



*June 2023*

# NEWSLETTER

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

## The Deadline to vote for the 2023 TTA Board of Directors is Friday, June 30th

The Texas Transit Association is proud to present you with this year's slate of candidates for the 2023 TTA Board of Directors election. Select one of the links below to view the candidates for the following categories: Metro, Urban, and Rural, and to cast your vote. Remember, write-in candidates are also allowed.

Please note that only votes cast by current TTA member agencies will be valid. Also, members may only vote for candidates from within their category of public transportation. **The deadline to vote is Friday, June 30, 2023, by 5:00 PM.**

[Metro Agency](#) (Three Open Positions)

[Urban Agency](#) (Two Open Positions)

[Rural Agency](#) (Three Open Positions)

## Safety and Security Training (In-Person) July 11-12, 2023 Austin, Tx

Trainer: Kelly Shawn, RLS— [Registration](#): Location: CapMetro Meeting Room 2910 East Fifth Street, Austin, Texas 78702

This workshop will instruct participants on how to conform to the federal Safety Management System requirements in a manner that meets requirements and is scalable to the size of the organization. It will also identify gaps and needs in the transit agencies' safety and security programs, specific elements for creating a safety and security plan, and discussion identifying best practices in safety and security administration. Additional topics to be presented during the workshop include but are not limited to: Developing a Safety Culture; Reducing Vulnerability; Safety Policy Formation, Planning, & Implementation; Accident & Incident Reporting and Documentation; and Safety Sensitive Employees and Drug Testing Requirements/Reporting Responsibilities.

# TTA invites you to a Roof Top Reception in the heart of the Domain in Austin

**July 12, 2023**

**5:30-7:00 PM**

**77 Degrees Rooftop**  
**11500 Rock Rose Ave., Ste. 100, Austin, TX**

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*RSVP so that we can plan for your arrival.*

Free self-parking is available in the red parking garage.



# VIA Names Tremell Brown Deputy Chief Executive Officer



VIA Metropolitan Transit has named one of its own to its No. 2 leadership position, selecting Tremell Brown, a 33-year veteran of the agency, to serve as Deputy CEO.

Brown began his career at VIA in 1990 as a part-time bus operator. He advanced through the Operations Division, having held several leadership positions, including Vice President of Transportation, VP of Safety, Training and System Security and Chief Safety Officer.

As Deputy CEO, Brown will assist VIA's President/CEO in oversight of all staff functions and agency operations. He will also directly manage key operating divisions, including Transportation, Maintenance/Fleet and Facilities, Fiscal Management, Human Resources, Technology and Innovation, Safety, Training and System Security (STSS), and Procurement.

"During his tenure at VIA, Tremell has served with distinction and accumulated invaluable experience across the agency," President/CEO Jeffrey C. Arndt said. "Just as importantly, he's built meaningful relationships with people across every department. I'm confident that with his service-minded approach, he'll continue to lean in and push VIA to do great things for our community."

Brown will continue to serve as Chief Safety Officer and lead VIA's STSS division, where he helped develop, implement, and oversee law enforcement, safety, and training development, and was installed as the agency's Incident Commander for Emergency Management.

Born in Sacramento, California, Brown was raised in a military family and moved to San Antonio when his father was stationed at Lackland Air Force Base. He attended schools in the Northside Independent School District and joined VIA at age 21. He has dedicated his life and career to supporting the agency's mission to connect our community.

"An advantage I see in this role as Deputy CEO is actually that I get a chance to do more of something I enjoy, and that's just managing relationships, closing the gaps, addressing the issues," Brown said. "I'll get to work across the organization to fix issues and challenges. I'm always interested in developing better understanding and I get a chance now to get out there and connect more with the people who are closer to the solutions."

Brown is an active community volunteer and advocate for causes that support diversity, equity, and inclusion. He is a Rutgers University National Transit Institute Fellow, an FBI Citizen Academy Alumnus, a Leadership American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Class of 2016 graduate and a 2012 NAACP Entrepreneurship Honoree in San Antonio. He studied Organizational Development at University of The Incarnate Word and is NIMS/ICS certified in Emergency Management/ Response and has served in various leadership capacities over Operations, Law Enforcement, Safety, Training, and others. Brown is also a current proud member of Leadership San Antonio Class 47.

# Creative Bus Sales rebrands to Model 1 Commercial Vehicles

Creative Bus Sales, the nation's largest bus and transportation services dealer, has rebranded to [Model 1 Commercial Vehicles](#). The new name and brand identity reflects the evolution beyond bus sales to also include distribution, service, parts, financing and insurance for a variety of internal combustion, alternative fuel, and electric commercial vehicles.

The Model 1 name represents creativity, continuous improvement, and going first – all qualities that have defined the company for decades. The company's goal is to use its size, stature and innovative mindset to drive the transit industry into the future by normalizing alternative fuel fleets and exploring manufacturer collaborations.

"For more than 40 years, we've been Creative Bus Sales. The move to Model 1 is a significant decision for us," said Tony Matijevich, president. "We've always had an appetite and ability to pioneer new spaces. Our goal is to lead the industry into what's next – solving transportation issues with visionary thinking. Moving forward for us means welcoming the future. We're the same team with a new generation of leaders, and I'm excited to see how the team embodies our company's purpose: to go first."

Model 1 represents more than 20 top commercial vehicles (bus, van, EV, and other alternative fuel) manufacturers across the country. The new brand identity and name will be rolled out across all of the company's locations and communication channels in the coming weeks. For more information on Model 1, its [products](#), [services](#), [parts](#), and [solutions](#), visit [www.model1.com](http://www.model1.com).

## About Model 1

Model 1 Commercial Vehicles serves businesses, schools, and communities that need to move people. Established in 1980 in California as Creative Transportation Systems, Model 1 is the blueprint for creative commercial vehicle and bus solutions – with a drive for continual improvement and innovation in both traditional-fuel and alternative-fuel vehicles. Today, the company is headquartered in Indianapolis, operates 22 dealer locations throughout the U.S. and employs more than 400 professionals.







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### The Largest, Most Experienced and Trusted Dealer

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#### Nationwide Network

Warranty & Customer Care  
Parts & Service Departments

# CCRTA Board of Directors selects Derrick Majchszak as new CEO



The Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority's (CCRTA) Board of Directors has selected Derrick Majchszak to be its next CEO. Derrick will begin his tenure July 1.

"As a board, we had an opportunity to interview a number of exceptional candidates from across the United States. I am excited to announce Derrick Majchszak, our current managing director of operations, will be CCRTA's next CEO. As an individual who came up through the ranks of transportation, starting out as a bus mechanic, I believe his track record and leadership qualities will ensure the future of CCRTA is in good hands," said CCRTA Board Chairman Dan Leyendecker

Majchszak has more than 17 years of public transportation experience. He joined the CCRTA in 2017 as director of transportation before being promoted to managing director of operations, where he led 250 employees and contractors and managed a \$26 million budget. Majchszak earned his bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and a master's in Public Administration from Tarleton State University. He is a U.S. Navy Veteran.

"I want to thank the CCRTA Board of Directors for their vote of confidence, and I am honored and ready to serve as CCRTA's CEO. I have witnessed firsthand how CCRTA has become a nationally recognized transit agency and I look forward to providing a safe, accessible and innovative transportation system for current and future generations," Majchszak said.

# FTA Bus & Bus Facilities/Low-No discretionary grant programs

Transit providers, and more specifically, transit providers in Region 6 (AR, LA, NM, OK and TX) have been very successful with the selection of your projects both under the FTA Bus & Bus Facilities/Low-No discretionary grant programs as well as the USDOT RAISE discretionary program. Congratulations to all who were selected to receive funding under these programs.

State	Recipient	Project	Federal funding	Program
AR	City of Jonesboro, Arkansas	JET Low Emission Fleet	\$1,010,372	Low-No
LA	New Orleans Regional Transit Authority	Accelerating Zero-Emissions Mobility for a Resilient New Orleans	\$71,439,261	Low-No
NM	City of Albuquerque	City of Albuquerque Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) Deployment Project	\$18,262,255	Low-No
NM	New Mexico Department of Transportation on behalf of North Central Regional Transit District	Phase One Construction of NCRTD's Jim West Regional Transit Center Renovation/Expansion and Phase Two Construction of the Taos Transit Facility Maintenance Wing	\$5,945,553	Bus
NM	New Mexico Department of Transportation on behalf of North Central Regional Transit District	Procurement of Three Replacement Diesel-Electric Hybrid Thirty Foot Transit Buses	\$2,063,160	Low-No
OK	Seminole Nation of Oklahoma	The Seminole Nation Department of Transportation Public Transit Facility Project	\$6,407,460	Low-No
OK	Oklahoma Department of Transportation on behalf of OSU Public Transit	Bus Facilities Expansion	\$6,000,000	Bus
OK	Central Oklahoma Transportation and Parking Authority (COTPA), dba EMBARK	COTPA, dba EMBARK Elimination of Fixed Route Diesel Buses	\$4,278,772	Low-No
OK	City of Norman, Oklahoma	Replacement CNG Vehicles for ADA Paratransit Service	\$776,714	Low-No
OK	Comanche Nation	Comanche Nation Transit Low/No Project 2023	\$300,000	Low-No
TX	Brazos Transit District	Getting to Zero - Brazos Transit District's Zero-Emission Fleet Replacement Program	\$9,650,646	Bus
TX	City of Beaumont	Beaumont Municipal Transit Zips to Improve Low Emission Fleet	\$2,819,460	Low-No
TX	City of Brownsville	Brownsville Metro Hybrid-Electric Diesel	\$4,738,886	Low-No
TX	Conroe Connection Transit	CCT Commuter Bus Fleet Replacement Project	\$4,500,000	Low-No
TX	Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)	DART CNG Bus Fleet Modernization Project	\$103,000,000	Low-No
TX	Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO)	FY 2023 Renewable Natural Gas Path to Zero Emissions Grant Application	\$40,402,548	Low-No
TX	Port Arthur Transit/City of Port Arthur	Port Arthur Transit Zero-Emission Bus Deployment	\$5,001,700	Low-No
TX	San Antonio Metropolitan Transit Authority	VIA Metropolitan Transit ViaTrans: Providing equitable and environmentally conscious transportation service for all.	\$3,187,200	Low-No
TX	Texas Department of Transportation on behalf of 29 rural transportation districts	FY23 Rural Transit Asset Replacement & Modernization Project	\$7,443,765	Low-No
TX	The City of Waco (dba Waco Transit System, Inc)	Waco Transit System Low/No Emissions Implementation Phase I	\$3,133,129	Low-No





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#### **Contact us**

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 571 428 9392





# SWART Forms a Non-Profit to Support Mobility Initiatives

The Southwest Area Regional Transit District (SWART) announces the formation of the non-profit organization, Partners In Transit, Inc. which will support mobility initiatives in the Middle Rio Grande Region. The newly formed organization will be a separate entity of SWART and will operate as an educational and charitable organization in support of addressing mobility challenges and public transportation services.



As stated in its Summary of Purpose outlined in its legal filing with the Texas Secretary of State, Partners In Transit will operate in the following manner: “Allowing our rural communities to have access to mobility solutions such as public transportation will provide residents the freedom to go anywhere they choose thus, enhancing their quality of life. In addition, public transportation is an economic driver that impacts the Middle Rio Grande Region by providing access and support to retail, employment, health care, higher education, tourism, and socialization. [Partners In Transit, Inc.](#) is being established as a non-profit entity to enhance transportation services within the Middle Rio Grande Region, especially those with special needs who depend on public transit as their lifeline to their community. Partners in Transit, Inc. will raise funds through grant awards and donations. Funds raised will be used to assist the transit stakeholders create new programs, fund unique transportation services, and implement on-going transportation options. Door to Public and specialized transportation services providers are more than the buses they operate. They have a level of care and concern for those who use the services, and as SWART has experienced, we create a safe, reliable, and affordable transportation alternative to enhance mobility. Partners In Transit, Inc. needs to ensure this type of transit service is maintained and enhanced as we move into the next phase of serving the rapidly growing population of Southwest Texas.”

The mission is to support mobility solutions for all through the promotion of collaboration, advocacy, and education. The vision is to provide mobility self-sufficiency to residents of the Middle Rio Grande Region of Texas while supporting & enhancing community development and economic development.

According to SWART’s General Manager, Sarah Hidalgo-Cook, who will also serve as the Executive Director for Partners In Transit, Inc., “we have been working on the formation of the non-profit for almost a year with the blessing of our board of directors. SWART is a local government, and we will be the first standalone rural transit district in Texas to form a non-profit to support mobility, although there are others across the nation who have done so very successfully. We are beginning to see other rural transit districts following our lead. We are excited with the opportunities it will create for the region by being able to tap into alternative funding resources, generate matching funds to support public transit, and to enhance mobility management initiatives. ”. Cynthia Rodriguez, SWART’s Assistant General Manager, will serve as the Deputy Director, while the SWART Board of Directors will also serve as the governing board of the non-profit organization. The board members include Judge Bella Rubio (Real County), Judge Souli Shanklin (Edwards County), Judge John Paul Schuster (Kinney County), Judge Bill Mitchell (Uvalde County), Judge Cynthia Martinez-Rivera (Zavala County), Judge Leodoro Martinez III (La Salle County), Judge Martha Alicia Ponce, (Dimmit County), and Judge Ramsey English-Cantu (Maverick County).

For more information about Partners In Transit, Inc. or SWART, please contact Sarah Hidalgo-Cook, at 830-278-4155 x 3009 or [scook@paseoswart.org](mailto:scook@paseoswart.org).

## VIA Opens First Community Office Focused on Keep SA Moving Project; Advanced Rapid Transit Project Office to serve as resource for future ‘Green Line’

SAN ANTONIO (June 28, 2023) – As VIA Metropolitan Transit continues to move forward to deliver the city’s first Advanced Rapid Transit corridor, local officials on Wednesday celebrated the opening of a Project Office designed to be an information hub for the community.

President/CEO Jeff Arndt was joined by Mayor Ron Nirenberg, former Mayor and U.S. Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros and VIA Board Chair Fernando Reyes at the project office to celebrate its opening. Though phased construction on the corridor isn’t set to begin until 2025, the office opened as a community resource, offering the opportunity to meet with project team members, give feedback and get updates about the transformative transit project.

The celebration comes on the heels of action by the City Council and VIA Board of Trustees, approving two Interlocal Agreements (ILAs) that solidify the partnership between the two entities on moving the Advanced Rapid Transit North-South Corridor to an anticipated completion in 2027.

Known as the “VIA Rapid Green Line,” the corridor runs from near the San Antonio International Airport along San Pedro Avenue, through Downtown and onto Steves Avenue, near Mission Concepcion. VIA Rapid is a new type of mass transit in San Antonio that generally runs in dedicated lanes, outside of regular traffic, and includes elements designed to reduce trip time. That includes off-board fare collection, level platform boarding and transit-priority traffic signals that will keep the Green Line running even during periods of peak traffic and congestion.

Advanced Rapid Transit is a key element in VIA’s **Keep SA Moving** plan that voters approved in 2020. The Project Office reflects VIA’s ongoing efforts to keep the public informed and engaged about the project, which is designed to move more people faster and farther, and connect them to more opportunities for education, employment, goods and resources. Project resources will include digital and print information and updates, as well as staff members available to respond to questions and comments.

### More information

The initial planned ART corridor is the first of its kind in the region. The line will have connecting service on the north from Stone Oak Park & Ride and connecting service on the south end of the corridor to the Brooks Transit Center. The service is designed to improve transportation options for the nearly 54,000 residents and 108,000 jobs located within the 12-mile corridor.



VIA’s Advanced Rapid Transit project, the planned “VIA Rapid” service, will be supported with federal funding, approved by Congress in 2022. It was the only Texas project added to President Biden’s funding recommendation list for Fiscal Year 2023. It marks the first time San Antonio and VIA have been able to access this type of funding, which requires transit service that operates in dedicated lanes.

The ART Project Office will open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and by appointment. Extended hours will be announced in the future. For more information or to request a meeting or presentation on the project, visit [KeepSAMoving.com](https://KeepSAMoving.com).

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# El Metro Transit System celebrates National Dump the Pump Day

**Laredo, Texas** – El Metro Transit System celebrated National Dump the Pump Day on Sunday, June 25, 2023. This year marked the 18th Annual National Dump the Pump Day as a day that encouraged people to ride public transportation to save money, help protect the environment, reduce our dependence on foreign oil and improve the quality of life for all Americans.



To help celebrate, El Metro offered a **Free Ride Day** on June 25th. All day long, passengers were treated to free rides throughout Laredo on fixed routes and Paratransit. This was a fantastic opportunity for both new and longtime riders to use services for free and take advantage of El Metro public transit system.

National Dump the Pump press conferences and community event took place at The Transit Center on Friday, June 23, at 1:00 p.m.

**WHO:** El Metro Transit System

**WHAT:** National Dump the Pump Day

**WHEN:** Friday, June 23, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Transit Center, 1301 Farragut St., Laredo, Texas 78040





Texas Transit Association

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

### Upcoming dates of interest:

Safety and Security Training (In-Person),

July 11-12, 2023 - Austin, TX

Conflict Resolution (Webinar),

July 14, 10:30 am – 12:00 noon CST

Influencing Decision Makers (Online Webinar)

August 29, 2023 - 1:00 PM -2:30 PM CST

### TTA Upcoming Training Courses

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](mailto:info@txtransit.org).**

**We look forward to hearing from you.**

Texas Transit Association