



April 2023

NEWSLETTER

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

We thank the over 400 attendees, exhibitors, and sponsors participating in this year's TTA State Conference and Expo. This was a fantastic event that was very well attended from beginning to end. We also want to thank all the Rodeo contestants, judges, and volunteers for making our first Rodeo since 2019 a huge success. This event could not have been possible without the support and assistance of TxDOT and our host agency CCRTA.



[Be sure to let us know what you would like us to improve for next year!](#)

We are looking forward to seeing everyone next year in San Antonio on the River walk at the 2024 State Conference, Expo, and Rodeo.

Save the Date: March 15-20, 2024

Fundamentals of Transit Management (May 10-11, San Antonio, TX)

Registration:

Most people who end up as transit directors and supervisors did not start out in life thinking that this was the career path in which they would find themselves. It is easy to feel swamped and unprepared for the overwhelming number of hats that you need to wear, the responsibilities the position brings, and the knowledge required to be successful! This 16-hour course provides the fundamental skills of transit management for new transit managers and supervisors, as well as providing experienced managers with the refresher they need to take a step back and review their overall program.

[Link to TTA Training Calendar](#)

TTA 2023 Award Recipients

Distinguished Service Award (Joint Award with TTA and TxDOT)

Linda Cherrington

Linda Cherrington is one of the most well-recognized names among Texas transit agencies. Over the span of more than 45 years, her research, technical assistance, leadership, and excellence in all she does have made numerous positive changes to Texas Transit and beyond. Above all, Linda has served as a trusted mentor for countless transit managers and researchers—all of whom know that Linda helped them become better professionals AND simply better people. Although now retired, her legacy lives on at each agency, institute, and person that benefited from her presence.



Transit Innovation Award
Corpus Christi Regional
Transportation Authority

Rising Star Award

Preston Garcia (ETCOG Gobus)

Outstanding Public Transportation Coordinator

Richard Neill (Amarillo/Wichita Falls Districts)

Outstanding Staff Member

Kerri Babbitt (DART)

Outstanding Customer Service Employee

Marcus Guerrero (CCRTA)

Outstanding Associate Member

Hendrickson Transportation Group

Friend of Public Transit Award

Honorable Joel Hale (East Texas)

Transit Innovation Award

Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority

Outstanding Rural Transit System

West Texas Opportunities, Inc.

Outstanding Small Urban Transit System

El Metro

Outstanding Metropolitan Transit System

Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, TX.

Outstanding Public Transportation General Manager

Jeffrey C. Arndt (VIA)

Lifetime Achievement Award (Presented with flag that was flown over the Capitol)

Thomas C. Lambert (Houston Metro)

In recognition of 44 years of service at METRO and being the longest-serving Metro President & CEO. During this time, he has led a team of more than 4,000 to deliver safe, reliable, accessible, and friendly public transportation for the Authority's 1,300-square-mile service area.

Mr. Lambert's contributions to public transportation have been invaluable to the state of Texas and the Texas Transit Association. Thank you for your dedicated



Rising Star Award
Preston Garcia
(ETCOG Gobus)



Outstanding Public Transportation
General Manager
Jeffrey C. Arndt (VIA)



Lifetime Achievement Award
Thomas C. Lambert



Creative Bus Sales
THE NATION'S LARGEST BUS DEALER SINCE 1980

CreativeBusSales.com
800.326.2877



The Largest, Most Experienced and Trusted Dealer

Creative Bus Sales offers dedicated sales, parts, and service departments to help you in all stages of bus ownership. Our customers benefit from our strong manufacturer partnerships, the largest in-stock inventory, and a nationwide team of experts. As a family-owned business with experience in the transportation industry since 1980, it's no coincidence that we've grown to become the nation's largest bus dealership.

FEATURED VEHICLES



ARBOC Spirit of Mobility



Elkhart Coach ECII



Gaval Universal II



Lone Star ProMaster



BraunAbility Entervan



Fast Delivery

Largest In-Stock Inventory
Expert Sales Staff



In-House Financing

Flexible Structures
Seamless Transactions



Great Pricing

Volume Discounts
Intelligent Purchasing



Nationwide Network

Warranty & Customer Care
Parts & Service Departments

SPARTAN Public Transit reduces response time using CWI's Mobile link

Brian Baker and SPARTAN Public Transit went LIVE this year by adding a wireless router to each bus and connecting them via a CAT5 cable to the CWI video system. They have subscribed to [Mobilelink, CWI's LIVE tracking and streaming service](#). Shortly after the fleet installations were completed in January of this year, SPARTAN Dispatch received a call from a driver late one afternoon reporting an incident with a passenger on board. The situation on board was unclear, the driver needed help, and was hesitant about the next steps that should be taken. A medically fragile passenger also needed assistance.



Prior to Mobilelink...in a non-emergency, uncertain situation, the process would have been for the driver to call dispatch and dispatch notify a supervisor. At minimum, the supervisor and driver would talk it through on a phone call. At most the road supervisor may have driven to the location (in this case about a 30-minute drive), observe the scene with the driver, likely call the Director to update on the situation, and then a determination is made on a course of action. Realistically, this could have been up to an hour before the agency "made the call" on a course of action, delaying the route and potentially causing a domino effect system wide.

What actually happened...is the dispatcher on her PC "moused over" to the bus icon in Mobilelink, activated the live streaming video, and the camera #4 position that views the wheelchair ramp was directly over the passenger and streaming us a LIVE video of the situation. A supervisor was behind the dispatcher and observed that the situation was serious enough, and within a matter of seconds instructed the driver to call 911 for assistance. We watched as the driver attempted to comfort the passenger, and the EMT squad arrived in about three minutes and had the situation under control shortly thereafter.

As a result... The "technology" was responsible for a significantly faster response by the SPARTAN staff. What would have been a 30–75-minute wait for EMS response turned into an 8–10-minute response from the time of the incident. I'm confident that the passenger would have chosen the technology over "the way we used to..."



Brian Baker: "Every tool chest needs a variety of tools, for a variety of tasks. Installing CWI's Mobilelink Live Tracking and Streaming Service, along with CWI's 4-Camera On-Board Video System is a tool that can literally save lives. Transit systems do an amazing job everyday serving people. SPARTAN training is robust and our public transit operators are extremely qualified and skilled, safely transporting our passengers over 1 million miles per year. Being able to spot check operations in real-time, monitor vehicle data, enhance passenger experience, and respond to situations as they are happening with a live view right from your PC is only making our system better, and better a lot faster. CWI's Mobilelink Live Tracking and Streaming Service is now the first tool we reach for in our tool chest. Thank you, Chris, and the whole CWI Team !!"

Scenes from the TTA Conference

For more pictures see our Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/texastransitassociation>.



Central Texas students design Earth Day-themed CapMetro buses

In recognition of Earth Day, a group of Central Texas elementary school students helped design artwork that'll cover two new zero-emission CapMetro buses.

The transit authority collaborated with Creative Action — an art-based youth development nonprofit — on the project. Students at Graham Elementary School, Camacho Elementary School, Smith Elementary School and Pioneer Crossing Elementary School were selected to design the final piece.

The contest had students depict their favorite locations in Central Texas in honor of Earth Day, per a CapMetro release.

The “Art on the Bus” program, in collaboration with Creative Action, aims to use the arts to help educate young people about environmental conservation efforts through transportation, such as zero-emission buses. The program includes participants in four area school districts.





**Let's build
tomorrow's transit
for better lives in smarter cities**

NAVINEO

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

We provide CAD/AVL and intelligent transportation systems to make public transportation more **sustainable**, more **attractive**, more **efficient**, more **innovative** and more **secure**.

Our Navineo solutions are already used by over 40,000 buses, light rail and trains worldwide.

Contact us

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



Congratulations TTA 2023 Rodeo Winners

Maintenance Teams

1. VIA Metropolitan Transit (Joshua Martinez, David Berrelez, and Manuel Hernandez)
2. Trinity Metro/Fort Worth (Jay Fejeran, Roberts Haven, and Daniel Rojas)
3. MV Transportation (Rudy López, Cesar Garza, and Arthur Reyes)

40 Bus

1. Porfirio Riveria of CapMetro
2. Oscar Zamora of Corpus RTA
3. Marcus White of VIA San Antonio

35 Bus

1. Arthur Murillo of CapMetro
2. Carlos Zambarano of Metro McAllen
3. Manuel Martinez of Corpus RTA

Paratransit Van

1. Tito Hernandez of CapMetro
2. Moses Garcia of VIA San Antonio
3. Sammy Ramero of Trinity Metro



2023 TTA Rodeo MVP Tony Austin



Fort Bend County seeks funding for upgrades to public transit system



[Fort Bend County](#) is seeking an investment from U.S. Rep. Lizzie Fletcher for upgrades to its public transportation system through a congressional community project.

At an April 11 meeting, commissioners committed to a \$90,000 local match to a \$450,000 grant for an updated scheduling and dispatching system for [Fort Bend Transit](#) in support of the grant application. If administered, the

grant would provide system upgrades to include vehicle tracking, automatic passenger counters, Wi-Fi, passenger notifications, and IT training and support.

According to project documents submitted by Pamela LeBlane, public transportation finance and administration manager, the public transit system provides over 400,000 trips annually to visitors and residents of Fort Bend County.

LeBlane said public transportation is an essential resource that helps bridge the gap of unmet transportation needs for citizens around the county—which are especially impactful for constituents who are low-income, seniors or disabled.

“This all-in-one software will enhance the passenger experience through real-time vehicle location, announcement systems for the elderly and disabled population, and access to an online trip-planning portal,” LeBlane said in a grant application.

The system was last updated in 2008 and “lacks efficiency, reliability and speed of current technology,” per project documents. The improvements will allow the county to maintain the system at a lower cost.

Robert Hebert, executive director for [Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels](#), also submitted a letter of support for Fort Bend Transit’s grant application. The nonprofit organization serves all eligible senior citizens age 60 and over living in Fort Bend and Waller counties. Hebert said Fort Bend County’s public transit system supports Fort Bend Seniors’ mission to improve seniors’ quality of life as well as promoting their independence and continued involvement in the community.

If Fort Bend County is selected for the award, grant application documents state the system upgrades are estimated to begin January 2024 and end August 2024.

Ready to Get Back to Basics?



Put a **Q** in it.

Q'STRAIT ONE.

ALL-IN-ONE
WHEELCHAIR SECUREMENT PLATFORM

A single platform system that lets you simplify and standardize your securement procedures, replacing the many parts and obstacles of traditional 4-point securement.

Learn more at: qstraint.com/ONE

Q'STRAIT.

MAKING
SAFETY
ACCESSIBLE



Progress on track with 183 North Mobility Project in Central Texas



The 183 North Mobility Project will focus on alleviating traffic congestion along U.S. 183 in Northwest Austin by adding two tolled express lanes in each direction in the middle of U.S. 183, while the existing roadway will be expanded to four non-tolled general-purpose lanes in each direction. The project also includes operational improvements to the flow of traffic between U.S. 183 and MoPac. Specifically, a direct connector between the existing express lane on MoPac and the new express lanes on U.S. 183 will be built, allowing for an uninterrupted route from far North Austin and Williamson County to downtown Austin or beyond. Further, the 183 North Mobility Project will address safety concerns along the corridor by making improvements to the corridor's bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

The project will add and/or reconstruct all sidewalks along the U.S. 183 frontage roads going both north and south from SH 45 to MoPac so the community has a continuous, ADA-compliant option for pedestrians. Additionally, the project will connect existing bike lanes in the corridor with new cross-street connections and two segments of shared use path to provide cyclists a dedicated route through the heavily constrained corridor. Other improvements include increased visibility on the road with new LED high mast lighting, a high-tech traffic monitoring system for better emergency response and optimized roadway surface.

"This project is not only vital to the region for congestion management and maintaining quality of life for Central Texans, but we're also improving, where possible, several multimodal and safety concerns to make the 183 North Mobility Project an excellent example of our comprehensive commitment to the communities we serve," said James Bass, executive director for the Mobility Authority. He emphasized the non-tolled benefits coming to the community, in addition to the reliable transportation solutions brought by the express lanes, as being equally vital to achieving the goals of the project.

The Mobility Authority has made efforts to ensure that construction on the 183 North Mobility Project happens as quickly as possible, allowing transit users and drivers to experience relief from traffic congestion faster. The project team is working in lockstep with the community to ensure businesses maintain access throughout construction along the frontage roads and minimize, where possible, impacts to residents and commuters. Construction is moving ahead in earnest for 2023, and full completion of the project is anticipated in 2026.

Transit Agency Membership

Don't forget to renew your annual membership if you have not done so already!

Transit Agency Membership

Annual Dues for public transit agencies serving metropolitan areas, small urban areas, and rural areas may join at the rate of 0.15 percent of the transit agency's most recent non-capital budget. There is a minimum Annual Dues level of \$500 and a maximum Annual Dues level of \$9,250. Non-capital budgets necessarily include planning, operations, and administrative items and exclude capital budget items, such as vehicles and facilities.

- TTA Membership year is September 1 through August 31.
- Membership dues are calculated based on 0.15% of your non-capital expenditures from federal, state, and local funding from the previous year. Please have this figure ready before you fill out the form below.
- Dues are capped at \$9,250 per year.
- Note: 20% of TTA dues are used for lobbying expenses. TTA's federal tax ID is #74-2595286
- After you complete this form, you will be redirected to a PayPal payment screen where you can enter the dues figure you have calculated.

Regular Transit Members Form and Payment

Please download this [form](#), and send the completed form, along with a check, to 501 Congress Ave, Suite 150, Austin, Texas 78701. Contact [Allen Hunter](#) if you would like to pay using a credit card.

TTA-Membership-Invoice-FY22-23-Transit-Agency

TTA Associate Member Invoice 2022-2023 – \$750

Associates members are governmental entities, city or county administrative offices, metropolitan planning organizations, other associations, consultants, subcontractors to transit operators, vendors, manufacturers, suppliers, and similar entities not actually in the business of operating public transit systems.

- Associate Membership Dues are \$750 for 2022-2023.
- Note: 20% of TTA dues are used for lobbying expenses.

If you have any questions, please contact (512) 900-0550.

Associate Members Form and Payment

Please download this [form](#), and send the completed form, along with a check, to 501 Congress Ave, Suite 150, Austin, Texas 78701. Contact [Allen Hunter](#) if you would like to pay using a credit card.

TTA Associate Member Invoice_2022-2023



THE OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF MOTHER NATURE™

BATTERY ELECTRIC • ZERO-EMISSIONS • BUILT IN AMERICA

WORLD'S CLEANEST RIDE



DRIVING THE FUTURE
TO A BETTER WORLD



Made in
the USA



Union
Built



Safest
Battery





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 a limited number of space available so be sure to lock yours in today.

TTA Member Price	Non-Member Price
Full Page Ad single issue \$500 Full Page One Year \$2,000	Full Page Ad single issue \$750 Full Page One Year \$3,000
Half Page Ad single issue \$250 Half Page One Year \$1,000	Half Page Ad single issue \$400 Half Page One Year \$2,000
Business card Ad single issue \$150 Business card One Year \$600	Business card Ad single issue \$250 Business card One Year \$1,000

There are sponsorship levels available for any budget. You are able to sponsor a single issue or the entire year. For more information or to start your ad please contact:

Janet Nors
512-900-0550
Janet@TxTransit.org

Allen E. Hunter
Executive Director
254-405-4212 cell, allen@TxTransit.org

Full Page

Half Page

Business Card
1/8 Page



Texas Transit Association

501 Congress Ave, Suite 150

Austin, Texas 78701

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:

Fundamentals of Transit Management

(In Person)

May 10 & 11, 2023

San Antonio, TX

Trainer: Carol Wright Kenderdine

Leadership Development Webinar

May 16, 2023

Trainer: Kristen Joyner

June:

Financial Management I

(In Person)

June 27 & 28, 2023

Waco, Texas

Allen E. Hunter

Executive Director

254-405-4212 cell

We want to hear from you!

If you have Suggestions, Requests for training, Job postings, RFP's or would like to share some exciting information, facts, details of an innovative project, or photos, simply submit your information and photos via email to info@txtransit.org.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Texas Transit Association