

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

## **Texas Transit Association welcomes Vince Huerta from ETCOG as the new TTA Board President**

Dear TTA Members,

It was so great to be able to visit with you in Austin. I enjoy every opportunity I can to reminisce and listen to stories from all over Texas.

I am elated to serve as the new President of TTA for my first term. I appreciate all of your support during this transition, and I am eager to begin working with our rural, small urban, and large urban providers to create new and updated benefits for our current members, potential recruits, and constituents. As a seasoned transit manager and longtime member of TTA, I believe I can provide a fresh perspective to the way our organization engages with members. With this, I plan to work with you to create a plan for the year to come. Together we will be able to expand our network and provide the representation Texas Transit deserves. I am proud to represent you and promise to support our member's needs by creating opportunities for education and collaboration.

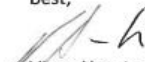


By virtue of our longstanding working relationship as a provider and TTA President elect, I have developed a few ideas that I believe will initiate our vision for FY23. This includes working with TxDOT to launch a state-wide comprehensive training program, the development of new committees to increase participation of our members while also continuing to seek additional ways in which we can increase the value of TTA for members. TTA strives to achieve operational excellence by having an increased legislative presence and offer continued learning opportunities.

Finally, I want to thank Jorge Cruz and Allen Hunter for their hard work and dedication to our members. You both have made huge strides for our providers, our communities, and public transportation as a whole. You are the advocates we all strive to be.

I commend our members for your commitment to Texas Transit thus far. My hope is to uphold the mission of our providers with these ventures in order to broaden the team of transit supporters and build a community of transit-educated individuals!

Best,

  
Vince Huerta

### ***TTA Awards nominations are now open!***

***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.***

**[Submit your nomination today!](#)**

TTA would like to thank our sponsors, presenters and all that attended our panel discussion, meeting and reception last month at the Driskill



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# Denton County Transportation Authority Announces New President and CEO, Paul Cristina

The Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA) Board of Directors has appointed Paul Cristina as the agency's new President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Cristina's appointment follows a nearly six-month nationwide search led by Gregg Moser of Krauthamer & Associates, LLC, a recognized expert in placement of executive transit leaders across the country. The Board shortlisted and interviewed five candidates. Three finalists were extensively interviewed in-person following a tour of the entire system. Ultimately, the Board selected Cristina based on his demonstrated aptitude in leading the agency as Interim CEO since March 15, 2022.



## Denton County Transportation Authority Announces New CEO, Paul Cristina

"The DCTA Board appreciates Paul's collaborative communication and leadership style, and he has gained the trust and confidence of the Board over the last six months. We believe that his experience and vision will enable our agency to realize its tremendous potential to deliver value to the residents of Denton County and our region," said Cesar Molina, Chair of the DCTA Board of Directors.

"Paul has taken the past few months to drive the organization forward, not simply be a caretaker, in his interim role. He has demonstrated leadership, teambuilding, and the ability to build Board consensus. He has a strong vision for building accountability and efficiency within the agency which maximizes the opportunities for transit for Denton County residents," said TJ Gilmore, Vice-Chair of the DCTA Board of Directors.

"Several years ago, I had the pleasure of being introduced to Mr. Cristina. His passion for transportation was evident based on his involvement in local and regional issues. Living in Denton County, I remember thinking at the time that he would be the future of leadership in the transportation industry. His time with DCTA has demonstrated his time is now! We are beyond blessed that he has chosen to bring his passion, leadership, and vision to DCTA!" said Dianne Costa, Secretary of the DCTA Board of Directors.

Prior to joining DCTA as the Deputy CEO, Cristina served as Director of Public Private Partnerships at BNSF Railway Company, where he led engagement with public agencies across the railroad's 23,500-mile rail network on projects that improved safety, mobility and efficiency for the railroad and the traveling public.

"As a resident of Denton County since 2010, it is a privilege for me to have the opportunity to lead the dedicated men and women of DCTA into the future. The team possesses tremendous expertise and pride in what they do and I look forward to all we will accomplish to enhance the quality of life for our customers through high quality transportation services."

Before his tenure at BNSF, he served as a civil engineer officer in the United States Air Force, holding positions of increasing responsibility at Tyndall Air Force Base, Grand Forks Air Force Base and overseas in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. After leaving the Air Force, Cristina worked as a civil engineer and planning consultant in Florida and was named a "Top 40 under 40" aviation professional by Airport Business Magazine in 2012.

Mr. Cristina earned his Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from the United States Air Force Academy and a Master of Business Administration from Florida State University. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Texas and resides in Flower Mound with his wife and their three children.



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# VIA Bus and Van Tickets May Look a Little Different

Due to a nationwide paper shortage, VIA's inventory of cards issued through the on bus farebox may be temporarily unavailable. This includes electronic transfer tickets and Day Passes.

Customers will be provided manual tickets for transfers and Day Passes during this time. This change will not impact the cost of the service or the benefits of the pass.

Whether a customer is requesting a transfer or buying a Day Pass, the operator will issue them a pass valid for the remainder of the service day. Riders will then be able to ride fare-free the rest of the day by simply presenting their pass to the bus or VIA Link operator on subsequent trips.

For overpayments of \$1 dollar or more, please ask the bus operator for an overpayment card. Please present the overpayment card at a VIA Customer Service Center to receive change.

For a convenient payment option and faster boarding, customers are encouraged to buy VIA passes through the VIA goMobile+ app or on a VIA goCard.





# Going to the State Fair of Texas on DART: More Time Enjoying the Fair, Less Time Getting There

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) makes getting to the 2022 State Fair of Texas quick and easy. Enjoy your ride in air-conditioned comfort September 30 through October 23 without having to find parking or battling traffic and get dropped off at one of two gates.

## Save up to \$7 on fair admission with DART GoPass®

DART takes you straight to the gate -- and straight to the savings. Using the promo code provided in the DART [GoPass app](#), receive \$5 off fair admission Monday-Friday. On Saturdays and Sundays, save \$7. To enjoy this special pricing, simply enter the code when purchasing your fair admission on the [State Fair of Texas website](#).

## Green Line service

Fair Park Station, located on Parry Avenue at the entrance to the fairgrounds, and MLK, Jr. Station, located south of R.B. Cullum Boulevard and convenient to the Gate 6 entrance and the Cotton Bowl Stadium, are your choices on DART's Green Line. Green Line trains will be available approximately every 10 minutes between downtown Dallas and the Fair Park stations.



## Stay on the move with contactless payments

DART offers four great contactless options that make buying your pass fast, safe, and convenient:

1. **GoPass® app:** Download the latest version of the app for free from the App Store or Google Play. Just be sure to activate your DART pass before you board.
2. **GoPass® Tap card:** Available at 7-Eleven and [hundreds of participating retailers](#), GoPass Tap is the loadable transit card that automatically gives you the best fare every time you ride. Simply tap your card to a reader on a DART rail platform or bus prior to boarding, and your fare is deducted automatically. (Note: GoPass Tap cards are valid for local fares only. GoPass Tap cards are not valid for travel on TEXRail, DCTA or Trinity Metro.)
3. **Credit or debit card:** Buy your DART pass with any contactless credit or debit card. Just tap your contactless card to a reader on a DART rail platform or bus prior to boarding -- and you're on your way to all the fun of the fair!
4. **Mobile device:** Using your preferred mobile payment app -- such as Apple Pay, Google Pay or Samsung Pay -- simply tap your mobile device to a reader on a DART Rail platform or bus to buy your pass.

Purchase a Local Day Pass for \$6, good for DART rail, local buses and riding the TRE from DFW Airport/CentrePort Station. Tarrant and Denton County customers need a Regional Day Pass for \$12. Details are available at [DART.org/StateFair](#) or by calling DART Customer Information at 214-979-1111.



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# Sun Metro Modifying Discounted Fares for First Time in More Than Two Decades

EL PASO, Texas — Effective October 1, 2022, a discounted fare offered by Sun Metro will increase by 20 cents for the first time in more than 25 years.

The new discounted bus fare for seniors and people with disabilities will be 50 cents. The standard bus fare is \$1.50, and it will remain unchanged.

The new 50-cent fare will also apply to LIFT customers if they choose to ride Sun Metro's Fixed Route. Previously, there was no charge to LIFT customers for riding the Fixed Route service. LIFT fare for LIFT service will remain at \$2.50 per trip.

A 30-day grace period will be implemented to allow Sun Metro to inform riders about the fare modification for the senior and disabled discount. The fare modification is part of Sun Metro's Strategic Recovery Plan.



“Sun Metro hasn’t modified its discounted fares for seniors and people with disabilities in more than two decades. This means reduced fares have not been keeping pace with rising operational costs, which has hindered public transit service. This fare modification, while an increase, remains substantially lower than our standard fare, which will allow Sun Metro to protect our most vulnerable populations while also working to address the public transit service demands,” said Ellen Smyth, City of El Paso Chief Transit Operations Officer.

Sun Metro customers may visit [www.SunMetro.net](http://www.SunMetro.net) or call the Customer Service Center at (915) 212-3333 during regular business hours to learn more.



## Entrepreneurial Equity: METRO Expands Efforts to Support Business Owners



METRO's Board of Directors voted to create two programs to ensure equal access and opportunity for veterans and people living with a disability seeking to do business with the Authority.

The Veteran Owned Business Enterprise (VOBE) and the Disability Owned Business Enterprise (DOBE) programs will be run by the Office of Economic Business Opportunity, formerly known as the Office of Small Business.

The programs will allow the office to identify and target the businesses more effectively, implement more inclusive practices, and assist in providing a full and fair opportunity to compete for procurement opportunities with METRO.

"This is a step in the right direction to benefit many business owners in their reach," Board Chair Sanjay Ramabhadran noted during the board meeting.

The Office of Economic Business Opportunity also operates the Small/Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (SB/DBE) programs with an annual goal of 35 percent small business participation.

"This is a very important program that we have been looking at for some time," said Board Member Lex Frieden. "I want to applaud METRO's staff for putting together a great plan for a program that will benefit our community."

To learn more about how to participate in this program, click [here](#).

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\*IHS Technology Group Research, 2017)



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## DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY: WHY VPAT MATTERS WHEN CHOOSING ACCESSIBLE AND EQUITABLE TRANSPORTATION

As a transit agency, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act plays a critical role in your ability to serve your community. To provide the best service—and to comply with regulations—transportation needs to be both accessible and equitable.

Accessibility answers the need for public transit and/or paratransit to allow disa-

bled persons to use transit as intended, from paying to boarding to riding. Equity, on the other hand, ensures all people can use transit or paratransit with comparable access to services, information, and technologies necessary for taking trips. With riders using web applications and mobile devices to book and manage travel, digital accessibility and equity are must-haves. VPAT factors heavily in ensuring accessibility for riders using the latest technology. Learn what a VPAT is and why it's important.



[Read Entire Article](#)

### About the Author

Ecolane

Read Ecolane's blog articles for perspective, opinion and information on transit and paratransit issues.

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

## Securing Walkers ?

**QUESTION:** "Someone called stating that they would like to be strapped down in their walker like a wheelchair is strapped down. This does not seem safe to our policies at all! Thoughts?"

**ADA GURU's THOUGHTS:** An agency's walker policy (if they have one) should clearly identify how an agency will handle the placement of walkers; whether folding or non-folding. It sounds like your policy either doesn't allow securement of walkers or doesn't address it.

In my travel around the United States, working with agencies large and small, I see policies that allow a walker to be secured if it cannot be folded. What is most important is that we have a plan for safely placing the walkers. They should not be blocking an aisle or door.

**SAMPLE POLICY:** "Walkers must be folded and placed in a safe location (out of aisles, not blocking doors). If a walker cannot be folded and cannot be safely placed anywhere else on the vehicle, it must be secured in the wheelchair securement area and the rider must take a seat. The rider cannot sit on or stand next to their secured walker."

I also understand the agency that does not want to secure walkers for fear of potentially passing up a rider using a wheelchair. Whatever your policy, be sure that walkers are not allowed to create unsafe situation on your vehicle.

[FOR ADDITIONAL DISCUSSIONS ON WALKERS AND ALL OTHER ADA-RELATED OPERATIONAL ISSUES, SIGN UP FOR AN UPCOMING ADA COMPLIANCE WEBINAR.](#)



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

November 03 , 2022:	ADA Paratransit Eligibility Determination Webinar
November 08, 2022:	Advanced Wheelchair Securement Training
November 09, 2022 :	Creating Effective Operating Policies, Procedures & Documentation Strategies Webinar
November 10 , 2022:	ADA Compliance 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.





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*TTA's Mission is to support the needs of  
Texas' public transportation systems  
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## Important Dates:

**December 13, 2022  
TTA Legislative Workshop**

**March 7, 2023  
TTA Day at the Capitol**

**April 11-15, 2023  
TTA State Conference, Expo &  
Rodeo**

[Allen E. Hunter](#)  
Executive Director  
254-405-4212 cell

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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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