

NEWSLETTER

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

There is a little over a week left to register for the TTA Annual State Conference, Expo, and Rodeo on April 11-15, 2023

Our **2023 Annual State Conference and Expo** will feature two receptions, networking breakfasts, multiple breakout sessions, and an Expo with over 80 Exhibitors from around the country. Don't miss out on these networking opportunities with nearly 400 of your friends and colleagues from the transit industry. The conference will conclude on Friday morning with an update from FTA Region VI Administrator Gail Lyssy and a special presentation from Mark Kenny, Strategic Team Consultant, and Podcast Host. All attendees present at the end of the closing session will be entered for a chance to win a \$500 gift card.

Some of the highlights will include:

- [Golf Tournament](#) and welcome reception, Tuesday, April 11
- Three Networking Breakfasts
- Sold out Expo Hall, featuring 80 plus exhibitors with multiple vehicles, spread across a day and a half - April 12 & 13. Don't forget to take advantage of the [\\$50.00 Expo Pass](#) (Thursday only). This is a fantastic opportunity for your staff to enjoy lunch and meet with multiple vendors from around the country.
- [General Sessions](#) and more than 30 [breakout sessions, workshops & training](#)
- TTA's Annual Awards Luncheon, Wednesday, April 12
- Big Night Out, Thursday, April 13, at the Texas State Aquarium (hosted by CCRTA and MV Transportation).
- Texas State [Rodeo competition](#) on April 14 & 15, followed by an awards dinner. This is an excellent opportunity to recognize some of the best operators and maintenance teams from across the State. Remember, this will be the first State Rodeo since 2019.
- Friday, April 14, there is an 8-hour dispatch course along with operator training, focused on keeping drivers safe while serving the public. There will also be a panel discussion on Zero/Low Emission Vehicles. This discussion will focus on: Heavy Duty Battery/Electric and Hydrogen Fuel Cell, Paratransit LPG, and Paratransit Electric Options, followed by an open discussion.



2023 TTA State Conference and Expo

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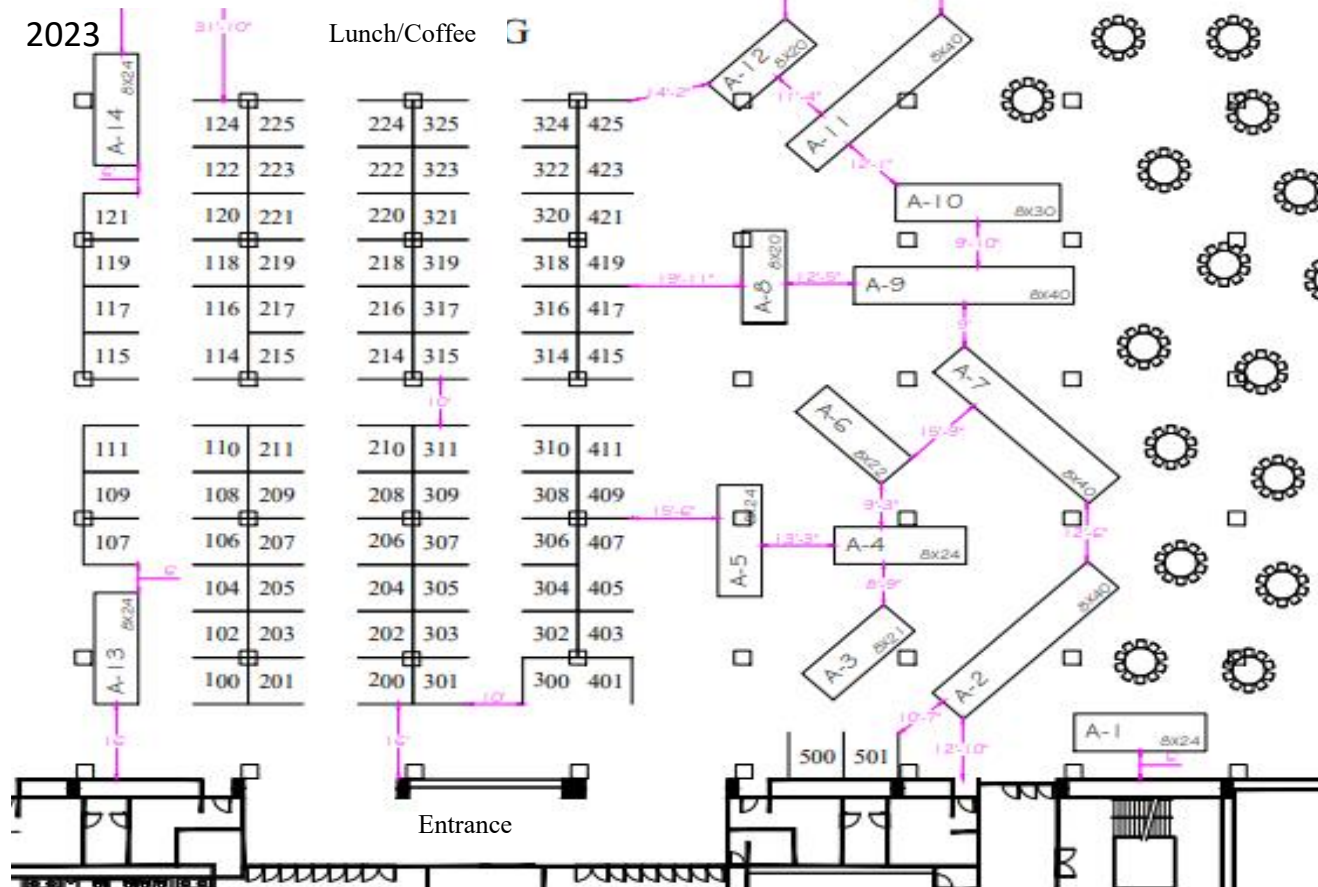
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TTA EXPO FLOORPLAN



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Exhibit Booth:
A1-A7



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VIA celebrates operators on Transit Driver Appreciation Day

VIA Metropolitan Transit joined public transportation providers nationwide to celebrate Transit Driver Appreciation Day and recognized the agency's bus and van operators with public displays of gratitude on Friday, March 17, 2023.

Each day, VIA bus and van operators keep to their schedules, check fares, give directions, announce stops, remember requests, and more, all while maneuvering large vehicles through unpredictable traffic and weather conditions. On Friday, March 17, VIA recognized the agency's bus and van operators with public displays of appreciation.

VIA Trustees and employees were stationed at Centro Plaza, Crossroads Park & Ride and Medical Center and North Star Transit Centers, greeted the operators with Thank You signs and cheers. Van and bus operators also were welcomed at the start of their respective shifts with breakfast, lunch or dinner treats.



"At VIA, we appreciate our operators every day," VIA President and CEO Jeff Arndt said. "But today is their special day. They get recognized across the country. So we're here to honor those superheroes who work diligently throughout the year to keep San Antonio moving. And in addition to our operators, we also recognize our maintenance group, because they help keep the vehicles on the road. It's a combination we have to have: a clean, reliable, well-maintained vehicle with a professional operator, who provides quality service."

How can you participate? Join in and Say Thanks! Transit Driver Appreciation Day can be everyday. Let your bus or van operator know you appreciate their service with a "thank you."

Share. Let us know when your bus or van operator does a good job. Share a Facebook or Twitter post using #TDAD and #RideVIA. Or call our Customer Service line at (210) 362-2020 to offer a commendation.



Pass it on. Encourage your friends and family to ride VIA and give their operator a thumbs up for good service.

About Transit Driver Appreciation Day:

Transit Driver Appreciation Day began in 2009 as an opportunity to show gratitude for public transportation operators. For hours on end, drivers keep to their schedules, check fares, give directions, announce stops, remember requests, and more, all while maneuvering large vehicles through unpredictable traffic and weather conditions.

Evening Reception at the Texas State Aquarium

Thursday, April 13th, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Enjoy an evening of food and drinks with your friends and peers while touring one of the best aquariums in Texas.

There are over 400 species of animals at the Texas State Aquarium. You will have an opportunity to discover the animals from the jungle, coral reef, Mayan ruins, and many more habitats.

The idea for the Texas State Aquarium was conceptualized by its founders early on to focus on the species in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. For those wishing to spend time in an extraordinary place, a promising unforgettable experience awaits.

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NAVINEO by EQUANS empowers public transport operators to improve the daily life of their passengers.

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Contact us

 OLLIVIER Kilian
 kilian.ollivier@equans.com
 571 428 9392



TTA Golf Tournament



Tuesday, April 11th

12:00pm Shotgun Start

Four Man Scramble/ Par Is Your Friend

Entry Fee: \$100 Per Player

Mulligans: \$10 each

Lunch Will Be Provided (11am-12pm)

Gabe Lozano Golf Center

4401 Old Brownsville Rd, Corpus Christi TX 78405

Team Awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place

Individual Awards for Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin

Tournament Sponsorship: \$1,000

Hole Sponsorship: \$250 each

To register an entry or place a sponsorship, please email:
jsirio@ccrta.org or rpatrick@ccrta.org

For entry or sponsorship payment, contact:

Angelica, 361-903-3480 (Weekdays, 8:30AM - 4:30PM CST)

Player Information

Team
Name

Player 1

Handicap:

Player 2

Handicap:

Player 3

Handicap:

Player 4

Handicap:



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Unwire: Making public transit an easy choice by removing barriers to mobility so that everyone can get on board

Based in Copenhagen, Denmark, with an international team, Unwire is an innovative company built on more than two decades of experience with mobile solutions and public transit fare collection.

UNWIRE



Unwire delivered one of the first mobile ticketing solutions to the market back in 2008 when they introduced mobile ticketing to Stockholm in Sweden, and one of the first mobile ticketing solutions for smartphones in the United States in 2013, when they launched the GoPass® branded mobile app solution with Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) in Texas.

With a clear mission to make public transit an easy choice, Unwire looks beyond the technology to the people using it, supporting transit agencies and cities in implementing solutions that recognize the unique needs of each community and its riders.

"We know a great deal about mobility solutions, the transit industry, and the technology behind it all. But the transit agencies know the complex everyday needs of their riders much better than we ever can, so we prioritize listening to our customers when we develop our solutions. The reward is that we have solutions with a very high level of rider satisfaction because our solution provides the tools the user needs for a seamless end-to-end journey," said Rikke Espe, CCO of Unwire.

Public transit is no longer simply the traditional modes such as buses and trains; although these forms of transport remain the backbone of public transport, it is much more than that.

"There are multiple app solutions that offer trip planning and mobile ticketing, but our platform takes it one step further. That is why we look beyond traditional mass transit in our solutions and integrate alternative modes of transportation such as microtransit, paratransit, and micro-mobility", said Rikke Espe.

With our Mobility Platform, we enable seamless end-to-end journey experiences. From planning, booking and paying for multimodal journeys to communicating with the passengers, we remove barriers to mobility so that everyone can get on board.

Unwire's work in Texas

Unwire has partnered with Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) for the past ten years to bring the innovative GoPass ® app solution to multiple other transit agencies in Texas.

The GoPass ® app solution brings world-class multimodal trip planning capabilities, with multiple integrations to 3rd party mobility services, flexible mobile ticketing, and a robust platform for communication between the agencies and the riders. It was the first platform in the US to integrate TNC network providers with Uber and Lyft.

The GoPass® App solution has already been adopted by six other agencies in Texas, including Trinity Metro and Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority. Unwire's mobility platform also powers white-label app solutions for transit authorities in North Carolina, Arizona, and Minnesota.

www.unwire.com

Exhibit Booth: 310



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



Ready to Get Back to Basics?



Exhibit Booth:
A8

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2023 TTA State Rodeo, April 14-15, 2023 Corpus Christi, Tx.

The course has been marked, tested and ready for competition, so don't miss out on this year's Texas Transit State Bus and Maintenance Rodeo. This is a special one-of-a-kind event dedicated to honoring and celebrating our transit operators and maintenance personnel. This year's Rodeo will be the first State Rodeo since 2019.

[Register Today!](#)

Drivers and maintenance teams that are able to arrive on Thursday will have the opportunity to visit the Expo and enjoy the big night out. There will also be training on Friday Morning from 9 am -12 pm for both operator and maintenance personnel.

Operator training will focus on Keeping Yourself Safe While Serving the Public.

Technician training will focus on: Heavy Duty Battery Electric and Hydrogen Fuel Cell, Paratransit LPG and Paratransit Electric Options followed by an open discussion.

[Schedule at a glance](#)

[Rodeo Guide Book](#)

Volunteers and Judges:

You can participate in the Rodeo even if you aren't a driver! Please help us by volunteering for the various scoring elements around the competition site on Saturday, April 15. Register Today!

Rodeo Awards Dinner:

All Rodeo Contestants may attend the Rodeo Awards Dinner on Saturday, April 15. However, all guests, judges and volunteers must purchase a Rodeo Awards Dinner Ticket for \$40 if they wish to attend. **Tickets must be purchased in advance and will NOT be sold onsite.**

Become A [Rodeo Sponsor](#):

There are still [sponsorship opportunities](#) available. We thank all of our vendor sponsors for your support in this industry-recognized competition!



A special thanks to all those who showed up in Corpus this month to set up the Rodeo Course.

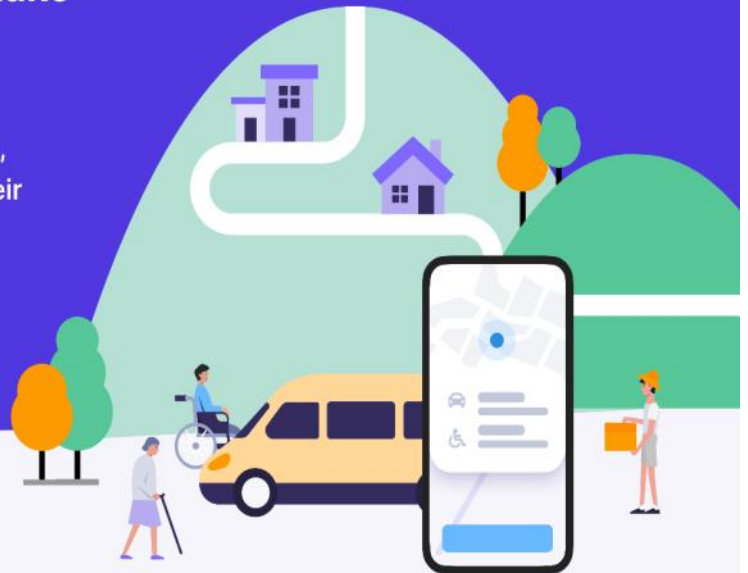
Contact Allen@TxTransit.org if you have questions.



**Exhibit Booth:
100**

Spare is a leading provider of On-Demand Transit Software with a mission to make every ride possible since 2015.

Spare's tech-enabled platform empowers over 200 services and empowers transit and mobility innovators, both in the public and private sectors, to streamline their network's day-to-day on-demand mobility operations. Spare's philosophy, which rests on its open API, is that anyone can and should be able to launch an efficient, well-run transportation network with ease.



Delivering a successful transit software RFP

Download Spare's Guide to Delivering a Successful Transit Software RFP



Spare's 2022 Global Impact Report

Leading the way for sustainable, accessible, and inclusive transportation

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Citibus revolutionizes on-demand transit options in Lubbock through data-driven service decisions.



DART Drives Growth With Award Winning Microtransit.



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Ready to learn more? Send an email at hello@sparelabs.com to know how Spare uses it's innovative Open Fleets module to help transit agencies deliver same-day paratransit cost-effectively.

Enhanced DART Service for the NCAA Women's Final Four

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) is increasing service as well as adding a Trinity Railway Express (TRE) train on Sunday, April 2 for the NCAA Women's Final Four events in Dallas this week.

DART Light Rail Service

Friday, March 31 through Sunday, April 2, Green and Orange line trains, which provide service to DART's Victory Station and the American Airline Center (AAC), will add an additional car to each train to provide for additional passengers. Trains will arrive at each station every 20 minutes.

Trinity Railway Express Sunday Service

The Trinity Railway Express (TRE), which also serves DART's Victory Station and the AAC, will operate its regular schedule on Friday, March 31 and Saturday, April 1. For the National Championship game on Sunday, April 2, the TRE will run one train between Fort Worth and EBJ Union Station.

The train will leave Fort Worth T&P Station at 11:30 a.m., and arrive at Victory Station at 12:29 p.m. The train will return westbound one hour after the end of the Division I National Championship game. Passengers should plan to arrive 10-15 minutes ahead of schedule to be sure to catch this service.

More information is available on the TRE website at Trinityrailwayexpress.org.

Dallas Streetcar Service

The Dallas Streetcar will provide regularly scheduled weekday and weekend service. For more information visit the Dallas Streetcar website at DART.org/dallasstreetcar.

DART staff will be available on the platforms to assist passengers. For more information and trip planning, please visit DART.org, download the DART GoPass app for free, or contact DART Customer Information at 214-979-1111.





Focus on the people

Top 5 Public Transportation Industry and Technology Trends for 2023

OPTIBUS recently conducted a survey to gauge the top concerns in the transportation industry across the globe spanning 24 countries and focusing on four key regions including North America.

Here are a few key stats from the report

- Driver shortages are at record highs in North America - 60% of respondents believe driver shortages will have the greatest long-term impact on their organization
- Nearly 50% of respondents believe electrification will have the greatest long-term impact on their organization

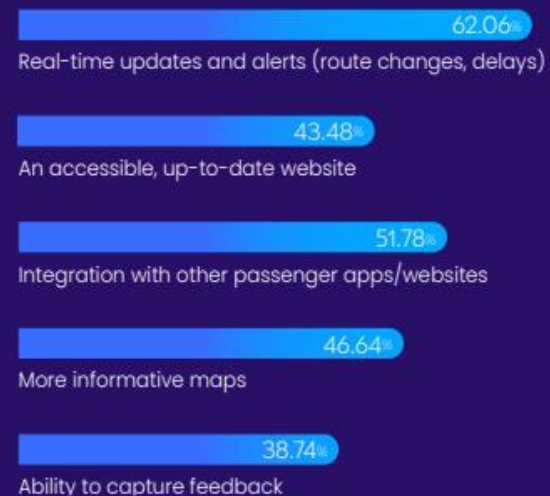
[Download Free Report Here](#)

About Optibus

Optibus is a cloud-native SaaS company founded in 2014 that provides end-to-end software solutions for public transportation planning, scheduling, rostering, operations, and passenger information. By leveraging a robust combination of artificial intelligence, advanced optimization algorithms, and distributed cloud computing, Optibus makes public



Which of the following would your organization like to improve in communicating with passengers in 2023?



transportation smarter, better, and more efficient – ultimately nourishing freedom of movement and sustainable cities. Currently, Optibus powers 3 billion passenger trips in over 2000+ cities annually for public and private sector clients, such as TransDev, RATP, Arriva, Abellio UK, Stagecoach, and AVTA - US's largest electric bus fleet.

See you at the TTA 2023 Annual State Conference, Expo, and Roadeo!
Visit Us at Booth #201



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Phone: (512) 900-0550
Email: info@txtransit.org

<https://txtransit.org/>

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

Upcoming dates of interest:

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

TTA Statewide Training Initiative
De-Escalation Training
April 25, 1:30-3:00 p.m.
[Zoom Registration:](#)

**See you in Corpus Christi at the
2023 State Conference, Expo and
Rodeo!**

[Allen E. Hunter](#)
Executive Director



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Exhibit Booth: 118

