

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

## Registration is still open for the TTA & SWTA Joint Conference and Expo, February 22-26, 2022



[Texas Transit Association](#) (TTA) and [The South West Transit Association](#) (SWTA) are excited to announce that registration is still open for the **2022 Joint Annual Conference and Expo!** 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 and Expo will feature the industry-leading content you expect from TTA and SWTA: timely general sessions, stimulating speakers, in-depth breakout sessions, and training. There will also be many networking opportunities with your friends and colleagues from across the transit industry. Including a Golf Tournament at Top Golf and a casino night with the vendors.

[Register today!](#)  
[Conference Schedule](#)  
[Workshop Sessions](#)  
[Hotel Registration](#)

### ***Notice: Space in the Expo Hall is nearly sold out!***

We are now essentially sold out of 10' x 10' and larger booth spaces. A handful of vehicle spots still remain available at this time. To inquire about any remaining booth opportunities or to place your agency's name on a waiting list, please contact TTA Executive Director [Allen Hunter](#) or SWTA Executive Director [Rich Sampson](#).

### ***Still interested in being a sponsor?***

We have a limited number of sponsorships available.  
Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity.

A few of the remaining sponsorships include:

- Conference Expo Luncheon (1 remaining)
- Conference Breakfast (2 remaining)
- Conference Breaks (2 remaining)
- Conference Bag insert
- Casino Night Game Tables (9 remaining)
- Full Page Program (1 remaining)

Golf Tournament - Awards (1 remaining) and Golf Bay Sponsors (6 remaining)

Again, contact TTA Executive Director [Allen Hunter](#) or SWTA Executive Director [Rich Sampson](#) for more information on sponsorship opportunities.



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

### Semiannual Business Meeting for Transit Operators

Due to ongoing concerns and uncertainties related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Public Transportation Division will hold the Winter 2022 Semiannual Operators' Business Meetings in both a virtual option (February 16) and an in-person option (February 22).

The primary agenda item – an update and discussion on potential changes to the State Urban and Rural Program allocation formula and the Federal Rural Program allocation formula will be covered in both. The in-person session at the joint TTA/SWTA conference on February 22<sup>nd</sup> will include a roundtable discussion on the ongoing challenges of the pandemic facilitated by Scott Bogren from CTAA.

The presentation used for the discussion on potential formula changes will be the same presentation made to the Public Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC) at its upcoming meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>. PTAC will meet again tentatively on March 8<sup>th</sup> to finalize its discussions and provide a recommendation to Division staff on this topic. PTN has briefings with Commissioners scheduled for February 23<sup>rd</sup>, immediately following the in-person session at the conference. We encourage you to make every effort to attend and participate in one of these upcoming opportunities.

#### 1. Virtual meeting – Wednesday, February 16, 10 am – Noon

This session will be held via Webex. The meeting link, plus dial-in information, will be emailed to attendees prior to the meeting.

##### Agenda

- Director's Report
- Potential Changes to the TAC for Allocating State and Federal formula program funding

#### 2. In-person meeting at Austin Convention Center – Tuesday, February 22, 8:30am – Noon

This session will be held the day before the TTA/SWTA Conference and Expo at the Austin Convention Center. We'll be in Ballroom A – a large room with plenty of space for distancing.

##### Agenda

- Director's Report
- Potential changes to the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) formula for administering federal and state transit funding programs
- Ongoing Pandemic-related challenges faced by transit providers in Texas

### Public Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC):

**January 25, 2022:** At their January meeting, PTAC will continue its discussion of discretionary transit funding formula allocation options. This discussion serves to inform PTAC as the committee develops recommendations for the Texas Transportation Commission regarding potential updates to Texas Administrative Code rules. Join the virtual meeting [here](#).

Did you miss:  
TxDOT's July 2021 Semi-annual Transit Operators Business Meeting?  
Presentations can be accessed [here](#).

Did you know:  
Public Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC) Virtual Meeting Links, Agendas, and Handouts are [here](#) on the committee's web page.

# City awards El Metro contract to Hendrickson Transportation Group

LAREDO, TX. (KGNS) - Roughly 200 city employees can breathe a sigh of relief knowing that negotiations between the city and new transit service are official.

The Laredo City Council approved a motion that would allow the Hendrickson Transportation Group to take over El Metro, a move that was authorized by Laredo City Manager Robert Eads.

The bigger news is one that should reassure employees, unless there is a pending reason, everyone is expected to remain employed and can expect to hold onto their benefits. El Metro states it has an operating budget of over 13.4 million and a ridership of 3.1 million passengers annually.

HTG will be taking over El metro starting on February 1, 2022.

**By KGNS.TV**



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## Capital Metro Breaks Ground for New MetroRapid Route



Capital Metro held a groundbreaking ceremony on Wednesday, December 15 to celebrate the MetroRapid Expo Center groundbreaking. The groundbreaking was held at LBJ Early College High School, with several U.S. and state officials speaking at the ceremony, including U.S. Representative Lloyd Doggett, Texas Representatives Celia Israel and Sheryl Cole, Travis County Commissioner and Capital Metro Board Member Jeff Trivillion, and Austin Mayor Pro Tem Natasha Harper-Madison. Also present were Capital Metro CEO & President Randy Clarke, AISD Superintendent Dr. Stephanie Elizalde, CapMetro and AISD staff and community members.

The groundbreaking is part of the Project Connect program of projects, which includes four new MetroRapid routes that enhance frequency and quality of service. The new Expo Center Route will connect East Austin to the University of Texas and Downtown Austin.

For this new route, the transit agency will be using electric buses. Project Connect envisions a zero-emissions bus fleet, and CapMetro made great progress when the agency placed the largest order of electric transit buses in the United States in September 2021.

The MetroRapid Expo Center groundbreaking was a major milestone for CapMetro, and the use of electric buses on the route will further the transit agency's goal of providing safe, clean and equitable transportation for the community and generations to come.



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## Dan Leyendecker Elected as CCRTA Board of Directors Chair

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas –Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority's (CCRTA) Board of Directors elected Dan Leyendecker as Board Chair. The election took place at the CCRTA Board of Directors meeting on Wednesday, January 5th .

Appointed by the Nueces County Commissioners Court, Dan Leyendecker is currently in his third term as a member of the CCRTA Board of Directors. He previously served for two terms as Board Secretary.



Leyendecker will lead the CCRTA Board of Directors in supporting the CCRTA's mission and vision. "Public transportation is critical to our local economy, and serves as a first responder during crises and pandemics. I would like to thank Chairman Martinez's leadership of the CCRTA through a generational pandemic and Winter Storm Uri. I am also grateful to CCRTA staff for going above and beyond each day. As Board Chair, I look forward to building on our strong public transportation system," stated Leyendecker.

Leyendecker will be working closely with the CCRTA Board of Directors and the organization's CEO, Jorge G. Cruz-Aedo. Cruz-Aedo has led the CCRTA for more than seven years and been a part of the CCRTA for more than a decade. "I'd like to congratulate Mr. Leyendecker on his election as Board Chair. Together, we will continue to develop accessible transportation for current and future generations," said Mr. Cruz-Aedo.

Dan Leyendecker is currently the Managing Principal for Ardurra Group's central region, which includes Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. Ardurra Group is a multidisciplinary firm, which provides engineering and construction services. Leyendecker is a Licensed Professional Engineer and a graduate of Texas A&M University.

Eddie Martinez completed his fourth and final term on the Board of Directors on January 5 th. Martinez had served as Board Chair for two terms.

CCRTA's Board of Directors consists of five appointees by the City of Corpus Christi, three appointees by Nueces County, and two appointees from the Small Cities Committee of Mayors. It is led by a board elected chairperson.



# Young Boy Battling Cancer Becomes MPD Honorary Officer

Ten-year-old Devarjaye (DJ) Daniel was sworn in as an honorary METRO Police Department (MPD) officer at METRO's Administration Building in downtown Houston. DJ, who is battling terminal brain and spine cancer, is on a mission to be sworn in by 100 law enforcement agencies. He proudly accepted his official badge from METRO Chief of Police Vera Bumpers.



"We appreciate you wanting to be a part of our organization," said Chief Bumpers. "Just know we are committed to praying for you every day. With God, all things are possible."

Daniel's father, Theodis Daniel, said his son's admiration for law enforcement began during Hurricane Harvey when his family sought refuge at the George R. Brown Convention Center. During their stay, Daniel said his family experienced acts of kindness from three police officers stationed at the center.

"The officers would always hand out snacks to DJ and his siblings," said Daniel. They took him under their wings during those tough days. DJ always remembered their kindness — it's something he never forgot."

Nearly 40 MPD officers looked on as the fourth-grader was also given his very own MPD uniform and specially-made shadowbox, as well as a pin from the [National Association of Black Law Enforcement Executives](#). Chief Bumpers also included a personal note of encouragement. The ceremony closed with the Police Officer's Prayer, led by MPD Sgt. Tommy Dean Jr.



MPD is the 47th law enforcement agency to swear in DJ as an honorary police officer.

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

**Question:** "A customer with a disability wants our Operator to stand on the lift with them as they board and alight the vehicle. We believe that this is unsafe for our Operator. Do we need to approve this as a Reasonable Modification?"

**ADA Guru's Thoughts:** The ADA requires that Operators provide a "reasonable level of assistance", and assistance that is unsafe is not reasonable. An agency may, therefore, consider denying the request. ADA Guru always recommends documenting such incidents and working with the customer to assist them in the safest way possible.

*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 to assist transit professionals of all levels and responsibilities in understanding how to provide high quality, compliant accessible public transit services.

March 7, 2022:	Creating Effective Operating Policies, Procedures & Documentation Strategies
March 8 & 10, 2022:	ADA Compliance Requirements for Bus & Paratransit Services
March 9, 2022:	ADA Paratransit Eligibility Determination
March 11, 2022:	Bus Stop Accessibility Planning & Design Requirements

[\*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.



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\*IHS Technology Group Research, 2017)



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## DART Welcomes Deanna Leggett as EVP of Growth and Regional Development

Deanna Leggett has been selected as the new executive vice president of growth and regional development at Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART). A nationally recognized transit leader, Leggett brings over 20 years of experience in the planning, development, and operation of public transportation projects across the country.



"We are very excited to welcome Dee to the DART family," said Nadine S. Lee, DART president & CEO. "She is a proven transportation leader who brings a unique combination of strategic thought leadership and an extensive record of operations performance, project delivery, and innovation that will expand the leadership capacity at DART. I'm looking forward to Dee's contributions to our efforts to enhance the public transportation experience for all our riders."

In her role, Leggett will oversee DART's Capital Planning, Real Estate, Environmental Compliance, Transit Oriented Development, Capital Program Support, Service Planning, Commuter Rail, and Design and Construction departments, as well as an extensive array of design consultants and construction contractors.

"DART is a world class organization focused on providing transformative mobility solutions to the region," said Leggett. "I am honored to join their leadership team to help plan and deliver programs, projects and services that meet the future needs of our transit riders and our communities."

Leggett comes to the agency from HatchLTK where she served as the vice president of the south-central region and director of zero-emissions technology. In that role she oversaw projects and client engagement for all transit and rail clients in the South-Central region of the United States. She also served as the subject matter expert and project manager for transit contracting, transit planning, transit operations and maintenance, grant funding and federal regulatory requirements.



## Texas Transit Association

100 Congress Ave, Suite 2000

Austin, Texas 78701

Phone: (512) 900-0550

Email: [info@txtransit.org](mailto:info@txtransit.org)

<https://txtransit.org/>

*TTA's Mission is to support the needs of  
Texas' public transportation systems  
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education.*

## Top Golf Tournament February 22, 2022

All the perks of a traditional golf tournament without any concern for weather. Join us for an afternoon of networking and fun at Top Golf in Austin from 2-5 PM on February 22, 2022.

Only \$85 per person, including food and drinks.

Contact TTA Executive Director [Allen Hunter](#) or SWTA Executive Director [Rich Sampson](#) for more information or sponsorship opportunities.

[Allen E. Hunter](#)  
Executive Director  
[Allen@TxTransit.org](mailto:Allen@TxTransit.org)

## 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  
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