

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

The Call For Presentations and Abstracts is now open for TTA's 2023 State Conference, Expo, and Rodeo!

We invite you to join us at [TTA's 2023 State Conference, Expo, and Rodeo](#) to be held April 11-15, 2023, in Corpus Christi, Texas. The Conference Planning Committee is now accepting applications for conference presentations. If you have a topic or presentation you would like to share at this year's conference, please select the link below, or email info@txtransit.org.

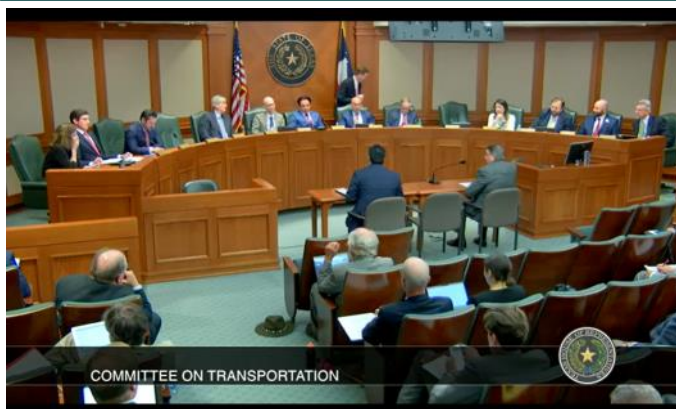
Submissions will be accepted until the schedule is finalized.



[Submit Abstracts Here](#)

Don't miss out on this excellent opportunity to share new knowledge and best practices.

Mario Delgado of Metro McAllen and Tom Lambert of Houston Metro testify at the House Transportation Committee



On April 26, 2022, Mario Delgado of Metro McAllen and Tom Lambert of Houston Metro testified at the House Transportation Committee on behalf of TTA. They explained to the committee members how transit agencies support our communities and the many challenges transit agencies face. Thank you, Mario and Tom, for a job well done. To view the hearing, select the link below.

[Link to House Transportation Committee Recording](#)

Trinity Metro names new President/CEO

(FORT WORTH, TX – April 25, 2022) – Trinity Metro is pleased to announce that Richard W. Andreski, a public transportation veteran with 23 years of experience and more than 10 years of executive leadership, has been selected as the next president and chief executive officer for the agency.

Andreski previously served as the Bureau Chief for Public Transportation for the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) since 2015. In this capacity, he oversaw public transportation in Connecticut and had an operating budget of \$850 million and a team of 110 planners, engineers, and rail and transit professionals. The Connecticut DOT includes 22 transit providers that serve 80 million people annually.

His many responsibilities included CTfastrak bus rapid transit, one of the country's premier BRT lines, and New Haven Line, the nation's busiest passenger rail line. He was accountable for capital programs to maintain and improve more than \$5 billion in capital assets, including BRT and rail infrastructure, rail and bus fleets, bus depots and fare systems.

Between 1999 and 2015, Andreski held a series of positions at NJ Transit. He began as a bus service planner and quickly moved up through the ranks. His roles included manager of capital planning and programs support, director of operations coordination and policy, chief of staff for rail operations and director of Trans-Hudson planning.

"After an exhaustive national search, the Trinity Metro Board of Directors agreed that Rich is the best choice for leading our agency to even greater success," said Jeff Davis, chairman of the Trinity Metro Board of Directors. "His vast experience in public transportation and his history of building partnerships are key for the growth of Trinity Metro."

Andreski, who will start his role on June 20, said he is looking forward to the transition.

"I'm excited and honored to be chosen as Trinity Metro's CEO," Andreski said. "I can't wait to join the team so we can work together on transit solutions for the North Texas region."

The position of president and CEO has been filled on an interim basis by Paul Ballard, who resumed leadership of the agency in November 2021. Ballard previously led Trinity Metro from 2014 to 2019, and he accepted the position on an eight-month basis to assist during the national search for a permanent replacement.

About the CEO

Andreski is motivated by a mission of public service and believes transit plays a critical role by providing access to employment, education and other opportunities, spurring economic development, and supporting a cleaner and greener future. He keeps the customer experience at the heart of every investment decision.

He is active in the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), where he was co-founder and co-chair of the APTA Emerging Leaders Program, an immersive year-long leadership development program for emerging leaders in the public transportation industry. Andreski also serves on APTA's High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Committee and APTA's Awards Committee.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Lafayette College and a Master of City & Regional Planning degree from the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning & Public Policy at Rutgers University. He also completed the Jurisdictional Crisis Incident Management Program from Texas A&M Engineering Extension and is a graduate of the APTA Leadership Program, Class of 2009.





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CapMetro To Pilot Courtesy Stops

Courtesy Stop Pilot will be in effect each day after 9 p.m.

AUSTIN, Texas (April 4, 2022) – Starting Monday, April 4, CapMetro is beginning a Courtesy Stop Pilot Program that will allow customers to request a drop off between regular stops. The Courtesy Stop program will be available on all MetroBus and MetroRapid routes after 9 p.m., and it's designed to support customers who may otherwise be hesitant to travel late at night by providing them with the opportunity to be dropped off closer to their destination.

To request a stop, customers will inform their bus operators where they would like to be dropped off when they first enter the bus. Customers should also push the stop alert button or pull the cord when the bus is at the stop directly before their preferred drop-off location. All courtesy stops will ultimately be determined by bus operators, who can decline to make the stop if they determine the requested location is unsafe.



For more information, please visit [CapMetro.org/Service-Alerts](https://www.capmetro.org/Service-Alerts).

CapMetro's New Courtesy Stop Pilot

CapMetro has launched a pilot program that lets you request a drop-off in between regular stops. The Courtesy Stop pilot is in effect each day after 9 p.m. on all MetroBus and MetroRapid routes, and it's designed to give riders a chance to select safe, well-lit spots to exit the bus closer to their destination.

When to Request a Courtesy Stop

Customers might request a mid-stop drop-off because it is closer to where they're going, or because it has lighting or sidewalk connectivity that makes them more comfortable using transit at night. Here are a couple examples for when you might request a Courtesy Stop:

Someone riding MetroBus Route 1 or the Night Owl 481 on North Lamar, for example, can request to be dropped off between two bus stops directly at the Palms apartment complex (see diagram below).

Or, a customer on the 801 or 803 might ask their bus operator to drop them off at a MetroBus stop in between MetroRapid stations.

How to Request a Courtesy Stop

When you get on the bus, let your bus operator know that you'd like a Courtesy Stop in between regular bus stops and where you'd like to be dropped off. And then, pull the cord or push the stop request button when the bus is at the stop directly before where you'd like to be dropped off.

All Courtesy Stops are at the discretion of bus operators, and operators may decline a stop if they determine the requested location is unsafe for someone to exit the bus.



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Buses and vans feature UV-powered devices that target airborne viruses

All active VIA Metropolitan Transit vehicles now have an air purification system on board to reduce the spread of airborne viruses and help maintain a safer, healthier environment for its customers and employees. Installation of 562 Active Air Purification Systems was completed in March.

Active Air Purification systems provide continuous air purification, enhancing VIA's daily cleaning and sanitizing routines. The system uses ultraviolet (UV) technology that creates and disperses low-dose hydrogen peroxide into the air to mitigate airborne pathogens, including COVID-19. The naturally occurring hydrogen peroxide is safe for passengers and eliminates 99% of germs, microbes, viruses, bacteria in the air and on surfaces, according to the manufacturer.

This technology is registered with the Environmental Protection Agency and provides a more routine, Centers for Disease Control (CDC)-recommended cleaning cycle. Similar systems have been used in health care facilities for many years. The device is made by United Safety and Survivability Corporation and requires minimal maintenance, other than replacing the UV bulb approximately once a year.



VIA has long maintained a rigorous, daily cleaning and sanitizing protocol for its vehicles and facilities. The addition of air purification systems aboard vehicles is part of a range of measures used by VIA to create a healthy, safe environment for passengers, operators, and the community.

Since early 2020, VIA implemented additional measures to help protect against the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses. This includes hand-sanitizing stations installed on all vehicles, operator compartment doors, and periodic cleaning of high-touch surfaces for vehicles in the field, among other safeguards. The Active Air Purification system replaces the need for manual cleaning throughout the day.

"VIA continuously researches and implements best practices for the health and safety of our customers and community, including new technology and innovations that help us work smarter for everyone's well-being," VIA President/CEO Jeffrey C. Arndt said. "As ridership continues to grow and our community keeps moving forward, recommendations and guidelines for public transit users may change but their safety will remain our top priority."

Modeshift & SCTA: Case Study

South Central Transit Authority was founded to serve public transit in Lancaster County and Berks County. It comprises Berks Area Regional Transportation Authority (BARTA) and Red Rose Transit Authority (RRTA).

As the COVID-19 pandemic struck, it became obvious that a contactless ticketing system is not only a step towards improving the customer experience but also a necessity to provide safety to both riders and agency personnel. The agency contacted Modeshift following a recommendation from an industry expert and Modeshift immediately put on the table its 360-degree mobility platform specifically designed to tackle the problems of small and mid-sized cities. It offered a full stack of tools that could help SCTA implement account-based fare collection and contactless ticketing.

The Modeshift team implemented and tested the account-based solution in its entirety: mobile ticketing via a branded mobile app, CAD and AVL systems, a reporting system, hardware integrations and smart cards. The platform helped the SCTA team manage their day-to-day operations and provided SCTA with a real-time reporting tool to track vital metrics. As a result, both BARTA and RRTA were able to offer their riders a fully functioning account-based fare collection platform in less than six months.

THE PILOT: RESULTS

Adoption rate of the Modeshift system:



Adoption rate of the mobile ticketing functionality:



Number of validations with Modeshift's system:



How much is the decline in paper ticket usage?

80% decline in paper ticket usage

CCRTA Continues Transition Plan Toward Low or No Emission Fleet Through Partnership with Industry Expert

As part of the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority's (CCRTA) commitment to developing a low or no emission fleet and infrastructure, CCRTA has entered into a professional services agreement with the Center for Transportation and the Environment (CTE), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Through a partnership with CTE, CCRTA can begin the process of performing the necessary zero-emission feasibility assessments to develop a low or no emission fleet transition plan. Professionally developed feasibility studies and transitions plans are needed to ensure that CCRTA is making sound operational and financially sustainable decisions as to the organization transitions to a zero-emission fleet.

"With the new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that was signed in November, CCRTA could receive additional investments for zero-emission vehicles as we work towards a greener infrastructure and fleet. By partnering with CTE, we will have an industry expert who can help ensure that we meet all requirements in our planning and applications," said Jorge G. Cruz-Aedo, CCRTA Chief Executive Officer.



CCRTA and CTE Staff at Staples Street Center – In Photo (L – R): Michael Ledesma, CCRTA Director of Transportation; Brianna Kerry, CTE Managing Consultant; Steve Clermont, CTE Director of Planning and Deployment, Senior Managing Consultant; Jorge G. Cruz-Aedo, CCRTA Chief Executive Officer; Miguel Rendon, CCRTA Managing Director of Executive Affairs; Derrick Majchszak, CCRTA Managing Director of Operations

The partnership between CCRTA and CTE will leave a positive impact within the communities that CCRTA serves. "Low or no emission public transportation would help clean our region's air and reduce our carbon footprint. Current and future generations of community members would benefit from improved air quality," said Dan Leyendecker, CCRTA Board Chair.



Since its formation in 1993, CTE has led and been a part of many significant milestones for low or no emission transportation and has assisted more than 70 transit agencies with either deployed or soon-to-be deployed zero-emission vehicles.

Ride DART for Free to Vote in the May 7 General Election



Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) is providing free transportation to polling locations on the day of the Texas general election, May 7, 2022. Voters can ride at no charge on all DART buses, trains, the Dallas Streetcar, GoLink, Paratransit Services and the TRE between EBJ Union Station and CentrePort/DFW Airport Station.

No proof of voter registration is required to ride for free on May 7. Riders can use promo code VOTE22 at checkout for a complimentary Adult Local Day Pass in the DART GoPass app on May 7. You can learn more at dart.org/vote.

How to Find a Voting Location The State of Texas organizes election information and voting locations by county.

Click the link for your county to find a convenient voting location.

[Collin County Election Information](#) (Plano, Richardson, Carrollton)

[Dallas County](#) (Addison, Carrollton, Cockrell Hill, Dallas, Farmers Branch, Garland, Glenn Heights, Highland Park, Irving, Rowlett, University Park)

[Denton County](#) (Carrollton)

[Ellis County](#) (Glenn Heights)

[Rockwall County](#) (Rowlett)

Voting locations are open at various times during early voting and from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on the day of the Texas general election, May 7. If you are in line by 7:00 p.m. on election day, you will be allowed to vote. Check your county elections website for specific times.

Plan Your Trip on DART to a Voting Location Riders who need customized trip planning can map out their ride with the "Plan" tool in the free GoPass app or use the Trip Planner on DART.org. DART Customer Service can also assist at 214-979-1111.

If you plan your trip directly in Google Maps, enter the voting location as your destination and choose the Transit option (train icon) to get travel directions using DART.

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

"Service Animals under Verbal Control on Transit"



Service Animals provide a variety of tasks for people with disabilities. And sometimes a leash or harness actually prevents the animal from completing a task. For example, if the animal is trained to seek help when their owner has a seizure, a leash could prevent the animal from assisting.

There are Service Animals that can be controlled using verbal commands. So it is accurate to say that Service Animals must always be under control, but that does not always mean on a leash. We can, however, have a policy that states that, "Service Animals must always be under control and on a leash"...but should be followed by..."unless a leash prevents the animal from completing a task".

PLEASE SEE BELOW FOR ADA GURU'S WEBINAR TRAINING SCHEDULE!



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

| | |
|---------------|--|
| May 16, 2022: | Creating Effective Operating Policies, Procedures & Documentation Strategies Webinar |
| May 16, 2022: | Advanced Wheelchair Securement Training |
| May 17, 2022: | ADA Compliance Requirements for Bus & Paratransit Services |
| May 18, 2022: | ADA Paratransit Eligibility Determination Webinar |
| June 8, 2022: | Bus Stop Accessibility Webinar |

[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.

DCTA to Reopen the Downtown Denton Transit Center

Due to the court ruling on Monday, April 18, effective immediately, the Transportation Security Administration will no longer enforce its Security Directives and Emergency Amendment requiring mask use on public transportation and at transportation hubs. The Downtown Denton Transit Center (DDTC) reopens from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. beginning Monday, April 25. The facility closes from noon to 1 p.m. daily for lunch and cleaning. Visits are limited to 45 minutes to allow for train arrivals.

Denton County Transportation Authority offers its DDTC lobby, restrooms and vending areas for the convenience of its passengers. The DDTC has been closed since Wednesday, March 18, 2020 due to COVID-19 precautions. In January 2022, it partially reopened to allow ticket sales at customer service windows.

DCTA's Customer Service team remains available by phone to assist passengers with questions at 940-243-0077. The agency encourages riders to sign up for Rider Alerts and follow DCTA on Facebook and Twitter to receive real-time information regarding facility updates and service modifications.

The agency's Lost and Found policy remains the same. Passengers are able to pick up lost and/or misplaced items. To locate an item in lost and found, a description is required over the phone. DCTA's Customer Service team will coordinate with that individual for pickup. For more information, visit DCTA's Lost & Found Policy page.

For more information, visit [DCTA.net](https://dcta.net).



The Texas A&M Transportation Institute is hiring an Associate Transportation Researcher

Job Summary

Enhance and support public transportation and shared mobility by conducting applied research in a support role while quickly developing the skills needed to lead increasingly complicated research tasks and projects. Learn skills and techniques needed to develop new research opportunities and expand your personal research portfolio. Specific duties include coordinating and collecting data from a wide variety of quantitative and qualitative sources, analyzing data (including data from surveys, the Census, intelligent transportation systems, databases, agency workbooks, interviews, and other sources), writing reports, planning and conducting research activities, performing literature reviews, preparing and delivering presentations, participating in conferences, supporting public and stakeholder engagement activities, and others. Continued employment in this position is contingent upon availability of funding and satisfactory performance.

This position is in the Transit Mobility Program at Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI). The Transit Mobility Program delivers practical, data-driven, innovative, person-centered solutions to improve the accessibility, equity, efficiency, effectiveness, and safety of public transportation through research, education, and technology transfer. The Transit Mobility Program team conducts research and provides technical assistance and training for national sponsors (e.g., the Transit Cooperative Research Program), for the Texas Department of Transportation, and regional and local transportation agencies both inside and outside of Texas. TTI has Texas offices in College Station, Austin, Houston, Dallas, Arlington, and El Paso; one of these locations would be preferred. However, location and working arrangement (i.e., on site, hybrid, or remote) is negotiable with the ideal candidate. [Select link to apply:](#)

TTA would like to welcome Steven Beck as the new General Manager for Hill Country Transit District (The HOP)

Steve has extensive experience in the transit industry starting as a driver in Graduate School at Western Illinois University where he ended up becoming the General Manager within 5 years of starting.

His experience includes large urban to small rural operations and everything in between. Previously Steve has served as the Assistant General Manager at DCTA in Denton, General Manager at CVT in San Angelo, General Manager in Bowling Green, KY, Colorado Springs, CO and Macomb, IL and Director of Transportation in Indianapolis.

In his spare time, he can be found wandering the world as he loves to travel with his 2 small dogs who enjoy a good road trip. Being from Illinois he is a Chicago Sports fan including the Cubs, Bulls, Blackhawks and of course the Bears. Steve is excited to return to Texas and serve the Hill Country Transit District.



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*IHS Technology Group Research, 2017)



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TTA's Mission is to support the needs of Texas' public transportation systems through statewide advocacy and education.

Mark your calendars!

**The TTA will host an
All Member Meeting
and Reception**

July 19th, 2022

**at the Driskill Hotel,
in Austin, Texas.**

If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities
please contact:

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 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 limited 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:

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