

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

Texas Transit agencies win big at SWTA's 35th annual Spotlight awards in Rogers, Arkansas

On Tuesday, July 26th, several Texas Transit agencies were recognized at SWTA's 35th Annual Spotlight Awards during the Summer University in Rogers, Arkansas. These awards recognize excellence in marketing and outreach efforts produced by transit providers across SWTA's eight-state region.

Each agency had an opportunity to share brief details of their winning campaigns and entries, including the context and objectives behind their communications initiatives.

The winning agencies from Texas were:

Go Bus, East Texas Council of Governments, ETCOG (3 awards)

Southwest Area Regional Transit District, SWART (1 award)

Corpus Christi Regional Transit Authority, CCRTA (5 awards)

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), (1 award)

Houston Metro, (1 award)

VIA Metro, (3 awards)

Congratulations to all of the award recipients.

[Select this link for more details and a complete listing of awards.](#)



Mintie Betts from ETCOG

TTA is now accepting applications for two positions!

**We're
HIRING**

[TTA Administrative Assistant/Program Administrator](#)

[TTA Membership Services Administrator \(part-time\)](#)

These are excellent opportunities for anyone that is interested in working to support some of the best transit systems in the country. Select the link below for more information on these positions or to apply. Interested candidates can also contact [Allen Hunter](#) for questions or to submit resumes.

[Apply Today!](#)

The Texas Transit Association invites you to join us at the historic Driskill Hotel in Downtown Austin on September 13, 2022

In conjunction with the TxDOT-PTN Semi-annual Transit Operators Meeting, TTA will be hosting a Panel Discussion with industry leaders about the current state of affairs regarding rising project costs, along with an **all-member meeting and evening reception**. The event will be held at the historic Driskill Hotel in Downtown Austin on **Tuesday, September 13, 2022**.

Don't miss this excellent networking opportunity.

Please [RSVP](#) by selecting the link below.
[Link to RSVP](#)



Meeting Schedule:

4:00 - 5:00 PM Panel Discussion with industry leaders on rising project costs

5:00 - 5:30 PM TTA All Member Meeting

5:30 - 7:00 PM TTA Evening Reception

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VIA Ridership Climbing with Fuel Costs Up and COVID Fears Down Gains tracked indicate positive trend

SAN ANTONIO (July 12, 2022) — VIA Metropolitan Transit is tracking steady gains in bus ridership, signaling an upward trend for transit in San Antonio.

VIA has recorded growth for several months in the first half of 2022 and tracked its largest year-over-year increase in April, with a 21% bump over 2021 numbers.

COVID restrictions and health concerns hit every major U.S. transit agency with steep declines beginning in 2020 and some cities seeing up to an 80% drop in ridership. VIA maintained over 50% of its ridership throughout the height of the pandemic, offering safe, reliable transportation options that include increased safety protocols and essential service models.

As communities continue to recover from the social and economic impacts of COVID-19, transit ridership across the country is growing and recent spikes in fuel costs are contributing to a rise in the need for affordable public transit that keeps people connected.

“Over the past two years, we have endured extraordinary circumstances as a community but have maintained our focus on keeping San Antonio moving forward, safely,” VIA President/CEO Jeffrey C. Arndt said. “Today, more than ever, affordable, reliable public transit is essential, and we are seeing more people use VIA to stay connected to work, school, doctors, groceries and each other.”

VIA bus, van, and VIA Link customers enjoy fares and discounts well below the cost of a gallon of gas. VIA riders pay just \$1.30 for single fares. A VIA Day Pass is \$2.75, and the 7-Day Pass is only \$12. With a 7-Day Pass, riders spend about \$1.71 per day for VIA bus or VIA Link service. The per-day price to ride is down to about \$1.26 with VIA’s 30-Day Pass for \$38. And transfers are free.



More information about VIA’s low fares and discounts is available at [VIAinfo.net/rates](https://viainfo.net/rates).



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Gaval Universal II



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Flexible Structures
Seamless Transactions



Great Pricing

Volume Discounts
Intelligent Purchasing



Nationwide Network

Warranty & Customer Care
Parts & Service Departments

CCRTA Receives Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence

Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA) presented the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for Report Year 2020 to its Board of Directors on Wednesday, July 6 th. The presentation took place during the CCRTA's Board of Directors meeting.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reports. The GFOA delivered the announcement to CCRTA staff on June 8 th.



“This certificate’s attainment represents a significant accomplishment by the CCRTA staff and the management team,” said Jorge G. Cruz-Aedo, CCRTA Chief Executive Officer.

CCRTA has earned the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for 17 consecutive years.

CCRTA Transportation Guide to Cooling Centers



Due to the extreme temperatures in June, the City of Corpus Christi and Nueces County provided designated cooling centers throughout the area from June 10th through June 12th .

Individuals could ride fare-free upon telling their Bus Operator that they would be traveling to their nearest cooling center. “CCRTA and their Board of Directors remain focused on doing their part to assist the community during these anticipated extreme temperatures. The Customer Service Center, website, and Trans-Loc app can help keep everyone informed on their nearest cooling center,” stated Jorge G. Cruz-Aedo, CCRTA Chief Executive Officer.

Cooling center and transportation information are also available online at ccrta.org.

DART Names Elizabeth Reich as New Chief Financial Officer

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) is pleased to announce that Elizabeth Reich has joined the agency as the new chief financial officer (CFO). A proven and distinguished finance leader, Reich will assume her new role and responsibilities on July 18.

A key member of the executive team, reporting to DART president & chief executive officer Nadine Lee, Reich will lead the agency's accounting, financial reporting, budget, treasury, fare collections and fare payment systems, debt management, investment management, and risk management functions.



Elizabeth Reich

"We are thrilled to welcome Elizabeth to our leadership team at DART," said Nadine S. Lee, DART president & CEO. "She brings a diverse skill set to the agency, including deep financial experience, strong analytics, and a track record of achievement. She is the right leader to helm our talented finance organization and deliver a comprehensive strategic financial plan that will help drive our rider-focused vision for the future."

Reich comes to DART with more than 20 years of financial leadership experience. She joins the agency from the City of Dallas, where she served as the chief financial officer. This included leadership of Budget and Management Services, Procurement Services, Information & Technology Services, the City Controller's Office, and the Office of Data Analytics & Business Intelligence. The *Bond Buyer* honored Elizabeth as a Trailblazing Woman in Public Finance in December 2021.

"These are exciting times for the North Texas region, and DART has developed an unparalleled vision and mission that I feel will make a real difference in lives of our residents," said Reich. "I'm looking forward to the opportunity to leverage all of my years of finance and business experience to play a role in helping deliver on this vision. I'm excited to work with the team to further strengthen the agency's financial growth to ensure that we can expand and develop greater mobility opportunities for our riders."

Prior to joining the City of Dallas, Reich spent 16 years with the Social Security Administration, taking on greater challenges and responsibilities including serving as the deputy regional commissioner of the Dallas Region and also serving as its chief financial officer.

Reich received her Master of Public Administration degree from The American University in Washington, D.C. in 2000. She is also a member of the Dallas Regional Chamber Executive Women's Roundtable, Women in Public Finance, and serves on the board of Broadway Dallas, previously Dallas Summer Musicals.

DART Light Rail Speed Reductions Due to Extreme Temperatures

Due to the record high temperatures across North Texas, which is expected to last for the next several days according to the National Weather Service, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) will implement speed restrictions on light rail service between 2:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., through Wednesday, July 20.

Light rail vehicles will operate at no more than 30 miles per hour during this time. DART light rail passengers should expect delays of 15-20 minutes due to these speed restrictions.

DART will continue to monitor the weather conditions across the North Texas area for the safety of our passengers and employees, and to determine if future speed restrictions will be necessary. Riders can stay informed about service changes by registering for DART Alerts at www.dart.org, or by contacting DART Customer Information at (214) 979-1111.



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for better lives in smarter cities

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METRO Welcomes Returning Board Member

Business development leader Diann Lewter is the newest member of the METRO Board of Directors. Lewter, who was sworn in at today's Board meeting, will serve a second appointment as a METRO Board Member representing the city of Houston. She previously served from January 2014 to April 2016.

"I am very honored to be reappointed to METRO's Board of Directors," said Lewter. "I am committed to working hard as a representative of this great city to bring various modes of transit to all our residents, especially those who rely on transit daily. We must keep this city and region moving forward."

Lewter, who will serve on the Authority's Administration and Public Safety, Customer Service and Operations committees, offers a wealth of experience in the commercial real estate and public sectors. She previously worked for Central Houston as a business development director. She also served as economic director for the Downtown District, which played an instrumental role in the success of light rail and stadium referendums that helped transform downtown Houston into a major destination for visitors and residents. Lewter served as a senior vice president of business development for Trione & Gordon, a corporate real estate and tenant representation firm, and operations manager with CBRE, a global commercial real estate services and investment firm.

She has volunteered with several organizations, including the chair of AIDS Foundation Houston, Leadership Houston, CREW (Commercial Real Estate Women), United Way of Greater Houston Women's Initiative, and The Professional Group.



Board Chair Sanjay Ramabhadran and Board Members Lex Frieden, Terry Morales, and Troi Taylor were also reappointed to additional terms by Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner.

ETCOG Wins Achievement Award from National Member Organization for Rural, Set, Go! Workforce Strategy Public Forum Series

The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) has awarded the ETCOG an Achievement Award for its workforce strategy public forum series partnered with Workforce Solutions East Texas, entitled Rural, Set, Go!

Rural, Set, Go! is an intentional strategy to engage community leaders, business leaders, and community members in candid conversations about the factors influencing their local workforce and economic development needs.

The forums began in 2021 to address some very basic needs for sustainable growth, including increased access to education, workforce, and economic development resources, the challenges of opportunity deserts which are defined as lack of broadband access, lack of basic services such as transportation, child care resources, training and skills development and access to jobs. Approximately 500 attendees joined the 2022 forum series, which took place weekly from March 22 to June 7 in East Texas rural counties.



“Workforce and economic development needs cannot be fully addressed without ensuring our agencies and staff are fully engaged with these less populated counties. Rural, Set, Go! addresses this challenge and will make all of our investments in the workforce more effective. I am so proud of our team at ETCOG, and Workforce Solutions East Texas, for bringing this series to life and enhancing our services in East Texas,” said ETCOG’s Director of Workforce & Economic Development, Doug Shryock.

ETCOG has been a long-time member of NARC, whose member organizations are composed of multiple local governments that work together to serve American communities – large and small, urban and rural. Eleven projects submitted from regional planning agencies across the nation received Achievement Awards.

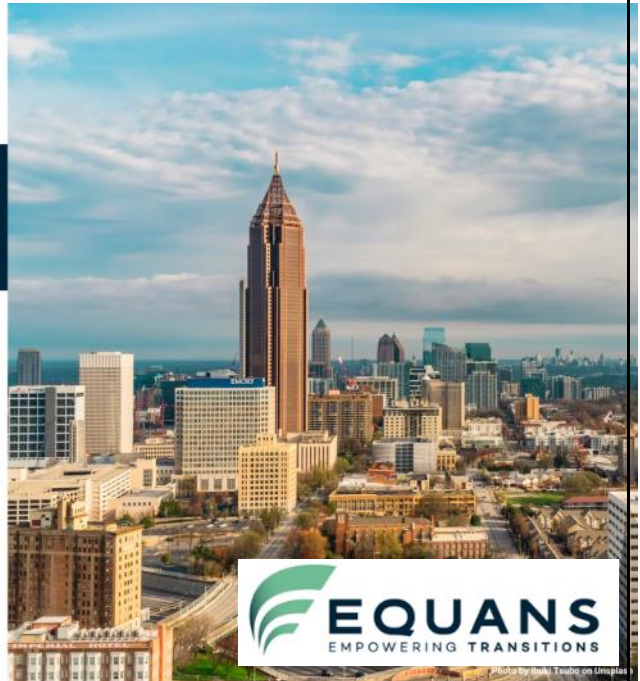
The Achievement Awards were presented during an awards ceremony held at the recent NARC 56th Annual Conference & Exhibition held in Columbus, Ohio.

Intelligent Transportation System: Ineo Systrans, company of EQUANS, confirms its expansion in the United States with the opening of new headquarters in Atlanta



WELCOME TO OUR NEW
OFFICES IN
ATLANTA

MEET OUR TEAM SPECIALIZED IN
THE NAVINEO CAD/AVL AND ITS
SOLUTIONS



A newcomer to the United States five years ago, Ineo Systrans, a company of EQUANS, world leader in multi-technical services, has taken a key step forward in its establishment in the United States with the opening of a new office in Atlanta. Having experienced significant growth and commercial success since its arrival, the EQUANS subsidiary, leading provider of Computer Aided Dispatch & Automatic Vehicle Location (CAD/AVL) Systems for public transit via its product offering NAVINEO, wishes to support its customers locally and welcome its growing teams.

Supporting public transit's transition towards green mobility

Already installed on over 50,000 buses, Light Rail and trains in 250 public transit agencies worldwide, NAVINEO's harnesses digital technology to improve passenger information quality and operational efficiency. Based on real-time data analysis, the NAVINEO CAD/AVL (Computer Aided Dispatch and Automatic Vehicle Location) system coordinates and optimizes public transit operators' system according to passenger frequency, other modes of transports' timetables or in the event of a traffic disruption. NAVINEO also includes functionalities such as real-time charge monitoring on electric buses and eco-driving assistance to support green mobility.

The implantation of Ineo Systrans, a company of EQUANS, in the USA takes place in a very promising context. With the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the largest federal investment in public transportation in the nation's history, and the Build Back Better Act, the country is currently experiencing a significant rise in the public transit sector. A key tool to make transportation more efficient, safer and sustainable, the NAVINEO Intelligent Transportation solution has known a great success since its deployment in the United States. After Rogue Valley Transportation District (RVTD) in 2020 and Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA) the following year, Ineo Systrans, a company of EQUANS and its NAVINEO solutions now count 8 clients in the United States.

The Atlanta headquarters were opened to support and strengthen this dynamic. With a size of 4,800 square feet, the site will welcome the growing teams of Ineo Systrans, company of EQUANS, in the coming years and will offer a live test and demo platform for customers.

Sun Metro Begins Fiber Optic Project at the Downtown Transit Center

EL PASO, TX—Sun Metro is set to begin a fiber optic project this week at the Bert Williams Downtown Santa Fe Transit Center, 601 Santa Fe, as part of a connectivity upgrade.

“We decided to make the update from the current network cable to fiber optics to improve network connectivity for our passengers using the ticket vending machines,” Chief Transit & Field Operations Officer, Ellen Smyth said. “This is the first step in many upgrades to come for Sun Metro.”

As part of the construction, the ticket vending machines outside the Downtown Transit Center will be removed temporarily.

Construction on this project is set to last until the end of August 2022. Tickets can still be purchased at Downtown Transit Center cashier’s office, or at the ticket vending machines inside the transit center



CapMetro Participating in Back-to-School Supplies



The agency is partnering with H-E-B and For the Children AUSTIN, TX (July 6, 2022) – CapMetro is partnering with H-E-B and its beneficiary, For the Children, for a Back-to-School educational supplies drive ahead of the start of the school year.

Customers can give monetary donations at checkout at several participating H-E-B stores from July 6th to August 16th. The following stores are participating in the drive: all Austin stores and Buda, Dripping Springs, Georgetown, Hutto, Kyle, Leander, Pflugerville and Round Rock stores.

CapMetro buses will also be present in four H-E-B parking lots from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 23 and Saturday, July 30 for customers to “stuff the bus” with school supplies.

Through this Back-to-School campaign, CapMetro continues to fulfill its mission of helping the community by supporting all Central Texas children as they prepare for a successful school year.

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*IHS Technology Group Research, 2017)



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The Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA) A-train celebrates 11 years of service

The Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA)' A-train turned 11 years old this month. On Saturday, June 18, DCTA offered free rides on the A-train all day. No special code was required, passengers just had to hop on board and get set for adventure. Passengers connecting to other DCTA services or with Dallas Area Rapid Transit needed the appropriate fare for that portion of their trip.



In addition to free rides, passengers were urged to meet the A-train conductors and ask for a DCTA Safety Kids coloring book. For more information about the A-train visit [RideDCTA.net](https://rideDCTA.net).



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

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| August 22, 2022 : | Creating Effective Operating Policies, Procedures & Documentation Strategies Webinar |
| August 22, 2022: | Advanced Wheelchair Securement Training |
| August 23 , 2022: | ADA Compliance Requirements for Bus & Paratransit Services |
| August 24 , 2022: | ADA Paratransit Eligibility Determination 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.



Texas Transit Association

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Austin, Texas 78701

Phone: (512) 900-0550

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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.

Texas Transit Association Address Change:

**Beginning on August 1, 2022 all
correspondence and inquiries
should be sent to:**

**Texas Transit Association
500 Congress Ave., Suite 150
Austin, Tx. 78701**

[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:

Allen E. Hunter
Executive Director
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