



TEXASTRANSIT
ASSOCIATION

November 2022

NEWSLETTER

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

Registration is now open for TTA's 2023 State Conference, Expo and Rodeo

This year's State Conference, Expo, and Rodeo will be held in the beautiful city of [Corpus Christi](#), Texas, full of one-of-a-kind attractions. In addition, our host agency, Corpus Christi Regional Transit Authority, CCRTA, will highlight its innovative and evolving mobility network.

Our [2023 Annual State Conference and Expo](#) will feature industry-leading content, with timely general sessions, in-depth breakout sessions, and training. It will also have numerous networking opportunities with your friends and colleagues from the transit industry.



TTA's 2023 State Conference, Expo and Rodeo

April 11-15, 2023

[Register Today!](#)

[Sponsorship Opportunities](#)

The Deadline for submitting TTA 2022 Awards nominations is January 31, 2023

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](#)





Please join us on December 13, 2022, from 1:00 - 4:00 PM at the State Capitol for a TTA Legislative Workshop.

In preparation for this year's 88th Legislative Session, we invite you to join fellow leaders from across the state to attend the TTA Legislative Workshop. During this workshop, you will have the opportunity to learn about upcoming legislative issues, share information, and visit with different House/Senate Committee representatives.

The program will include a keynote presentation from Harvey Kronberg of the Quorum Report, a Peer Group panel discussion, and a legislative update from TTA Lobbyist Wade Long.

Harvey Kronberg is a political analyst for Spectrum Cable News and a regular on their nightly Capitol Tonight. Spectrum Cable News is a 24-hour news channel broadcast in most cities in Texas. Mr. Kronberg is also a former contributing columnist to the Austin American Statesman and has been quoted in publications as diverse as The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Congressional Quarterly, The Dallas Morning News, The Houston Chronicle, Christian Science Monitor, etc. Texas Monthly has declared him one of the 25 most powerful individuals in Texas politics.

This workshop will also provide you with a unique opportunity to:

- Learn about the issues for this upcoming Legislative session.
- Participate in discussions with different House/Senate Committee representatives and fellow peers.
- Set the foundation for TTA's Legislative Day at the Capitol on March 7, 2023.
- Enjoy a tour of the Capitol (optional)

Panelists include: Wade Long, TTA Lobbyist, Leroy Alloway of CapMetro, Steve Montgomery of Trinity Metro, Eddie Miranda of Houston Metro, and Mario Delgado of Metro McAllen

[RSVP today](#)

[Link to provide legislative priorities](#)

Schedule of Events:

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM House/Senate members
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM Keynote: Harvey Kronberg of the Quorum Report
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Panel discussion and a legislative update from TTA Lobbyist Wade Long
4:00 PM – 4:30 PM Capitol Tour for those interested

[Save the date for TTA's Legislative Day at the Capitol on March 7, 2023](#) and

[TTA's State Conference, Expo, and Rodeo April 11-15, 2023](#)

The Texas Transit Association appoints Edna Johnson as the newest member of the TTA Board of Directors

Edna Johnson is the Transit Coordinator for the City of Round Rock, where she oversees the management and the operations of transit services for one of the fastest growing cities in the nation, and one of the best managed cities in Texas.

She has been in public transportation since the early 1980s, where she has served in various positions of increasing responsibility. Edna integrates her expertise in these areas to provide public transportation for the residents of Round Rock, which provides a vital link to connecting people to the community.



HELP
#EndTheStreakTX
End the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways.

A statewide epidemic is rising into its third decade as November marked 22 straight years of daily deaths on Texas roads.

On November 7, 2022 TxDOT marked a grim anniversary of 22 straight years of daily deaths on Texas roads. That's led to 79,000 innocent lives lost to preventable fatal crashes. For the past several years, about 10 people have died every day in crashes across the state.

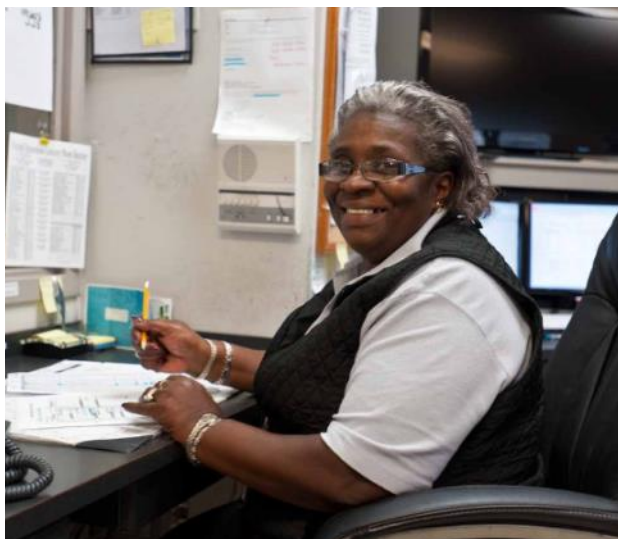
As a part of its #EndTheStreakTX campaign, TxDOT held media events, shared personal stories of loss, and posted safety messages on social media. The goal is to change driver behavior to finally end the streak of daily deaths.

<https://www.txdot.gov/safety/traffic-safety-campaigns/endthestreaktx.html>

CCRTA temporarily paused all services on November 18, for a moment of silence to memorialize former employee Carol Flowers

Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA) is deeply saddened to announce the recent passing of former employee, Carol Flowers. She was 73.

Ms. Flowers was an exceptional leader and a remarkable presence within CCRTA and the transportation industry. Carol retired on June 19, 2020, after supporting the CCRTA for more than 40 years. She was passionate about helping her CCRTA co-workers, transit peers, and the communities that she served.



“I loved the mutual respect shared between Bus Operator and rider. When I operated the bus, it felt like an ingrained community. I was able to celebrate their successes and support them through their adversities,” said Ms. Flowers in a 2019 interview.

Her dedication to the transportation industry earned her accolades from the CCRTA and transit associations and more importantly created bonds between her and her peers.

“When Hurricane Harvey hit Corpus Christi, I received calls from Illinois, Hawaii, and from others around Texas. Even though it was a tough time for the Coastal Bend, it was great knowing that I had support from friends all over the industry. We all know that good or bad, we are here to embrace each other,” stated Flowers.



Carol Flowers with Derrick Majchszak at Roadeo

Carol had a vital role in helping transition the Corpus Christi Transit System, then managed by the City of Corpus Christi, into the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority as it is known today. Her warm presence, leadership, empathy for others, love of family and friends, and dedication to her communities and transportation will be forever in our hearts.



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Ride with Santa on the TRE Train to the Dallas Holiday Parade

The Trinity Railway Express (TRE) is delighted to invite all of our North Texas residents to join us on Saturday, December 3, for a train ride with Santa and Mrs. Claus to the 2022 Toyota Dallas Holiday Parade.

Since 1987, the Dallas Holiday Parade has brought love, life, and joy to the hundreds of thousands of spectators who enjoy the parade each year. This year's sponsors include Toyota of North America, AT&T, the AT&T Discovery District, and the Adolphus Hotel.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will join TRE riders for the special holiday ride to this year's festivities. Each train ride will end at EBJ Union Station with live musical performances and promotional giveaways, as well as photo opportunities with the Claus Family.

The TRE will offer three opportunities to ride to the parade this year. With stops at each of the 10 stations between Fort Worth and Dallas, we invite everyone to join us for a fun and festive ride with plenty of time to spare to enjoy the parade.



For more information and a schedule of events, please visit the website at www.trinityrailwayexpress.org.

Creative Bus Sales and Forest River Collaborate to Offer an Electric Solution to the Community Transport Crisis

[Creative Bus Sales](#), the nation's largest bus and transportation services vehicle dealer, has collaborated with [Forest River Bus](#) to address the transportation crisis around bus availability in the United States. The crisis stems from numerous factors, including a significant shortage of chassis and other components necessary to build buses, supply constraints for suppliers and sub-suppliers, and a labor shortage - leading to low inventory, extended delivery times and a marked increase in bus prices for organizations and municipalities that rely on paratransit vehicles.



Creative Bus Sales has hundreds of Federal Transit Administration-compliant Ford E-Transit vans customized by Forest River in inventory right now and will reach 1,000 by year-end, providing an immediate - and green - solution to this significant problem. Throughout 2023, Creative Bus Sales plans to make significantly more Ford E-Transit vehicles available.

In October, several transportation trade associations striving to bring awareness to the burgeoning crisis sent a letter to Pete Buttigieg, U.S. Secretary of Transportation, urging the government to help address the critical shortage of chassis for small buses. The letter stated that due to the supply shortage, it is estimated that 20,000 small bus purchases are currently backlogged, and 75% of State Departments of Transportation are feeling an unprecedented level of concern, according to a recent survey by the Community Transportation Association of America. Bus dealers predict the small bus backlog could eclipse 20,000 in 2023, and a full market recovery could be another five to seven years away.

Creative Bus Sales' partnership with Forest River means those organizations and municipalities that depend on transportation for the elderly or community transit could have a safe and reliable Ford E-Transit paratransit vehicle, delivered in a matter of days, at a minimal price premium compared to a gas-powered vehicle. The electric chassis vehicle requires approximately 40% fewer parts and less labor to assemble, making it a more readily available option in today's supply-constrained environment.

[Link to full article:](#)

DART Launches Clean Team Initiative on Light Rail Trains



Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) has launched a new pilot program that will substantially increase the agency's commitment to riders to provide a safe and clean transit experience.

The DART Clean Team Initiative will utilize on-board contract cleaning personnel from "Our Calling" United Community of Faith Staffing to remove trash and debris aboard DART light rail vehicles as they operate throughout the DART network, supplementing the extensive cleaning protocols already in place.

Each weekday night, DART light rail vehicles currently receive a complete cleaning between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m., while the vehicles are at the rail yards. This includes sweeping, mopping and a complete wipe-down with an EPA approved cleaning agent.

DART light rail vehicles also receive a thorough cleaning at the eight terminus stations throughout the day with a focus on high touch areas. High touch surface areas are cleaned including handrails, door buttons, grab rails and hanging straps. Red and Blue Line trains are cleaned every 60 minutes. Orange and Green Line trains are cleaned every 90 minutes.

Through the new Clean Team Initiative pilot program, 24 additional contract cleaners will board light rail vehicles across the DART network on all four light rail lines throughout the day. Two shifts will operate Monday-Friday, between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.

If you see a cleanliness concern with any DART vehicle or facility, please contact the DART Customer Information Center at 214-979-1111, or through the [DART GoPass App](#).



ETCOG Honored with NADO Award for Regional Solutions Reports

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) has received a 2022 Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for its Solutions Reports released this year highlighting services and investments made in East Texas communities over the fiscal year.

ETCOG developed printed, web-accessible Solutions Reports customized for each of the 14 counties highlighting impacts made in economic development, workforce development, transportation, senior services, public safety, and the environment serving the area businesses, elected officials, and the general public. The project began with developing and mailing one-page "At a Glance" reports to all members, which provided key benefits and a link to the Solutions Report web area on the ETCOG website to see all highlights. Each county's Solutions Report spans 20–30 pages, which will be updated annually after the completion of a fiscal year.



"On behalf of the East Texas Council of Governments, the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee and staff, I am thrilled our organization received this well-deserved recognition" said ETCOG Executive Director David Cleveland. "I am very proud of our Communications Director, Lindsay Vanderbilt, who developed the Solutions Reports so all of our members can see what ETCOG delivers for them every year!"

The project solves a common problem among development and planning organizations, which is sharing the reach and impact made in the communities they serve. NADO leadership invited Mrs. Vanderbilt to give a presentation at its annual training conference on methods used for effective storytelling. NADO is a Washington, D.C.-based membership association of regional development organizations that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities, and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery, and comprehensive strategies. The Impact Awards program recognizes regional development organizations and their partners for improving the economic and community competitiveness of our nation's regions and local communities.

Award-winning projects were recognized during NADO's 2022 Annual Training Conference, held in Pittsburgh Oct. 15–18. The 2022 class of award recipients consists of 107 projects from 71 organizations spanning 28 states. These projects are presented in an interactive "Story Map" developed by NADO that includes project summaries, partners, and images. The Story Map is available online at <https://tinyurl.com/38vbcczu>.

"Regional development organizations and their partners have played an integral role in supporting local communities during this important time of economic recovery," 2021–2022 NADO President Misty Crosby, former executive director of the Buckeye Hills Regional Council, located in Marietta, Ohio, said. "This year's Impact Awards recipients demonstrate the many ways our member organizations serve their communities by promoting economic development, fostering resilience, and improving quality of life for residents."

The NADO Impact Awards are presented in honor of the late Aliceann Wohlbruck, who was NADO's first executive director and served 24 years as a champion for regional approaches to economic development in rural communities.



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METRO's "Arts in Transit" Program Welcomes New Murals

METRO customers have a more colorful commute after the Authority welcomed new artwork along the system.

METRO's Urban Design team recently joined the ["Big Walls, Big Dreams"](#) mural festival by offering large spaces at transit facilities as canvases to install meaningful community art. With the help of artists commissioned by [Houston's UP Art Studio](#), more than a dozen new murals were painted at four transit-oriented sites.



The mural sites include [stairs at the Burnett Transit Center](#), a [retaining wall along the METRO-Rail Red Line](#) at N. Main Street, [support columns on Fulton Street](#) near Roosevelt Elementary and an [outer wall at the Kashmere Bus Operating Facility](#) along the East-ex Freeway.



The artists created murals that engage communities and are reminiscent of the neighborhoods they are showcased in.

At METRO's Kashmere facility, students from the nearby Kashmere High School were asked to create multiple murals inspired by their mascot as well as the student body.

The "Big Walls, Big Dreams" mural festival has concluded, but the art will continue to be displayed and maintained for at least one year, and METRO will showcase and welcome additional artists as part of its "Arts in Transit" program. You can learn more about this effort in the latest edition of [The Next Stop podcast by clicking here.](#)

Media can download [video and photos of the murals here.](#)

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*IHS Technology Group Research, 2017)



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VIA and HEB partnered to provide a complimentary service to the HEB tree lighting

VIA Metropolitan Transit partnered with H-E-B once again to provide complimentary transportation to and/or from the H-E-B Tree Lighting in [Travis Park at 301 E. Travis St.](#) on Friday, Nov. 25, 2022.

The transportation, provided courtesy of event organizers, includes all VIA mainline bus service, [VIA Link](#), and [VIAtrans](#) service for registered patrons. When boarding, passengers simply informed the operator that they were attending the H-E-B Tree Lighting to ride fare-free. Registered VIAtrans customers needed to schedule their trip in accordance with VIAtrans policies and procedures.

The nearly 50-foot Christmas tree with more than 10,000 lights is H-E-B's Christmas gift to the City of San Antonio. In total, H-E-B commits more than \$250,000 each year to the transportation, decorations and lighting of the tree for all of San Antonio to enjoy.

This season, the team from H-E-B went in search of the perfect tree to gift to San Antonio and found the Blue Spruce tree in Northern Michigan near Lake Michigan.



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

December 1 , 2022: ADA Compliance Requirements for Bus & Paratransit Services

January 10 , 2023: 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.



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

**TTA's Legislative Workshop,
December 13, 2022**

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

RSVP today

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

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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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