already in use by several transit agencies including DART, Trinity Railway Express (TRE), Denton County Transit Authority (DCTA), Trinity Metro and Tulsa Transit.

STAR Transit will provide the free app by the end of 2020 for convenient and safe transit planning and purchasing for customers, especially during the coronavirus pandemic, in Kaufman County, Rockwall County, Mesquite, Balch Springs, Seagoville, Hutchins and DeSoto.

Most CapMetro Services to Return to Regular Service



AUSTIN, Texas - Starting Sunday, August 16, most CapMetro services will return to their regular service levels. There are a few notable exceptions and additional service changes noted below.

Several routes will operate more often than usual during busy daytime hours to ensure customers are able to maintain a safe, physical distance from each other while on board. These include Route 1 North Lamar/South Congress, Route 7 Duval/Dove Springs, Route 10 South 1st/Red River, Route 20 Manor Road/Riverside and Route 300 Springdale/Oltorf.

With University of Texas classes returning for the fall semester, most UT Shuttle service will be reinstated, with the exception of Route 680 North Riverside/Lakeshore, Route 681 Intramural Fields/Far West and Route 682 40 Acres/East Campus.

MetroRail will operate a similar schedule to what has been in place since March, and Route 455 Leander/Lakeline Shuttle will be removed from service. All Night Owl and E-bus service will remain suspended, along with some MetroExpress routes, including Route 980 North MoPac Express, Route 981 Oak Knoll Express and Route 987 Leander/Lakeline Express.

For detail of these service changes visit capmetro.org/august2020/. Customers can also visit CapMetro's COVID-19 update page to see the latest news to service changes, as they may continue to change as the community responds to the pandemic.

CCRTA Has Donated More Than 30,000 Masks to Community First Responders

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – In response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic affecting the community, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA) has donated more than 30,000 masks to local first responders and community members as part of their “B” Safe campaign.

The donation was announced at a “B” Safe campaign press conference, which was held at the CCRTA’s Staples Street Center. The event was attended by local leadership including Mayor Joe McComb, Nueces County Health Administrator Luis Wilmot, and various first response agencies. Representatives from organizations receiving donations were present to accept CCRTA’s mask contributions.

"We want our community members to know that the CCRTA is doing the best they can to give them a safe, clean ride to work, grocery store, the doctor, or wherever they need to go," said Eddie Martinez, CCRTA Board of Directors Chair.

"Our goal through the ‘B’ Safe campaign and donation of more than 30,000 masks to first responders, is to help our community reduce the spread of COVID-19, and help flatten the curve. We are in this together," stated Jorge Cruz-Aedo, CCRTA Chief Executive Officer.



CCRTA Board of Directors Board Chair Eddie Martinez and CCRTA CEO Jorge Cruz-Aedo



CCRTA continues to emphasize reducing the spread of COVID-19 through physical and digital messaging. At least nine CCRTA buses will include bus wraps that emphasize the importance of facial masks. CCRTA has also donated advertising space to Nueces County to help share the message about wearing a mask.

For the latest information on CCRTA’s response to COVID-19, the organization’s continued safety measures and other updates, please visit [ccrtatx.org](https://www.ccrtatx.org)



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To further enhance protection in the bus/transit industry, Creative Bus Sales is also manufacturing custom driver guards designed to allow quick installation and minimal vehicle modification. Our unique designs provide the best protection based on your vehicle type and chassis. These solutions are easily segmented to accommodate any existing vehicle components or customized for specific applications. Manufactured with quality material, the polycarbonate side barriers are AS-4 certified, meeting the FMVSS 205 and the textile barriers meet the FMVSS 302.



Rotating Hinge Design

Vehicle Type: Single-Cab Door Cutaways with Front Passenger Entry
Chassis: E-Series, F-Series



Sliding Hinge Design

Vehicle Type: Dual-Cab Door Cutaways
Chassis: E-Series, F-Series



Textile Design

Vehicle Type: Minivans, Full-Size Vans, Dual-Cab Door Cutaways
Chassis: Ford Transit, Dodge ProMaster, E-Series, F-Series

[Explore Kits and Components](#)



A Legislative Update

By Wade Long

ELECTIONS:

The main focus at the State Capitol is the general election in November. All of the 150 Texas House of Representative districts are up for election every two years and almost half of the State Senators are up for election. The Republicans hold a majority of the Texas Senate by a margin of 19 Republicans to 12 Democrats. It looks like only one Republican Senator is in a competitive general election race. Senator Pete Flores is running against Democrat Roland Gutierrez. This Senate district has generally favored Democrats and Roland's home of Bexar County enjoys a majority of the voters.

In the House, the Republicans hold 83 seats and the Democrats hold 67 seats. The Democrats believe that 16-18 of those Republican house seats are competitive and the party is enjoying a great deal of money from national democratic groups. Forward Majority, a national super PAC, plan to invest \$6.2 million into 18 competitive house races. There are too many unknowns to determine if the Democrats are close to turning the House.

On August 23rd, Governor Abbott ordered an emergency special election in Texas Senate District 30 to replace outgoing Senator Pat Fallon. Senator Fallon has been nominated to run as the Republican candidate for Congress. The special election will be held on Tuesday, September 29th. Senate District 30 covers an area in North Texas that wraps around the northern part of Dallas and Fort Worth and goes all the way to Wichita Falls. Leading candidates include current state house member Drew Springer, Denton Mayor Chris Watts and Shelley Luther. Shelley Luther is the Dallas salon owner who was jailed earlier this year over her refusal to shut down her business due to the COVID pandemic.

UPCOMING LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

For the upcoming legislative session, the Texas Constitution requires the Texas Legislature to work on two issues: the state budget and redistricting.

The United States Constitution requires the reapportionment of congressional seats according to population from a decennial census.

The Texas Constitution requires the legislature to redistrict Texas House and Senate seats during its first regular session following publication of the decennial census.

Federal census population data is to be delivered to the state by April 1. Usually, the census data is delivered months before this date. However, due to the COVID epidemic the time line of these population numbers are in flux. After the state receives the census numbers the legislature drafts redistricting bills which move through the process like any other legislation.

The Legislative Budget Office issued new detailed instructions for state agency legislative appropriation requests for the 2022-2023 biennium. In June, the Governor, Lt. Governor and Speaker asked state agencies to reduce their current budgets by 5% because of the loss of revenue due to the COVID-19 epidemic. Of course there were numerous exceptions to the reduction including public schools, special fund agencies and health agencies. All state entities will be required to submit a budget request with a base funding amount equal to your adjusted 2020-2021 base. Agencies that were exempted from the 5 percent reduction in the 2020- 2021 appropriations years will be provided adjusted baseline numbers for purposes of the 2022-2023 LAR. Any request above that base level, including a restoration of reductions, will be included as an exceptional item.

The Comptroller of Public Accounts recently stated, the current economic outlook "carries an unprecedented amount of uncertainty." In July, Comptroller Glenn Hegar projected a \$4.6 billion shortfall for the 87th Legislative Session. This is a significant swing from the estimated \$3 billion surplus forecast last October.

VIA Extends Assistance Program to Support Local Workforce

VIA Metropolitan Transit announced Friday it will make its Workforce Assistance Pass available through Dec. 31, 2020, as local workers continue to be impacted by the social and economic effects of COVID-19. The program was introduced in June to help unemployed customers who are looking for work or training, while receiving unemployment benefits. It was originally set to expire on August 31.

The complimentary pass is good for 31 days from activation and is available for any VIA customer who presents a copy of their unemployment benefit statement (dated May 15 or after) and a current photo ID at a VIA ticket window during normal business hours.

Upon review of the customer's statement of benefits and ID card, a Workforce Assistance Pass will be issued using the free VIA goMobile app or on a VIA goCard. There is a limit of one per customer. Customers with extended unemployment benefits can request a subsequent 31-day pass by following the same process: presenting their updated statement of unemployment benefits and ID card with photo at a VIA ticket window.

VIAtrans customers requesting Workforce Assistance Passes can contact VIA's goLine at (210) 362-2020 for more information and instructions on how to apply for a pass via email.

All VIA riders are required to follow social distancing and safety guidelines in place at all VIA facilities and Code of Conduct guidelines while riding, including requirements for non-exempt passengers to wear a face covering over their nose and mouth, practice social distancing, and observe rules against joyriding.



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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.



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The Texas Transit Association Would like to Thank Every- one for Wearing Your Mask.



BUS DRIVERS TO RECEIVE PAY INCREASE BASED ON PERFORMANCE AND TO BOOST RECRUITMENT



Transit drivers will receive a pay increase, effective Sept. 6, in recognition of their consistent performance and the agency's solid growth projections in counties east and south of the City of Dallas. On Tuesday (Aug. 25), the Board of Directors approved raises for drivers currently on board as well as a higher starting pay rate, with the expectations that demand for the agency's transportation services will increase considerably throughout fourth quarter 2020 and 2021.

"Our drivers are exceptional. Their driving skills are top-notch, and safety is always paramount. Equally important is their friendliness and respect for our riders—they are there to answer questions, to assist persons getting on and off their vehicles, and to meet the travel schedules that our riders are depending upon," said Tommy Henricks, Executive Director.

Henricks said the higher wages will allow STAR Transit to be competitive with other transportation services in recruiting dependable, customer service-oriented drivers.

Hourly wages and benefits.

There are two base pay classifications. New hires will now start at \$15 an hour, a \$3 bump from \$12. A Driver Incentive Program for fulltime drivers is in place, with pay increasing from \$13.50 an hour to \$16.50 an hour. Raises are also given based on merit. Holidays, personal time off, and vacation time often add up to approximately 30 days of additional compensation. On day one of their employment, employees are eligible for medical insurance and a retirement plan that matches employee contributions dollar for dollar.

Hiring Now

"The demands for public transportation are increasing throughout the region, and it is important for STAR Transit to be staffed and ready to serve all segments of the population," said Henricks.

For more information about driver qualifications and available driver positions, go to www.STARTransit.org.





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Flexible Structures
Seamless Transactions



Great Pricing

Volume Discounts
Intelligent Purchasing



Nationwide Network

Warranty & Customer Care
Parts & Service Departments

GoBus is rolling out it's new fleet!



In an effort to optimize resources and become more effective, GoBus has purchased some smaller vehicles! Other GoBus news includes transitioning to new technology to improve operational efficiencies and receipt of a grant award to purchase a mobile app, a call ahead notification module, and automated fare collection equipment!



Smaller vehicles are safer to operate, use less gas, require less maintenance, provides a smoother ride for the passengers and allows for increased visibility for the operators.
-Vince Huerta, Director of Transportation



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Texas Transit Association

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<https://txtransit.org/>

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

Mark your calendars:

March 2, 2021 TTA Legislative Day at the Capitol

Join us on Texas Independence Day for a day at the capitol on March 2, 2021.



Evening reception to be held at the Driskill Hotel at 604 Brazos St, Austin, TX.

May 21 -26, 2021 TTA State Rodeo, Expo and Conference in Corpus Christi

May 21-22 Rodeo
May 24-26 Conference
May 24-25 Expo

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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