



Sarah Hidalgo-Cook

Transit Director

Southwest Transit (SWART)

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Sarah Hidalgo-Cook has spent the last 31 years promoting public transit and mobility in the Southwest Texas Region. She has been essential in enhancing the rural public transportation in the Middle Rio Grande Region servicing the counties of Dimmit, Edwards, Kinney, La Salle, Maverick, Real, Uvalde, and Zavala. After 23 years as the Transit Director for Southwest Transit administered by a non-profit, Sarah was instrumental in the development and transition of SWART as a stand-alone system in 2012. Sarah has over 30 years' experience in transit management as a Certified Community Transportation Manager from the Community Transportation Association of America in Washing D. C. and holds over 50 certifications in various areas of transit management. She is currently obtaining her Master of Science Degree in Community Development from Kansas State University with an expected graduation date in the Spring of 2022. She earned a Bachelor of Applied Science in Organization Leadership from Sul Ross State University in 2013. She was selected by her peers in 2008 and 2014 as the Texas State Transit General Manager of the Year. She has been a board member of the Texas Transit Association (TTA) for over ten years and is the current VP for Rural Systems for TTA. Her experience in transit has also led her to be appointed by her peers across 11 states where she served on the board of directors for the Southwest West Transit Association from 2014-2016 in which she was also on the Executive Committee as the Treasurer.

Sarah has over 30 Years' of experience in: Non-profit and local government administration, finances, and operations, Grants management and administration, Grant writing and application fund raising, Public speaking at the local, state, and federal level, legislative advocacy at the local, state, and federal level, Staff development and supervision, Planning and development, and Community and economic development initiatives.

"There is not a day where I say, 'I don't feel like going to work today'. I love transit and all that we stand for. Mobility is the key to independence, especially in our rural communities. It takes all modes and systems to work together to provide a seamless transit infrastructure in Texas. What legacy do I want to leave behind one day? A legacy of people equipped with the knowledge and desire to continue carrying on the transit mission in Texas."

SWART has been a Member of the Texas Transit Association for over 20 years.

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