

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

Registration is now open for the TTA & SWTA Joint Conference, Expo and State Rodeo, February 22-26, 2022

[Texas Transit Association](#) (TTA) and [The South West Transit Association](#) (SWTA) are excited to announce that registration is now open for the **2022 Joint Annual Conference, Expo & Rodeo!** This event will serve as *one of the largest public transit conferences in the nation and among the first in 2022!*

Our 2022 Joint Annual Conference, Expo & Rodeo will feature the industry-leading content you expect from TTA and SWTA: timely general sessions, invigorating speakers, in-depth breakout sessions and training, plenty of networking opportunities, and a chance to kick up your heels with your friends and colleagues from across the transit industry.

[Register today!](#)

[Sponsorship Opportunities](#)



The Deadline for submitting TTA 2021 Awards nominations in December 31, 2021

Remember, all nominations may be made by any individual employed by a transit agency, an official of a transit agency, a regular or an associate member of Texas Transit Association, any TxDOT employee who works with the public transportation industry, any elected official or employee of local, city, or county governments. An organization may self-nominate. Also, you may make a nomination in more than one category.

[Submit your nomination today!](#)
[Award criteria](#)



APTA recognizes Huelon Harrison as their Outstanding Public Transportation Member

Active in APTA for over 20 years, Huelon (Hugh) Harrison's selection as Outstanding Business Member builds on his legacy of strong involvement and giving back that he began as a transit board member.

Hugh was appointed to the DART Board of Directors in 1998 and served as it's board chair from 2003 to 2005. Hugh also served on the TTA Board of Directors for many years. ***Congratulations Hugh, on your recognition as Outstanding Public Transportation Member!***

2022 TTA and SWTA Conference, Vendor Expo and State Roadeo

[Texas Transit Association](#) (TTA) and [The South West Transit Association](#) (SWTA) are excited to announce our **2022 Joint Annual Conference, Expo & Roadeo**! Bringing together our members, and representing hundreds of transit providers! This event will serve as one of the largest public transit conferences in the nation and among the first in 2022!

We're excited to bring this event to Austin, Texas – Not only is Austin the capital of Texas, it's the live music capital of the world! Aside from one-of-a-kind attractions that Austin has to showcase, we're also partnering with [Capital Metro](#) which will highlight their innovative and evolving mobility network, one that's set for transformative growth through the [Project Connect expansion program](#) and approved by Austin voters in 2020.

Schedule of Events:

Feb. 22, 2022	Golf Tournament at Top Golf and Welcome Reception
Feb. 22, 2022	TxDOT Semi-Annual Operator's Meeting
Feb. 23-25, 2022	TTA/SWTA Joint Conference
Feb. 24-25, 2022	Expo
Feb. 25-26, 2022	Roadeo Briefings, competition and awards dinner



Register Today!

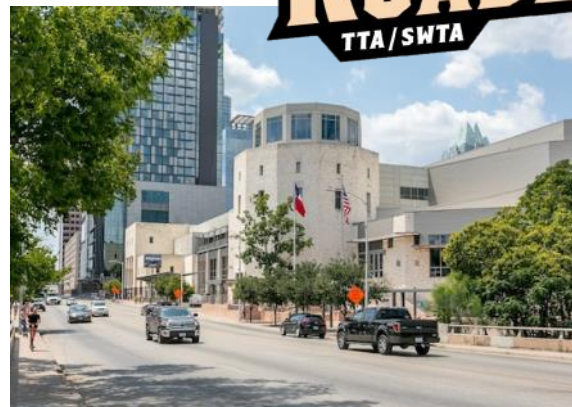
[Conference Attendee and Expo Registration](#)

[Expo/Exhibitor/Vehicle Registration](#)

[State Roadeo Competition Registration](#)

[Sponsorship Opportunities](#)

[Hotel Registration](#)



Our host hotels – the [Courtyard](#) & [Residence Inn](#) by Marriott – Austin Convention Center – are offering standard rooms at \$239 per night (plus taxes & fees), along with more premium rooms available. [Reserve your room\(s\) here.](#)

CapMetro Operators, Mechanics Expected to Soon Earn Higher Starting Wage

New anticipated wage of \$22 per hour for bus operators

AUSTIN, TX (November 11, 2021) – Capital Metro is excited to announce that members of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) will consider an agreement next week that would significantly increase the hourly wage for bus operators and mechanics.



Since the beginning of August 2021, CapMetro has been actively recruiting to hire more than 100 bus operators and mechanics to add to its workforce. ATU Local 1091, which represents Capital Metro bus operators and mechanics, has now reached a tentative labor agreement with CapMetro's service contractor, MV Transportation, that would increase wages for these staff members.

"Our staff has been on the frontlines of the pandemic for the last two years, so this is not only a great way to support our workforce but also to ensure that we are providing equitable, competitive wages and benefits to such dedicated public servants," said Capital Metro Deputy CEO Dottie Watkins. "I was once a bus operator myself, so I know how important it is to take care of those who make it possible for us to serve customers."

Bus operators are expected to start at a wage of \$22 per hour and mechanics would earn at least \$31 per hour. Based on annual salary assumptions, bus operators could earn between \$54,000-\$76,000 per year, and mechanics could earn between \$71,000-\$84,000 as they continue their careers at CapMetro. These new wages represent an increase of up to 30% for operators and up to 13% for mechanics compared to their current wage. All new staff would be offered full benefits, including medical, dental, vision, a 401(k)-retirement plan and more.

To support the effort to continuously improve service to customers, the agreement calls for cash incentives to both operators and mechanics based on performance goals, with an emphasis on safety and attendance. The wage structure also rewards and incentivizes retention through increasing the staff's hourly rate the longer they serve. Members of the ATU are expected to vote on approval of the labor agreement next week. The new labor agreement would go into effect on Jan. 1, 2022.

Candidates with or without a Commercial Driver's License are encouraged to apply. Paid training is offered to assist those who need to obtain a commercial license.

Those looking to join the Capital Metro family can visit CapMetro.org/Jobs. There is a \$3,500 hiring bonus for some qualified candidates.



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The Largest, Most Experienced and Trusted Dealer

Creative Bus Sales offers dedicated sales, parts, and service departments to help you in all stages of bus ownership. Our customers benefit from our strong manufacturer partnerships, the largest in-stock inventory, and a nationwide team of experts. As a family-owned business with experience in the transportation industry since 1980, it's no coincidence that we've grown to become the nation's largest bus dealership.

FEATURED VEHICLES



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Elkhart Coach ECII



Gaval Universal II



Lone Star ProMaster



BraunAbility Entervan



Fast Delivery

Largest In-Stock Inventory
Expert Sales Staff



In-House Financing

Flexible Structures
Seamless Transactions



Great Pricing

Volume Discounts
Intelligent Purchasing



Nationwide Network

Warranty & Customer Care
Parts & Service Departments

Southwest Area Regional Texas District receives federal award for COVID-19 response

The Southwest Area Regional Transit District, or SWART, was one of six transit providers nationwide that received a "Connecting Rural Communities" award from the Federal Transit Administration.

SWART serves an eight-county region west of San Antonio, including communities such as Uvalde, Carrizo Springs and Eagle Pass. It serves passengers within those cities and connects them to San Antonio, Kerrville, and Del Rio.

"The pandemic did, you know, force us to be a little bit more creative than normal," said Sarah Hidalgo Cook, SWART's general manager. "It was really something that the team, this work team, our management team, came together to try to problem-solve."

SWART provided masks and hand sanitizer for passengers and installed plexiglass barriers to protect drivers. It maintained service during the pandemic while instituting social distancing measures onboard its vehicles. "Apart from wanting to continue our services, we wanted to make sure that our employees were taken care of as well," said Cynthia Rodriguez, SWART's assistant general manager. We wanted them to be safe providing that service but also taking care of themselves."

The transit district receives funding from both the Texas Department of Transportation and the Federal Transit Administration. It does not receive any direct sales tax revenue.

"I've always felt that rural transit systems are creative anyway in order to survive because we have to basically obtain 50 percent of our match for our federal dollars," Cook said. SWART's drivers are on the road as early as 2 a.m. to ensure passengers make it to medical appointments in San Antonio on time. One Uvalde passenger called the service "a godsend."

"Oh God, it'd be hard to get to dialysis -- really, because, you know, I have a few family members, but they're always busy, you know," said Felix Cisneros. "It's really hard sometimes to get around if we don't have a ride here."

Cisneros said he also uses SWART to travel to stores and run other errands. During the recent increase in gas prices, there's been an uptick in people using the service, Cook said.



[*Select link above to see the entire article from KSAT.com*](#)

TTA is offering a free webinar on December 7, 2021

Pain-Free, Productive Meetings: From Fantasy to Reality
This FREE Webinar Will Help You Get The Most Out of Your Meetings! Presented by
Donna Griggs, CEO of Propel Change Global

Sponsored by:



Creative Bus Sales

Tuesday, December 7, 2021
 2:00 - 2:45 PM CST

Registration is Required

It would frighten most leaders if they counted the number of hours wasted every week on meetings that did not move to a solution. Then, multiply by the cost of each employee who attends those meetings - the figure can be startling.

Even less productive are the “meetings before the meeting” when everyone makes assumptions about what will happen and the “meeting after the meeting” where everyone complains about what did happen.

More often than not, we hear comments like “that was a waste of time”, “did you hear Jill’s comments – can you believe that”, or even “we are going to quit asking people for their opinions – it just turns into a fight” and no one can ever agree on anything.

Join us to identify 1) what a great meeting looks like. 2) How close to “great” you are today” and 3) Seven steps to change today’s reality into the meeting of your dreams.

There will also be a brief question and answer session afterward. Agencies and individuals are welcome to submit any questions in advance and we will address those during the webinar. Please submit any questions to Allen@TxTransit.org.

Presenter: Donna Griggs, CEO of Propel Change Global

Donna Griggs has been at the forefront of Transforming Organizations and Teams for over 30 years. Donna’s track record boasts overwhelming results in meeting goals in record time while increasing scalability, alignment, profitability, and employee engagement. Her engaging style, innovative concepts, and implementation skills have garnered industry recognition and acclaim. This webinar is ideal for anyone that is responsible for hosting meetings within your agency.

The webinar is free but Registration Required

Upcoming free webinars: Jan. 11, 2022, 2:00-2:45 PM CST, Know Where You’re Going...Get There Faster.

METRO Wins National Safety Award for COVID-19 Safety Measures

METRO's COVID-19 Safety Strategies Receive Industry Recognition

METRO is being recognized for its **proactive safety measures in response to COVID-19** by [the American Public Transportation Association \(APTA\)](#), during its [annual conference and expo in Orlando, Florida](#).



Each year APTA recognizes transit agencies that implement successful programs or projects to address a specific safety or security initiative. This year, METRO was named the winner of APTA's 2021 Rail COVID-19 **Certificate of Merit award** for Light Rail/Streetcar Systems for transit agencies with more than 20 million passenger trips annually.

APTA selected METRO for its commitment to **safeguarding the health of its employees and riders** by [implementing numerous safety mitigations](#) that kept our community functioning during the height of the pandemic.

For example, METRO initially introduced **free fares** and **rear-door entry**, enhanced **cleanings**, **social distancing** strategies, emergency-response **partnerships**, robust communications, and **educational campaigns**.

Other COVID-19 safeguards included:

- **Free shuttle services** to COVID-19 vaccination sites.
- METROLift partnering with the city of Houston to [deliver essential supplies to senior citizens and residents living with disabilities](#).
- [Distributing more than 2 million face masks](#) to riders since the agency began requiring the use of facial coverings last summer.
- **Installing protective shields** around drivers' seats to add another layer of separation between operators and riders.
- **Providing access to hand sanitizer** on METRO buses, METRO-Rail, and METROLift.
- Putting an even greater emphasis on **disinfecting surfaces and adding cleanings** during peak hours.



Essential employees onboard METRORail.



Accepting APTA's 2020 Grand AdWheel Award on behalf of the Communications Department are (left to right) Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Andy Skabowski, Vice President of Customer Service Russ Frank, Chief Safety Officer Santiago Osorio, and Government Affairs Manager Jose Pulido.

In addition, METRO's Communications Department won numerous [APTA 2021 AdWheel Awards](#) for its educational video stories and last year it took home **first place honors** for "[Rope a Ride with METRO](#)," winning APTA's **2020 AdWheel Grand Award under the Best Marketing and Communications to Highlight Transit Needs/Funding** category. That 2020 award was presented in person at this year's APTA conference.



[Click on the image above to play the 2020 AdWheel Grand Award, Best Marketing and Communications video.](#)

TECHNOLOGY TO BRING RIDERS BACK SAFELY

RATED WORLD'S #1 SUPPLIER OF MOBILE VIDEO SURVEILLANCE*



SUPPORTING TODAY'S COVID-19 SAFETY NEEDS

PASSENGER COMMUNICATION

Sharing information about safe rides using on-board Infotainment

COVID TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

Track Vehicle Inspection Cleaning & Verify Inspections

MONITORING

Video Surveillance systems up to 16 camera views in up to 4k quality

WIRELESS DOWNLOADING & LIVE STREAMING

Video downloading, live streaming & system health checks to ensure physical distancing

*IHS Technology Group Research, 2017)



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DART Launches Three-Year On-Demand Service for Joppa Community Residents

On Monday, November 15, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) launched the Joppa Rides program, an on-demand transportation service for the neighborhood of Joppa for the next three years.



Funded by the City of Dallas to mitigate the impact of closing the current Linfield Road at-grade crossing, the program will serve residents of the Joppa neighborhood, located six miles southeast of Downtown Dallas.

All Joppa area residents are eligible for the program with registration and proof of residency. Once registered, residents will be able to book a ride to one of 15 designated neighborhood locations for drop-off and pickup. Residents can register online at www.DART.org/Joppa or by mail.

To request a ride, a passenger must be at least 18 years of age. Anyone under that age must be accompanied by an adult. Each Joppa Rides Uber trip can include up to four people. Riders can book a trip online at m.Uber.com or they can make a same-day trip reservation over the phone at (214) 515-7272. They can also schedule trips and request an accessible vehicle at (214) 515-7272.

The Joppa Rides program operates 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., seven days a week, and riders can book up to two free Uber trips per day.

Here's an ADA Tip from Jess Segovia, your ADA Guru

SERVICE ANIMALS UNDER "CONTROL"

Remember, a Service Animal under "control" does not always mean on a leash. If, for example, a Service Animal has been trained to get help when its owner is having a seizure, a leash may prevent it from completing its task.

A transit agency may have a policy stating that Service Animals "must" always be under control and on a leash, but should also inform riders that a leash will not be required if it prevents the Service Animal from completing its task.

Please see information below for information about upcoming ADA Compliance webinars.

Jess Segovia—
ADA Guru



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

November 30, 2021:	ADA Requirements for Bus & Paratransit Services
December 1, 2021:	ADA Paratransit Eligibility Determination
December 2, 2021:	Creating Effective Operating Policies, Procedures & Documentation Strategies
December 2, 2021:	ADA Requirements for Bus & Paratransit Services

For more information, pricing and registration

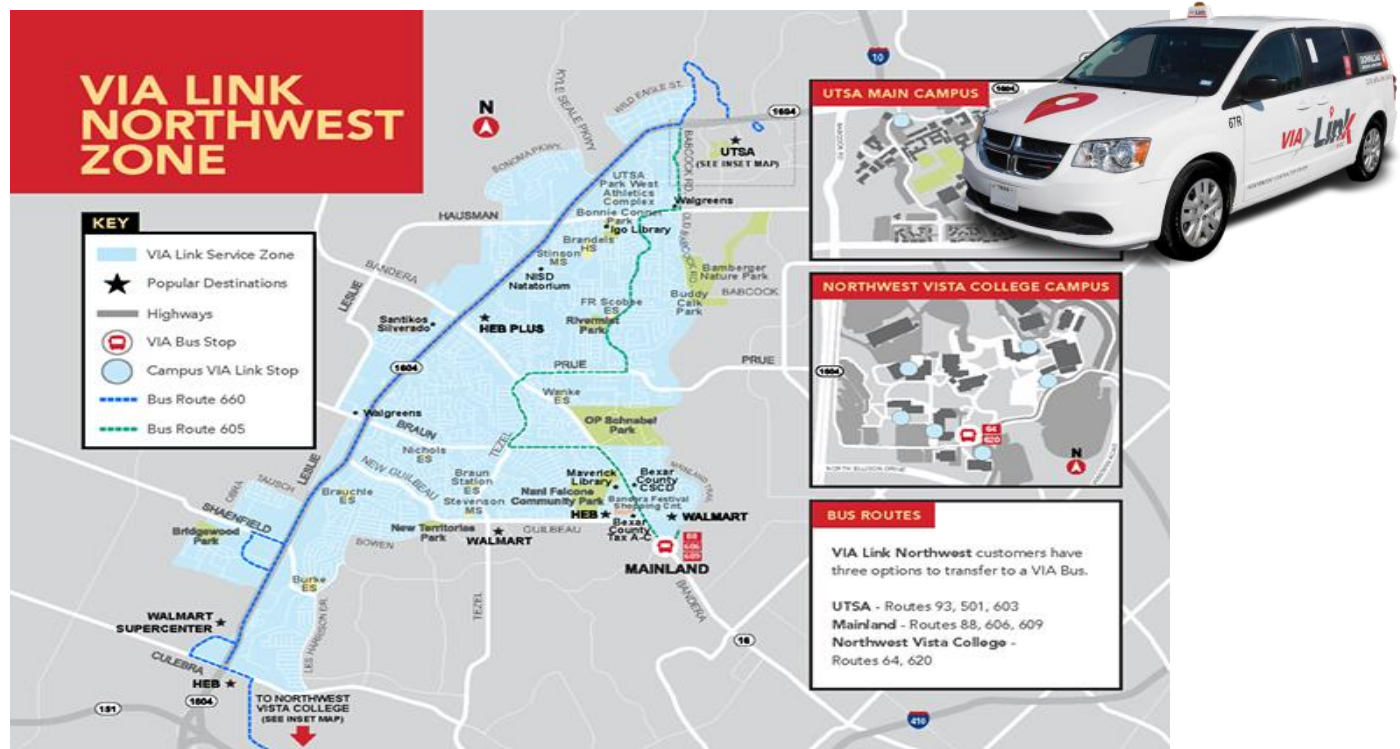
Jess Segovia—ADA Guru

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

VIA expands its transit-on-demand ride share service

VIA Metropolitan Transit marked the opening of its newest VIA Link on-demand zone with an official kick-off and celebration at the UTSA Main Campus, Friday, November 12. VIA's third VIA Link zone provides service connecting a 14.4 square mile area along Loop 1604 from Babcock to Culebra and on Bandera Road from Loop 1604 to Mainland, including the UTSA Main Campus and Northwest Vista College. The UTSA Campus is the most popular destination in the Northwest Zone, making it the perfect place to officially launch the new service. UTSA's mascot, Rowdy, will be joined by the UTSA Student Government Association President, the UTSA Cheerleaders, VIA mascots, and more for an on-campus celebration and information session. **VIA Link service in all three zones (Northeast, Northwest, and Sandy Oaks) was free all day Friday to encourage people to try transit and #getLinkd.**

VIA Link service replaces fixed routes in the zone with more frequent service for the same fares as regular bus service. Customers can book trips using a free app, online portal, or by phone. They're usually picked up within 10-20 minutes of booking—an improvement from the current wait times on bus service—and can track and rate their rides. Passengers can travel anywhere in the zone or to convenient transfer points to connect with the full VIA system. The flexibility provides better frequency, decreases travel times, minimizes walking distances, and offers more pick-up and drop-off locations. Expanding on-demand service is part of VIA's **Keep SA Moving plan** that was overwhelmingly approved by voters in November 2020. It's part of a plan to provide smart transit options, using technology and partnerships for better service. Learn more at [VIAinfo.net/LINK](https://viainfo.net/LINK) and download the VIA Link brochure, or call (210) 362-2020. The VIA goMobile+ app is available on Apple and Android smartphones. Visit [VIAinfo.net/goMobile](https://viainfo.net/goMobile) for more information.





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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](#)



Free Training Webinars and Resources for your Safety Program

Thursday, Dec. 9 (10-10:30 a.m. CT): [Impaired Driving, Emerging Trends and the Occupational Arena](#). The occupational arena and impaired driving meet up in ways we wish they wouldn't. Texas DRE Course Manager/Instructor Mark Vincent of the Texas Drug Recognition Expert Program will share emerging trends and provide details that help all of us improve safety on the roadways, in the workplace and any place.

Tuesday, Jan. 25 (10-10:30 a.m. CT): [Transportation Safety: Changing Norms and Decreasing Risk](#). Perceived norms can influence choices to engage or not engage in risky driving behaviors. Take a call from a coworker while behind the wheel? The boss doesn't buckle up, why should I? Hold it right there. A successful transportation safety culture can have a major impact on employee decision-making. In this webinar, Senior Program Manager Cindy Leonard will discuss how behavior changes by changing habits. She also will identify strategies that can lead to safer employee driving practices.

Free Resources for your Safety Program

Boost your fleet performance with the ENGIE CAD/AVL



Real-time fleet management

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



Operator terminal

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



Headway management

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



High-speed and secure communications

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

Real-time Passenger Information System

Innovation in Solar Technology

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



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Texas Transit Association

100 Congress Ave, Suite 2000

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.

Rural Transit Networking Forum.

The next Rural Transit Networking Forum is scheduled for Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 10:00 AM, CST. These calls are moderated by TTA Board Member Sarah Hidalgo-Cook of Southwest Area Regional Transit District .

The purpose of these calls is to network and share information with your peers. If you would like to be included on these email notifications, please send a request via email to Allen Hunter.

[Allen E. Hunter](#)

Executive Director

Allen@TxTransit.org

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 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.

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

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

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1/8 Page