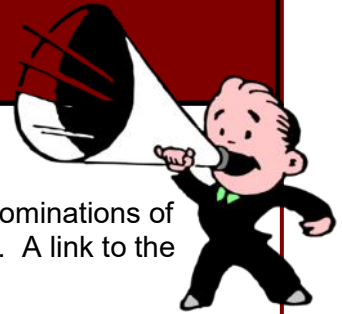


Supporting the needs of Texas' public transportation systems through statewide advocacy and education.

Call for Nominations!



The Texas Transit Association's Nominating Committee is seeking nominations of candidates to stand for election for the TTA Board of Directors in the following categories: Metro, Small Urban, and Rural. All nominations of your colleagues, including self nominations are enthusiastically welcomed. A link to the board nomination form is included below.

Being a board member allows members to expand their professional network and be an advocate for the transit industry within the state of Texas!

TTA board members serve a two-year term. The Board meets several times a year in person and virtually. Board members also attend an annual workshop and the annual conference.

The TTA board consists of 18 members and is comprised of 5 Metro, 5 Small Urban, 5 Rural, and 3 Associate Members.

Nominees who confirm their interest in standing for election will be requested to supply a formal candidate statement by email confirming their interest. The Nominating Committee will review all nominations and approve a slate of nominees with the current Board of Directors. An election ballot will then be circulated to the entire Membership. All nominations must be received no later than 5 PM CST on November 30, 2020.

For any questions about the nominating process, duties, or the time commitment of a board member, please contact Allen E. Hunter by email at allen@txtransit.org.

Link to Nomination Form: [TTA Board of Directors Nomination Form](#)



TEXASTRANSIT
ASSOCIATION

Wishes you and your family a
**Safe and Happy
Thanksgiving!**

TTA Board Member Gary Thomas of DART Announces Plans to Retire



Gary C. Thomas
President/Executive Director
Dallas Area Rapid Transit

Gary C. Thomas, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) president/executive director, has informed the DART Board of Directors of his intention to retire from his position after almost 20 years of leadership. The board will initiate a search process to identify a successor for Mr. Thomas.

"It has been my privilege and honor to be part of Dallas Area Rapid Transit for this moment in time. I have seen many "firsts" throughout the years and have been able to work with many dedicated board members and team members as DART has evolved into an indispensable resource for our residents throughout North Texas and beyond," said Thomas. "I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our current management team and our almost 3,700 employees, as well as all of the DART team over the last 20 years that without whom our shared success would not have been possible. I'm extremely proud of what we have built with help from our communities and elected officials with whom we share a vision for our future. I have complete confidence that DART will continue to improve the quality of life in North Texas."

Thomas joined DART in 1998 as the senior vice president of project management with almost 20 years of experience as an engineer and architect, consulting for national and international projects including DART projects going back to 1986. He was appointed as president/executive director in 2001 when DART's rail system was only 20-miles long and led the agency to provide North Texas residents with the longest light rail network in the country at 93-miles.

Under his leadership, Thomas forged the agency into an award-winning transit model, providing residents across DART's 700-mile service area with a world-class public transit network. Through Thomas' leadership, DART has frequently defined what a modern 21st century transit system can be.

Thomas directed DART's commitment to sustainability and conservation with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, providing clean, alternative transportation options that help decrease the number of cars on the road. This included a focus on renewable energy and the transition of the entire DART bus fleet to the more environmentally sensitive natural gas fuel rather than diesel. DART was also an early proponent and adopter of electric buses, adding 7 buses to the fleet in 2018.

As a champion of the Mobility as a Service (MaaS) service model at DART, which provides travelers with the ability to plan, book and pay for the mobility solution that works best for their needs, through the award-winning GoPass App, he led the effort to make DART's multimodal transit system flexible, reliable, affordable and more available to everyone by developing new technologies and services including fare equity, cash to mobile options and GoLink.

With a focus on ensuring that DART continue to serve as both a mobility and economic engine for the long-term benefit of the entire region, Thomas developed policies that engaged development projects near DART light rail stations, generating billions of dollars in revenue, taxes and jobs for the local economy while enhancing mobility opportunities that improved the quality of life of North Texas residents.

"While there will always be more work to do, I know that we have the right team in place to turn our vision into reality, improving the lives of our riders by providing safe, timely transit solutions," explained Thomas. "

The Texas Transit Association is grateful to Gary for his leadership and support of public transportation throughout the state. We wish him the best of luck as he begins a new chapter in his life.

Federal Transit Administration's updates from Region 6 office:

Federal Transit Administration Region 6 Updates

Emergency Relief Program Flexibility Under Sections 5307 and 5311 for Actions in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

Region 6 would like to remind grantees of FTA's Emergency Relief (E.R.) Section 5324 program flexibility available under Section 5307 and Section 5311. Unliquidated funds in existing grants and unobligated funds that remain available to grantees can be used at 100% federal share for activities taken directly in response to the COVID-19 emergency. There are several differences in eligibility under 5307 and 5311 E.R. flexibility and the CARES Act. Regardless of the status of your CARES Act funding, if you have additional expenses incurred under activities taken in response to COVID-19, and you have Section 5307 or 5311 funds available, you may be able to employ this flexibility. Please contact your Region 6 pre-award grant manager for more information. FTA's CARES Act web pages have additional information on these flexibilities: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/cares-act> and <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/comparison-fta-emergency-relief-appropriated-urbanized-area-formula-section-5307-rural-area>.

COVID-19 FAQs Update

FTA is working closely with the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](https://www.cdc.gov) and other Federal partners to provide guidance to the public transportation industry in response to the [coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus). On October 14, FTA posted three new and revised two existing [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) regarding COVID-19 on its website that cover administrative relief and other funding sources.



Jess Segovia, your ADA Guru, is offering the following courses in December to assist transit professionals of all levels and responsibilities in understanding how to provide high quality, compliant accessible public transit services.

December 1 & 3, 2020: ADA Requirements for Bus & *Demand Responsive Services Webinar

December 2, 2020: Bus Stop Accessibility Requirements Webinar

December 7 & 9, 2020: Advanced Wheelchair Securement Strategies - Addressing Difficult to Secure Wheelchairs Webinar

December 8 & 10, 2020: ADA Paratransit Eligibility Determination Webinar

December 14, 2020: Creating Effective Operating Policies, Procedures & Documentation Strategies

December 15, 2020 : Enhancing Your Community's Mobility Management Webinar

Pricing and Registration

TTA would like to welcome and introduce the team at INSURICA, one of our recently added Associate members

INSURICA OVERVIEW

INSURICA joined the Texas Transit Association in June of 2020.

WHO WE ARE

INSURICA is a family-owned business comprised of risk advisers and employee benefit consultants that specialize in core industries and business disciplines. This unique structure provides INSURICA transit system customers with unparalleled access to the best insurance markets and risk management expertise available, all delivered through a local relationship.

THE ADDED VALUE WE BRING OUR CLIENTS

Our approach is to understand our clients' entire business structure to develop a comprehensive insurance and risk management plan.

With this approach we are able to develop a plan that helps our clients balance their risks to combat the rising cost of insurance premiums. Using INSURICA tools we will provide:

- ◆ **On Site Loss Control and Risk Management**
 - Ultimately creating lower exposures to mitigate future risks which positively impact your bottom line.
- ◆ **HR Compliance Tools and Consulting**
 - To help guide communications that address sensitive situations to help create a more positive employer and employee experience.
- ◆ **Workers' Compensation and Experience Modification (e-mod) Management**
 - Helping clients become best-in-class businesses, which lowers their risk and results in better insurance coverage.

WHY QUOTING YOUR INSURANCE IS BAD FOR BUSINESS

Traditional agents/brokers are primarily focused on "quoting and placement" – a reactive approach in today's changing marketplace. The result is a poor (or lack of) measurement of "total cost of risk;" instability through market cycles and changes; and lack of broker stewardship or accountability. The way to overcome the old way of purchasing insurance is a Broker Selection process, [click here](#) to learn more.

Our approach places priority on identifying and controlling a client's management of exposures. The result is a lower total cost of risk, stability through market cycles, and increased broker responsibility from an experienced trusted adviser relationship.

If you would like to learn more about how INSURICA can help your transit system with an insurance evaluation and employee benefits, please reach out any time. Contacting us prior to your renewal will give us the ability to assess your current program and bring you a comparative solution helping to improve coverage and reduce premium.



David L. Cooper
Risk Consultant
David.Cooper@INSURICA.com
512.774.8814 (cell)



Lindsay Neal
Employee Benefits
Lindsay.Neal@INSURICA.com
405.824.3484 (cell)

Find Out More About Our Services and Capabilities

We are here to answer any questions you may have and look forward to hearing from you.

INSURICA.com

INSURICA ■
TRANSPORTATION

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

Supporting Local Transit Providers During the Pandemic

Texas transit providers now face challenges they've never seen before. *How can TxDOT help ensure they receive the funding and technical assistance needed to successfully confront these challenges during – and after – the pandemic?*

Assessing the current situation

Deepening our understanding of those challenges, and of their impacts on the transit providers we support, was essential. We asked top transit executives to complete a brief survey focusing on the pandemic's impacts on their organizations. Topics included:

- Service Changes
 - More than two thirds of respondents had reduced fares
 - Nearly 40% had added a new or different services not previously offered
 - More than a third of respondents had cancelled or suspended some service
 - Almost half had reduced service hours
- Ridership
 - Nearly every provider had experienced a significant decline, some as much as 75% or higher – details are provided in the [survey results](#)
- Actions Taken to Protect Employees and Customers
 - All respondents had increased their daily cleaning protocols
 - All had required drivers to wear masks
 - The vast majority required riders to wear masks and limited the capacity of vehicles to encourage social distancing
 - Most had installed protective barriers in offices and/or vehicles
- Communication with Customers – what methods have proven most effective?
 - Top answers: Flyers, Posters, Website Announcements, Word of Mouth
 - Bottom answers: Email, Newspapers, TV ads
- Employee Impacts
 - Almost 20% reported reductions in staff
 - Over 60% reported that at least one employee had tested positive for COVID-19
- Revenue Impacts

TxDOT Semiannual Transit Operators Business Meeting to be conducted Virtually on Wednesday, January 27.

Meeting link will be transmitted via TxDOT email.

Public Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting to be Conducted Virtually on Friday, January 29 at 1pm.

[Click here](#) to join (no password needed):

Texas has reached 20 years of daily deaths on Texas roadways.

Please Join TxDOT's effort to End the Streak.

[Click here](#) for free downloadable print materials, graphics for your website, and photos, testimonials and videos to use on social media – even virtual meeting backgrounds.

Continued on next page

- Over 80% reported a current or anticipated decline in traditional levels of local revenues that support their operations

TxDOT also asked for creative input: *What can we do to assist you in your efforts during this ongoing emergency?*

The information we collected will inform TxDOT's short-term strategic decisions as we move forward into the uncharted territory of the near future. It will support our efforts to keep TxDOT's strategic priorities aligned with the real-world needs of the transit providers we serve.

Strategic priorities and next steps

TxDOT's Strategic Priorities for managing federal CARES Act funding are:

- Emergency Relief – Eight months of full operational expense coverage
- Economic Recovery – Cover potential gaps in local and state funding
- Resilience – Modernization of fleet and facilities / ongoing operational needs

As of late October 2020, \$85 million in emergency relief funding has been delivered to Texas transit providers, including intercity service providers. TxDOT is developing an estimate of anticipated state funding gaps, and an example list of resilience-related investments for fleet and facilities, with a goal of awarding remaining CARES Act funds to transit providers in Spring/Summer 2021.

Want more detail?

The TxDOT survey is [here](#)

The results are detailed [here](#)



TTA Welcomes James Oliver as the new General Manager of Island Transit

The Texas Transit Association would like to congratulate and welcome James Oliver as the new GM at Island Transit in Galveston, Texas.

Between moving across the state and dodging the storms that keep coming in from the gulf, James is beginning to get settled in to his new role. If you would like to congratulate James, you can contact him at: joliver@galvestontx.gov

Island Transit is a public transportation system serving Galveston Island. The transit system has been in operation for more than 40 years and has a service area that covers approximately 25 square miles. Galveston has long been known for its historic streetcar system, however Hurricane Ike severely damaged the vintage steel wheel trolleys. The City of Galveston is currently working to rehabilitate the steel wheel trolleys, and has expanded the service area of the streetcar trolleys through the use of rubber tire trolleys. The rubber tire trolleys offer both a Downtown Route, and a Seawall Route.





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Implementing the New Normal Total Decontamination and Driver Protection Systems

Creative Bus Sales has expanded its services and expertise to meet the demand of our marketplace as it adapts to the "new normal" of operating safely during and beyond COVID-19.

Total Decontamination System

We have partnered with AeroClave to bring you the latest in decontamination technology. AeroClave fogging, ClO₂-based systems offer fast turn-around times and ease-of-use with the ability to ensure whole area decontamination utilizing a safe, EPA-approved disinfectant.



All AeroClave products are:

- ✓ Made in America
- ✓ Buy America Compliant
- ✓ Exclusively Distributed by Creative Bus Sales for Bus/Transit Industry

Vital Oxide Disinfectant is:

- ✓ EPA Registered (82972-1) meeting high efficacy standard, killing COVID-19 and all bacteria and virus on EPA label during 10-min. dwell
- ✓ Tested by Boeing Corporation as safe on wide range of aircraft interior equipment and surfaces

Driver Protection System

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](#)

Effective October 30, 2020, Ryan Larson has been named the Interim CEO of Ecolane.

Transit is in Ryan's DNA. He has been in transit for more than 35 years. Starting his transit career as a bus washer. He then worked his way up from bus washer to bus driver, driver trainer, and eventually general manager and progressively responsible executive positions at transit software and management companies.



Ryan J. Larson
Chief Executive Officer
ryan.larsen@ecolane.com

He's been where many of you are today, managing transit agencies day in and day out, and he understands your struggles. He has worked hard to bring scheduling solutions that address your concerns to improve the Ecolane product line. That is one of many reasons why Ryan is so passionate about Ecolane and providing excellent customer service to all our customers.

TTA wishes Ryan and Steve Ross the former CEO the absolute best.

Select the Link below for a Video Message from Ryan:

http://videos.ecolane.com/watch/GX1L4qWx8ZPurZV9aFTtw8?utm_content=145515536&utm_medium=social&utm_source=linkedin&hss_channel=lcp-143142

METRO Honors Our Nation's Heroes

In honor of Veterans Day, all veterans and active military service personnel were invited to ride METRO for free on Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2020. METRORail, local bus, METRORapid, Park & Ride and METROLift services were free the entire day. To ride, passengers needed to inform bus operators and/or fare inspectors of their veteran/military designation. METRO also offers disabled or decorated veterans free unlimited rides year-round on our light rail, local bus, METRORapid and Park & Ride service when they register for a Qualified METRO Veterans Pass (MVP) card. Veterans interested in applying can learn more about the program [here](#).



Please note, METROLift customers still need to schedule trips in advance. To schedule a trip call the reservation line at 713-225-6716. Clients may also schedule a trip the day before travel by using MACS at 713-739-4690 or MACS-WEB or MACS-WEB screen reader version between 5 a.m. and 5 p.m. Please have client ID and password ready.

[Click this link](#) or the image to hear a local veteran explain why access to METRO's services are vital.

CapMetro, City of Austin Discuss Historic Prop A Passage & Project Connect Next Steps

Pivotal step toward creating a more equitable and livable city

AUSTIN, Texas – Nov. 3, 2020 –Following the historic passage of Proposition A, Capital Metro hosted a virtual live event on CapMetro's Facebook page to discuss Project Connect next steps.

"Austin voters decided it's go-time for Project Connect, and we are grateful for their trust and vision for the future," said CapMetro President and CEO Randy Clarke. "This YES vote for Project Connect is a huge step toward creating a more equitable and livable city, providing more and better ways for people to access jobs, education, health care and new opportunities."

An important next step is the launch of the Austin Transit Partnership (ATP) to guide the Project Connect investment with transparency and accountability throughout the project. More details will be available at the upcoming CapMetro board meeting on Monday, November 23.

Beyond its expanded transit system, Project Connect will bring economic and environmental benefits that will transform Central Texas and support the growth it will continue to experience.

"I'm proud to live in a city that is looking to its future — one not satisfied with the status quo. Austin is pushing to be more sustainable, equitable and affordable in new and innovative ways," said Mayor Steve Adler. "The community has spoken, and it demands transformative change to traffic, climate and to achieve fundamental fairness and justice for all. Thank you to the broad and deep coalition that worked so hard. Record numbers of voters, especially those young and new, showed up to make "change" the winner tonight. "Tomorrow, the continued work of change begins," added Adler. "I look forward to working with my council colleagues and city staff, Randy Clarke and Capital Metro, and our community's equity advocates to implement this long-sought victory."

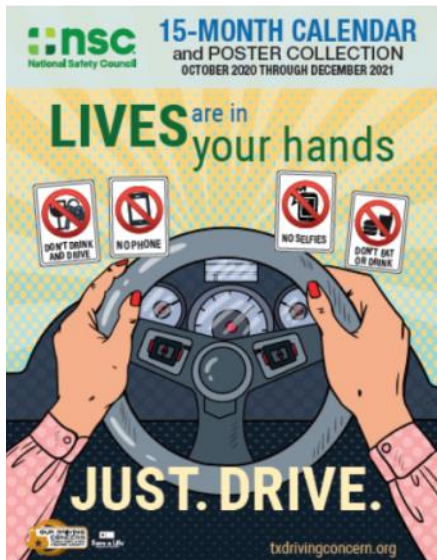


During a year of unprecedented challenges, CapMetro delivered more than 8 million trips throughout the pandemic and recently opened the Downtown Station and a new electric bus-charging yard — both ahead of schedule and under budget. "I would like to take a moment to thank and honor the essential frontline workers, including our operators and support staff, for their heroic efforts to keep our city moving," said CapMetro Board Chair Wade Cooper. "Your dedication and hard work have not gone unnoticed, and your contribution to Austin and Central Texas is vital."

Realizing this transformational plan has only been possible through the collaborative efforts of our partners in government and in the community, as well as a huge number of individuals throughout Central Texas.

"We now have an approved plan, a schedule and the dedicated funding to move us to the next phase, and we remain committed to transparency as we begin building our expanded transit network," said Clarke. "Project Connect will shape the future for generations to come."

National Safety Council's Traffic Safety Calendar and Poster Collection



15 Months of Safety

Click on the links below to print and display copies of the 2020-2021 Our Driving Concern traffic safety calendar and poster collection for your work-place.



November 2020



December 2020



January 2021



February 2021



March 2021

Cowboy Connect ready to giddy-up and go Oct. 1

By Pleasanton Express Staff

According to ART, the shuttle will have stops nearby or at Jourdanton Housing, Jourdanton Square Apartments, Jourdanton High School, Jourdanton City Hall, Walmart, H-E-B, Trade St. Housing, St. Francis Villa Senior Apartments, Pleasanton City Hall, Methodist Hospital South, Atascosa County Veterans Service Office, Atascosa County Courthouse, Atascosa Adult Probation, Poteet Post Office, Poteet Housing, Poteet Lowe's, Crestview Apartments, Coastal Bend College, The UPS Store, Pleasanton Library, Pleasanton River Park and Poteet Town Hall.



The transit system, put on by ART (Alamo Regional Transit), will have four shuttles starting routes at 7 a.m. and ending routes at 6 p.m., Monday-Friday. ART is a part of AACOG (Alamo Area Council of Governments).

Sean Scott of AACOG and ART said that this new transit system will open up economical transportation options for people to get from one of the tri-cities to another. He emphasized that safety during COVID-19 will be a priority. "We sanitize the busses hourly," said Sean Scott, Director of ART. "We spray the bus with disinfectant, offer hand sanitizer and riders must wear face masks," Scott said. AACOG runs the same program in Seguin.

The cost of transit for each entry on the system is \$1, or \$.50 if you are a senior citizen or student. There will be the opportunity to buy tokens and use in lieu of cash.

"In February, after initially being approached by Poteet Mayor Willie Leal to discuss the viability of a daily transit system, I met with the Mayors of Pleasanton, Jourdanton, Poteet and Commissioner Mark Gillespie and Sean Scott director of ART," said Atascosa County Judge Bob Hurley. "The meeting was very positive. We are a growing county and a transit service will be a great economic asset to business in the area while providing affordable transportation to all in need."

Pleasanton Mayor Travis Hall said, "We look forward to serving our citizens with low-cost transportation. It will benefit those in need and especially in adverse weather conditions."

Poteet Mayor Willie Leal acknowledged how big of an impact the shuttle will have on his residents and the county as a whole. "I think it's going to be a great benefit," Mayor Leal said. "We have a lot of citizens that don't have mobility to get to services that they need, both commercial, like H-E-B or Walmart, or needing to go to the hospital or the courthouse. So, if they don't have this transportation system, then they have to ask people for a lift or wait for one of their family members to get off from work. So, I think it will be a big benefit for everyone in Poteet, Pleasanton and Jourdanton to have this transit available."

Judge Hurley said the County hopes to include Charlotte and Lytle into the routes eventually. ART will also still offer the same curbside pickup options they have under the previous transit system. Please see route below or by visiting www.aacog.com/cowboyconnect.

TTA would like welcome Cap-A-Bus, Inc. (CAB) as one of our newest Associate Members

Texas Transit Association is proud to announce a new member, "Cap-A-Bus, Inc. (CAB)", a family owned business established in 1989 in a little town in Central Texas (Salado).

CAB manufactures some of the best built Bus Driver Barriers in the country. These barriers are sold across the US and Canada and made from top grade 304 stainless steel and the shields are made of high end 3/8"(.375) polycarbonate and formed around your drivers for full movement and comfort.

These units are unique with a gas spring system to hold the shields tight to the driver's area and then holds the shields tight to the aisle stanchion for added safety. The barriers offered range from Cut-a-ways to Nova, New Flyer, Proterra, Gillig, Thomas, MCI etc. just to name a few. All the while they are steadily manufacturing all types of body panels for the bus industry too. In addition, they can do body repair and painting of buses/vehicles in their 60,000 ft facility. They have large paint booths, ranging from 55' to 90' for painting up to 60' articulated buses. Recently, they painted 300 buses for CMTA.

For more information on Cap-A Bus please contact: Robert (Bob) Piatt, 254-947-8226 cabbarriers@gmail.com



CAB Driver Security Barrier



Specifications:

Designed for Driver Operation Safety

- ♦ 304 Stainless Steel Fabrication & Hardware
- ♦ Gas Spring Assisted, Open & Close
- ♦ Stanchion Clamp Equipped
- ♦ 3/8" Clear Polycarbonate
- ♦ Installer Friendly
- ♦ Virtually Maintenance Free
- ♦ Made in the USA
- ♦ Patent Pending

All CAB polycarbonate barrier panels are custom formed for each specific make and model to provide maximum security and driver comfort. Drivers prefer CAB's "Gas Spring Assisted" opening and closing mechanism over magnet designs.



*standard size .375 x 32" x UP TO 48"

Available Models: GILLIG * NEW FLYER * NOVA * MCI * PREVOST * VANHOOL * CUT-AWAYS

San Antonio Voters Say 'Yes' to ATD Proposition A

Additional 1/8-cent of existing sales tax to support public transit programs beginning in 2026

San Antonio voters said “yes” to funding VIA’s Keep SA Moving Plan, designed to connect more people to jobs and economic opportunity through improved and expanded VIA services.

Advanced Transportation District (ATD) Proposition A passed Tuesday with 68% of voters approving the measure that will rededicate a 1/8-cent share of local sales tax for public transit, beginning in 2026. This is not a new tax. It reallocates a portion of an existing 1 cent of local sales tax made available for transit use by the Texas Legislature.



VIA currently receives a 5/8-cent share to fund operations for over 1,200 square miles of Bexar County—a service area roughly the size of Houston’s Metro service. Other major Texas cities, including Houston, Austin and Dallas dedicate the full cent to transit, pulling billions of dollars ahead of San Antonio in transit development and infrastructure. Tuesday’s win for ATD Proposition A means more funding will go to support transportation in San Antonio in 2026.

Voters also approved the City of San Antonio’s Proposition A to renew the 1/8-cent of sales tax that supports the Pre-K 4 SA early childhood education program, and the city’s Proposition B to support local workforce and economic development.

Proposition B will begin receiving a 1/8-cent share of the 1 cent sales tax in 2021 to invest in workforce training as part of regional economic recovery plans. Beginning in 2026, that 1/8-cent share will transfer to the ATD for public transit programs, including improved frequency for VIA bus service and planning for a future Advance Rapid Transit system.

Statement from Jeffrey C. Arndt, VIA President/CEO:

“With voters’ support, we have taken a major step forward in rewriting the region’s transit history. An additional 1/8-cent sales tax will move us closer to our goals and toward parity with peer transit agencies in other major Texas cities.

We are grateful to the people of San Antonio for their vote of confidence and their show of support for funding the plan to Keep SA Moving. This initiative is the product of years of public engagement and community input and we are proud to have delivered on the community’s priorities for mobility today and in the future.

The revenue from this increment of sales tax will be available for transit improvements in 2026, but securing it today means that we can start important planning — and begin to tap into federal funding that has never before been available to our agency.

VIA has been moving people and connecting our community for over 40 years. We continue to ensure that essential workers can stay connected to essential jobs during the global pandemic so that our city can move ahead, toward recovery. I’m proud of the work our agency has done, even with the ongoing challenge of historic underfunding.

I’d like to thank the VIA operators, frontline workers and staff for the work they do, every day. Also, for the guidance and leadership from the VIA Board of Trustees and our Board Chair Hope Andrade, who separately served as chairwoman of the transit campaign that advocated for Prop. A’s passage.”

To learn more about the Keep SA Moving Plan, visit KeepSAMoving.com.



Know Your COVID-19 Antibody Status!

Texas CARES is providing **3 free COVID-19 antibody tests over a 6-month period** to Texans (5-80 years of age). Texas CARES is offered by the UTHealth School of Public Health and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). Help us understand how COVID-19 antibodies work in our community.

- To enroll, complete the consent and short survey online at <https://go.uth.edu/txcares>.
- You will receive a confirmation text message with the order number for your COVID-19 antibody test as well as a link to the [CPL location finder](#). Go to CPL for your test- no appointment necessary.
- The antibody tests are administered free of charge, and participants will receive their individual results after each sample is taken.

Your test results will be kept confidential, protected by HIPAA regulations just like your health records. We will not share individual results with your employer.

We want to hear from Texans (5-80 years of age) who have never been tested or have tested negative or positive for COVID-19! Two participants per household are eligible.



Follow us on social media and find out more!

www.texascareproject.org

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Texas CARES Video](#)

#TexasCAREsproject

#KnowYourAntibodyStatus



TTA would like to welcome Jess Segovia, the ADA Guru, as one of our newest Associate Members

Jess is a transportation professional who has spent the last two decades creating innovative programs and services for a variety of public and private agencies. Jess' core professional values of safety, communication and innovation have helped ensure the successful delivery of high quality, accessible transportation services.

Jess has operated Navigator Mobility Consulting (NMC) since 2010. NMC specializes in ADA compliance and accessibility; as well as creating innovative programs designed to maximize limited resources available to communities throughout California and Arizona. In addition, NMC delivered a variety of public transit training programs on topics like ADA & Fixed Route, ADA & Paratransit, Wheelchair Securement Training for Operators, ADA Paratransit Eligibility Determination, and Mobility Management. NMC's clients include: • METRO & Access Services (Los Angeles, California) • Valley Metro & MARC Center (Phoenix, Arizona) • OmniTrans (San Bernardino, California) • Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization (Yuma, Arizona) • A number of state Transit Organizations; including AZTA (Arizona), CalACT (California), CASTA (Colorado) and SWTA (Southwest United States)

ADA GURU's Public Transit Workshop List & Descriptions

Jess Segovia, your ADA Guru, offers the following workshops to assist transit professionals of all levels and responsibilities in providing high quality, accessible transportation services.

1. ADA Requirements for Bus & *Demand

Responsive Services: This course reviews the operating elements required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in providing fully accessible fixed route bus and demand responsive services (*ADA Paratransit, Dial-A-Ride, Deviated Fixed Route, Human Service Transportation, etc.) to people with disabilities. Content includes Non-Discrimination Requirements, Assisting Riders with Disabilities (including riders using wheelchairs, walkers, hidden disabilities, etc.), Service Animals, Direct Threat/Denial of Service, Reasonable Modification, Driver Training, Accessible Information and ADA Paratransit requirements.

2. ADA Paratransit Eligibility Determination:

This course reviews key elements in providing compliant ADA Paratransit eligibility determination services; including in-person eligibility. Topics include but are not limited to evaluating people with mobility disabilities, cognitive disabilities and visual impairments.

3. Advanced Wheelchair Securement Strategies (Addressing Difficult to Secure Wheelchairs):

This course provides comprehensive strategies for securing difficult to secure wheelchairs, scooters and other mobility aids. Content includes best practices for Driver training and securement policies.

4. Bus Stop Accessibility Requirements: This course provides a review of the ADA's requirements for creating and maintaining accessible bus stops; including path of travel and how to prioritize bus stop and amenity improvements.



ADA Guru, Jess Segovia, has over two decades of public transit experience; most recently as the ADA Compliance Manager for Los Angeles Metro.

5. Creating Effective Operating Policies,

Procedures & Documentation Strategies: This course provides best practices in creating (and enhancing) operating policies and procedures for the delivery of accessible public transit services. Includes discussing a variety of approaches to documenting issues involving riders with disabilities in order to reduce agency liability.

6. Evaluating Your Community's Transportation Coordination Effectiveness:

Participants will use an evaluation tool to evaluate the current level of transportation coordination effectiveness in their community. This exercise provides insight into how a community can more effectively plan and deliver transportation services to vulnerable populations.

7. Enhancing Your Community's Mobility

Management Program: This course reviews strategies for improving a community's mobility management program; including ways to increase participation by key community stakeholders and enhancing the safety and quality of transportation services delivered.

ADAguru.co



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DCTA AWARDED 2020 ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT OF EXCELLENCE IN PROCUREMENT

The Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA) was recently awarded the prestigious 25th Annual Achievement of Excellence in Procurement® (AEP) for 2020 from the National Procurement Institute, Inc. (NPI). The AEP Award is earned by public and nonprofit agencies that demonstrate a commitment to procurement excellence. This annual program recognizes procurement organizations that embrace innovation, professionalism, productivity, leadership and e-Procurement.

The AEP program encourages the development of excellence, as well as continued organizational improvement to earn the award annually. For 2020, there were 188 successful applicants, including 40 counties, 69 cities, 15 higher education agencies, 22 school districts, 34 special districts, five state agencies and three others.



“The work of our procurement team is essential to what we do at our agency,” Athena Forester said, DCTA Assistant Vice President of Regulatory Compliance/DBE Liaison. “This recognition for the fifth consecutive year highlights DCTA’s commitment to transparency and leadership in the Procurement industry. We are honored to be recognized alongside our peers and will continue our hard work for the benefit of the many communities we serve.”

In 1995, NPI established a program designed to recognize organizational excellence in public procurement. The AEP is awarded annually to recognize innovation, professionalism, e-procurement, productivity, and leadership in the procurement function. This prestigious award is earned by those organizations that demonstrate excellence by obtaining a high score based on standardized criteria.

The National Safety Council Our Driving Concern program honors Texas employers through an awards recognition program.

Each year, *Our Driving Concern* honors Texas employers through a unique awards recognition program.



Traffic safety awards are presented to Texas organizations that encourage positive driver behaviors among employees on and off the job. The goal is to decrease injuries and fatalities that are a result of crashes on state roads.

The workplace is a natural setting for distributing traffic safety messages and discussing driver behaviors — and it makes dollars and sense to do just that. Here’s why: By developing company policies, providing education and offering incentives, employers can save lives and save money.

Increasing traffic safety education is a way to demonstrate your concern for the well-being of employees and their families. You act as a role model for others and have a chance to be recognized for your efforts through the *Our Driving Concern* awards program: Here is the link to register: <https://txdrivingconcern.org/traffic-safety-awards/>



Texas Transit Association

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Austin, Texas 78701

Phone: (512) 900-0550

Email: info@txtransit.org

<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. (Pandemic Permitting)



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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