

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

The Texas Transit Association needs your input as we work to update this year's membership directory



We are currently in the process of updating this year's membership directory and need your input. Please select the link below and take just a few moments to update your membership profile. Your assistance will ensure that we have updated information for our members.

You will have the opportunity to provide multiple contacts if you like and can even include your agency logo. In addition, you can modify your profile at anytime when your agency experiences changes in staff. Please email Allen Hunter at Allen@txtransit.org if you have any questions.

Link to Membership Profile

#TransitStandsTogether

Transportation

We are deeply saddened by last week's events and offer our condolences to the staff and families of the Valley Transportation Authority.

COVID-19 Vaccines to be Available for Community at CCRTA Transfer Stations

Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA) is working with the Corpus Christi – Nueces County Public Health District, to provide Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccinations at each of CCRTA's Transfer Stations in June. Vaccines will be available to everyone 12 & older at each designated Transfer Station from 7:00am to 1:00pm. Minors will need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian to receive a vaccine.



Upon request, Corpus Christi – Nueces County Health District will be providing a free bus token to any individual receiving the vaccine at any CCRTA Transfer Station. "This is an exciting

opportunity made possible by our great partnership with our local Public Health District. Together, we are working to make COVID-19 vaccines more accessible to our community," stated Jorge G. Cruz-Aedo, CCRTA Chief Executive Officer.

"Making vaccines available at our bus transfer stations is a great way to expand access to this free, life-saving medicine, and I applaud the leaders of the CCRTA and our City-County Public Health Department for their innovation and initiative," said Barbara Canales, Nucces County Judge. "Every vaccinated person improves our community's health, and we are working to reach everyone, whether they belong to a high-risk group, an underserved population, or are simply too busy to make the time during the day for a trip to a clinic. By meeting people where they are in their workday, we are working to make sure everyone has equitable access to a high-quality and safely administered vaccine," stated Nucces County Judge Canales. For more information on COVID-19 and vaccination availability, please visit https://www.cctexas.com/coronavirus. For more information on the CCRTA, please visit certa.org.



Two things in Galveston some didn't think would ever come back. Great job, James Oliver, Public Transportation General Manager, and the rest of the team at Island Transit.

June Training Opportunity.....

Registration is open for the following TxDOT training opportunities beginning and/or occurring in June 2021. The July schedule will be coming out soon. Class size is limited, so sign up before it's too late.

New Comprehensive Training Webinar and Course Offerings – June 2021

Click on the links below for course descriptions and to register.

• Coordination, Collaboration, and Consolidation Webinar

Date: June 11, 2021 Time: 1-3 p.m. Central Audience: Transit managers

• Partnering with Human Service Agencies (Webinar)

Date: June 15, 2021 Time: 10-11 a.m. Central

Audience: General audience including dispatchers and transit management

• Transit Asset Management (1/2 day Workshop)

Date: June 21, 2021 Time: 1-5 p.m. Central Audience: Transit managers (anyone involved in the TAM plan)

• Bus Driver Training (Two, ½ day Webinars)

Dates: June 23-24, 2021 Time: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. Central Audience: Bus drivers

*Please provide the registrant's email address, not a supervisor or colleague's email address when registering

• Employee Engagement (Webinar)

Date: June 30, 2021 Time: 1-2 p.m. Central

Audience: General audience including admin, dispatchers, and transit

managers

Courses are delivered via the Zoom platform and are structured to resemble in-person trainings, as such, class size is limited. Please sign up right away if you are interested. <u>Urban transit agencies' staff are encouraged to participate. However, due to program funding requirements the majority of the seats must be reserved for rural transit agency participants.</u> There is no charge for these courses.





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TTA welcomes MODESHIFT as one of our newest Associate Members

MODESHIFT: THE SWISS ARMY KNIFE FOR EVERY MODERN TRANSIT AGENCY

Automatic fare collection, Mobile ticketing, CAD/AVL, Real-time Passenger Information, Reports and back office, all coming out of the box

Modeshift, Inc. is a Mobility as a Service (MaaS) technology company with a mission to partner with public transit agencies to provide intelligent transportation technology. Modeshift's platform is Account-based Fare Collection built on the Microsoft Azure cloud and delivered as a service. Modeshift also provides other subsystems which complete the stack of hardware and software needed to manage modern transit operations such as CAD/AVL and real-time passenger information solutions. We are a team of 40+ enthusiastic industry professionals who have already changed the way people commute in many cities.

Modeshift is a United States based organization with its headquarters in Boston, MA. Modeshift is a unique partner in the industry as we have the flexibility and customization of a startup with the resources and stability of a larger corporation which does not answer to a panel of investors with varying interests. Modeshift has deep experience across the globe and is funded by a systems integration group (www. telelink.com) with a presence in more than 14 cities and annual revenue exceeding \$100+ million USD.

Modeshift entered the market as it was evident that other technology vendors are typically focused on the needs of bigger agencies and cities, and do not



of small and mid-sized agencies. Modeshift is making an impact by improving the ease of use of transit in cities around the world with the architecture design and build of our cloud-based solution. Modeshift has installed thousands of devices, helping more than 20 clients improve their public transit systems.

Modeshift's smart platform has a robust system architecture supported and hosted on the Microsoft Azure cloud which guarantees the highest level of security, system uptime, and regulatory compliance. All system-critical operations such as updates, backups, reporting, and monitoring are 100% automated. There is 24/7 monitoring of all business-critical processes. The security of the data is guaranteed by the use of WAF (web-application firewall) and protection against DDOS (distributed denial of service) attacks.

The full solution has been audited by Microsoft Solution Architects.

Modeshift's full suite includes the following products:

- Account-based Fare Collection: feature-rich back office, electronic validation, integrations with other
- Customizable Mobile Application: mobile ticketing with contactless validation, visual inspection, PCI/DSS compliant, automatic updates, MaaS-ready
- Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL)
- Computer-aided Dispatch (CAD)
- Reporting Suite
- Hardware & Kiosk for resellers



Learn more about the products here:

www.modeshift.com/products/

Contact Modeshift:

www.modeshift.com info@modeshift.com

Alamo Regional Transit providing free rides to COVID-19 vaccination appointments

Spectrum News 1/Lauren Kendrick)

For some people, getting transportation can be difficult. A service not too many people are aware of helps them do so. Betty Tapia has lived in San Antonio her whole life. She's currently getting dialysis treatments.

"Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, I go to dialysis. They pick me up in the morning on time," said Tapia.

She started getting rides from Alamo Regional Transit, or ART, 18 months ago. She had no other way of making it to her appointments. "I'm a widow and I don't have anybody who can bring me or take me," said Tapia.

She's the life of the party during each ride. "I'm the one that usually talks," she said.



Betty Tapia rides an ART bus to a dialysis appointment. (Spectrum News 1/Lauren Kendrick)

Miguel Segura, with Alamo Area Council of Governments, or AACOG, which oversees the transit company, said they offer transportation for people outside San Antonio city limits. In all, this service covers 12 counties.

"It's a great opportunity for residents of any rural community within the AACOG Alamo region," said Segura. He said they saw a need to get people to dialysis, but also a need to get people to their COVID-19 vaccine appointments. That prompted them to offer those rides for free. He said the pandemic hit them hard.

"It's an interesting time. Pre-pandemic, we were averaging about 13,000 rides a month," said Sequra. Compare that to a year ago at this time.

When the pandemic really hit us hard, we were down to about 5,000 rides a month. Those 5,000 rides a month were folks that just had no other way to get to their dialysis appointments, to their medical appointments, and we were that last resort for them," said Segura.

A last resort for folks like Tapia. Segura said they're now up to about 10,000 rides a month. Back at home, Tapia can get some rest until her next appointment.

"My father built this house, I mean bought this lot, when I was 6 months old," said Tapia. For anyone in need of a ride, you can call the ART dispatch center at 1-866-889-7433. People of all ages are able to ride the bus. Reservations must be made by noon the day before you need to travel.

DART Student Art Contest Celebrates Local Young Artists



Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) celebrated the accomplishments of local young artists at the DART Student Art Contest Awards Ceremony at the Dallas Museum of Art (DMA) on Saturday, May 8.

Collin Chon, a 5th grade student at Greenhill School in Addison, was this year's Best of Show winner. Collin's artwork, based on this year's theme "Everyday Heroes Ride DART," was selected from 688 entries from students in kindergarten

through 12th grade. Heroes come in many forms and this year's art contest gave young artists the chance to salute the hometown heroes that have kept our community going during the pandemic - everyday people that have made a positive impact in the lives of others.

You can view all of the winning entries at studentartgallery.dart.org.

The DART Student Art Contest is a 23-year tradition that helps promote the use of public transportation and is supported by community partners the Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas Contemporary and Half Price Books, as well as our media partners Al Día, Dallas Morning News, DFW

Child, DFW Kids Directory, Local Profile, NBC 5 and Telemundo 39.

The winning artwork will be seen at DART rail stations, buses and inside trains, as well as on display at the Dallas Museum of Art, Love Field Airport, and on DART's website, DART.org.



New Vans Boost Experience for Riders with Disabilities and older Adults

Updated paratransit vehicles offer enhanced safety, comfort

VIA Metropolitan Transit announces it is replacing its VIAtransit (paratransit) fleet of vans and increasing capacity for the growing service available to riders with disabilities and older adults. Three of the new paratransit vans went into full service on Friday, May 14.

VIA is replacing its aged 117 VIAtrans vans with new 2020 Ford fleet of 124 VIAtrans vans. Starting May 24, VIA anticipates replacing four to eight new vans in service per week. The expected date of final delivery is July 2021.



The replacement fleet has many enhanced features including an additional handrail for safe and easy boarding; more hip-to-knee space; and upgraded suspension for a smoother ride.

"Our paratransit service provides essential trips for the many customers who rely on VIAtrans to make connections to their jobs, doctor's appointments, shopping, errands, and other commitments," VIA President/CEO Jeffrey C. Arndt said. "We are continuously working to enhance our passengers' experience and expand mobility options."

With social distancing, the new paratransit vans can transport up to four seated passengers and one person in a wheelchair, or three seated passengers and two people in wheelchairs. The new vans provide more room for larger wheelchairs, and a more open and spacious floor plan layout.

On average there are more than 1 million annual boardings on VIAtrans. It is a shared-ride, curb -to-curb service that offers independence through mobility and expands access to opportunity via transit. Visit our VIAtrans page for more information.

Select link to watch video

DCTA OFFERS FREE RIDES ON MAY 21 FOR 'BIKE TO WORK DAY'

Gear up for Bike to Work Day with the Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA) as we will offer free rides on Friday, May 21, to passengers who bring their bike onboard select agency vehicles. At DCTA, we are joining many across the U.S. to celebrate <u>Bike to Work Day</u>, an annual, nationwide event that encourages people to try biking as a part of their commute during <u>National Bike Month</u>.

Bring Your Bike to #RideDCTA Free

Passengers who bring their bikes onboard can ride the following DCTA services for free:

- A-train Commuter Rail
- Connect Bus (Denton and Lewisville)
- DDTC Evening & Lewisville Lakeway On -Demand
- University of North Texas (UNT) Campus Shuttles



DCTA services not listed above do not qualify for the free ride promotion. Most of our buses are equipped with a bike rack located on the exterior front of the bus. Passengers need to make sure the vehicle can safely accommodate a bicycle, then they will be allowed to ride DCTA free. Those who plan to transfer to the <u>Dallas Area Rapid Transit</u> (DART) will need to have valid fare for that portion of their trip.

How to #BikeDCTA the Safe Way

Last year for National Bike Month, we revamped our <u>bike webpage</u>. The new page includes bike safety tips, how to #BikeDCTA with ease, local organizations and resources and more. Watch <u>our video</u> to learn more about what the webpage has to offer.

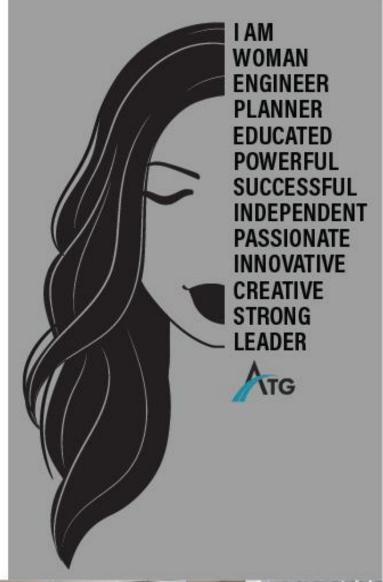
It's important every cyclist ensures they're following safe cycling practices. Below are a few key tips to keep in mind:

- Look both ways before you cross
- Stop for flashing red lights
- Always wear a helmet
- Utilize official hand signs during your ride

Make sure bags and other items are securely fixed to you or your bike



In March, ATG
celebrated Women's
History Month with a
commemorative shirt to
shoutout all of the
powerful, intelligent
and innovative women
that are a part of our
team. Thank you for all
that you do!









On Monday, May 17 uninterrupted rail service on the METRORail Red Line will resume. On weekdays, trains will operate every 6 minutes between Fannin South and Burnett Transit Centers and every 12 minutes between Burnett and Northline Transit Centers.

The return to service follows completion and testing of the major trackwork project between Fannin South and Smith Lands stations. The project, which included track, crossing and drainage improvements, began late last year.

Customers can plan travel and purchase contactless fares through METRO's TRIP App and follow METRO's Twitter and Facebook pages for updates. METRO also offers real-time information through its service alerts system.

Customers may also contact METRO's Customer Service Center at 713-635-4000 if they have any questions or need trip planning information.



ATG was engaged by the newly formed Rio Grande Valley MPO to develop and deliver three unique plans that would help the RGVMPO forge a new regional vision for transportation in the lower Rio Grande Valley. #MakingLivesBetter

RIO GRANDE VALLEY MPO

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Members of RGVMPO's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee helped steer the development of an Active Transportation Plan. This plan provides community leaders with a playbook to continue to grow a supportive culture of walking and biking, and to expand the regional network of active transportation facilities.

TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Developed in coordination with Valley Metro, with input from all transit providers across the valley, this plan focuses on Valley Metro's connectivity as the regional provider, but also offers a framework for approaching transit services as a holistic system and uses data-driven analysis to provide sustainable and phased recommendations for the future of transit across the Rio Grande Valley community.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The 2045 MTP is a long-range multimodal transportation plan that provides a first look at a holistic approach to transportation improvements in the Rio Grande Valley. The 'one valley' approach is vital to understanding transportation needs across the RGV and making informed performance-based investments over the next 25 years.

RGVMPO ensured that public engagement efforts for all three plans were carefully coordinated to guarantee and align the community vision, goals, and objectives across the plans. Developing all three plans in concert created a deeper understanding of the conditions and needs of the multimodal network. This comprehensive approach allowed for more informed multimodal transportation investments and implementation moving forward.



SAFETY



EFFICIENCY



CONNECTIVITY



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



MTP VISIONING GOALS & PRIORITIES

SUSTAINABILITY

MANAGEMENT



ASSET





INCLUSIVITY



ECONOMIC GROWTH



SECURITY



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

August 24 & 26, 2021: ADA Compliance Requirements for Public Transportation Services

August 31 & Sept. 2, 2021: ADA Paratransit Eligibility Determination Webinar

September 8, 2021 : Creating Effective Operating Policies, Procedures & Documentation September 15, 2021 : Enhancing Your Community's Mobility Management Webinar

Strategies

September 29, 2021 : Bus Stop Accessibility Requirements Webinar

For more information, pricing and registration

<u>Jess Segovia</u>—ADA Guru

Jess has spent his career assisting agencies throughout the country in the delivery of safe, high quality and compliant accessible transportation services.

Trinity Metro's South Tarrant ZIPZONE starts June 1

(FORT WORTH, TX – May 26, 2021) – The Crowley ZIPZONE is expanding its service area and extending hours of operation beginning Tuesday, June 1. To reflect the new service area of Crowley, Everman and parts of south Fort Worth, the ZIPZONE name is changing to the South Tarrant ZIPZONE. Hours of operation will be 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays.



To celebrate the new South Tarrant ZIPZONE expansion, Trinity Metro is offering free rides to passengers on all ZIPZONEs through June 30, 2021. The other ZIPZONEs are Southside and Mercantile (powered by VIA) and Alliance (powered by Lyft).

The South Tarrant ZIPZONE is supported by grant funding from the North Central Texas Council of Governments and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement program. The expansion offers connections to bus routes 65X at the South Park & Ride and bus routes 3, 5a, 5b, 6, 66X, 67X, 71, and 72.

About Trinity Metro

Trinity Metro is a regional transportation system that provides public transportation to meet the mobility needs in Tarrant County. The agency offers connections throughout the North Central Texas region, providing passenger trips on buses, TEXRail, ACCESS paratransit, ZIP-ZONEs, vanpools and the Trinity Railway Express (TRE) a 34-mile commuter rail line jointly owned and operated with Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART). Trinity Metro is the sole owner and operator of TEXRail, a 27-mile commuter rail line that runs between downtown Fort Worth and Dallas Fort Worth International Airport's Terminal B.

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*(IHS Technology Group Research, 2017)

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Capital Metro Commits to 100% Renewable Energy for All Transit Facilities and Electric Buses

The transit agency also reduces its carbon footprint with MetroBike

AUSTIN, Texas (April 21, 2021) - In celebration of Earth Day, Capital Metro is highlighting its latest sustainability efforts in its services and facilities. As of 2021, all of the transit agency's facilities, including administrative, maintenance and public, electric buses, staff EVs and MetroBike Ebikes are now powered by 100% Texas wind energy through Austin Energy's GreenChoice program. Energy and transportation are the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. By enrolling in GreenChoice, Capital Metro is investing towards Austin's community goal of 100% carbon free energy by 2035.

Furthermore, through its agreement to purchase GreenChoice energy, Capital Metro will reduce its carbon footprint and offset 7,189 metric tons of carbon dioxide. This program ensures that Austin Energy can supply wind energy to meet 100% of the transit agency's electric energy needs. This commitment is one of the ways Capital Metro and Austin Energy are working together to reduce emissions and meet the region's climate goals.

Through powering its facilities and vehicles with renewable energy, Capital Metro is furthering its commitment to support sustainable transit. The transit agency has already demonstrated this commitment by purchasing 12 electric buses, all of which are currently in use on Austin streets. Over the next five years, Capital Metro plans to purchase over 200 more electric buses, continuing the transformation of its fleet to 100% all-electric vehicles. The North Ops Electric Bus Depot opened in October 2020 and will eventually have the capacity to charge about half of Capital Metro's electric buses.

By replacing its vehicles with the cleanest available options, the transit agency is reducing its impact on air quality. Between 2016 and 2019, Capital Metro reduced its air pollution from vehicles by over 52%, which translates to 154 fewer metric tons per year. This reduction trend will continue as the transit agency reduces its fleet with zero emissions buses.

"From electric buses to investing in renewable energy, we value our partnership with Capital Metro," Austin Energy General Manager Jackie Sargent said. "Austin Energy is honored to work together to make the future of transportation more sustainable."

Capital Metro is also working with Austin Transportation Department and Bikeshare of Austin to reduce the region's carbon footprint by expanding MetroBike (formerly BCycle), a program started in 2014. MetroBike has integrated over 200 electric-assist bikes into its fleet. Future improvements will include more E-Bikes, stations and improved services outside the downtown core.

MetroBike is for people of all ages and abilities and provides more ways to connect with transit and optimizes the system's first and last mile transit solutions.

"One of the main tenets of Project Connect is its plan for sustainable public transit," said Dottie Watkins, Capital Metro's Chief Customer Officer. "We are committed to the use of innovative technology to create a more efficient and sustainable transit system, and that technology doesn't stop with our buses and trains. By launching MetroBike and subscribing to Austin Energy's GreenChoice program, Capital Metro is keeping its promise to work towards a cleaner environment for generations to come."

For more information on MetroBike, visit CapMetro.org/MetroBike. For more information on Austin Energy's GreenChoice program, visit austinenergy.com/go/greenchoice.

Sustainability Awards Received

Capital Metro is a Gold Level Signatory of American Public Transit Association's Sustainability Commitment, joining only 22 other transit organizations at the highest level of this national sustainability program.

Capital Metro has achieved Gold Level Status in the League of American Bicyclists' Bicycle Friendly Business program for its efforts to promote bike and transit commuting

Capital Metro is a Platinum Level member of the Austin Green Business Leaders Program.

Capital Metro is recognized as a Best Workplace for Commuters by the National Center for Transit Research.

Capital Metro's Saltillo development office building core and shell was awarded the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design's Silver level certification in December 2020. The retail shops and residential units in the development received the Austin Energy Green Building Two Star rating.

Capital Metro also recently received a \$600,000 TCEQ Alternative Fleet Fueling Program grant to add 10 additional electric bus charging stations.



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.

Post Jobs and RFPs on TTA's website at no cost!

As an added value to your membership, you have the opportunity to post Job positions and Request for Proposals on TTA's website at no additional cost. Though postings can usually be accomplished on the same day, we request at least 48 hours notice.

If you are interested in posting a job position or an RFP, simply email the information to <u>info@txtransit.org</u>. If you have questions feel free to reach out to me directly at anytime.

Allen E. Hunter Executive Director 254-405-4212 cell

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 customer's 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.

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

Allen E. Hunter Executive Director Texas Transit Association 512-900-0550 254-405-4212 cell allen@txtransit.org

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