

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

## TTA Annual State Conference - Expo-Rodeo 2024

We are excited to announce the dates for our **2024 State Annual Conference, Expo, and Rodeo!** Mark your calendars because you don't want to miss timely general sessions, in-depth breakout sessions, and training, along with plenty of networking opportunities with your friends and colleagues from across the transit industry.

**Save the Date**  
**March 15-20, 2024**  
**San Antonio**

The Conference Planning Committee is now accepting abstracts for presentations for the 2024 State Conference, Expo, and Rodeo, March 15-20, in San Antonio. If you have a topic or presentation you would like to share at this year's conference, please select the link below or email [info@txtransit.org](mailto:info@txtransit.org).

[Link to submit abstracts](#)

[Book your hotel room today!](#)

**Marriott RiverCenter on the Riverwalk**  
101 Bowie Street, San Antonio, TX 78205

### Some of the highlights will include:

- Full Expo featuring vendors & vehicles spread across a day and a half
- Texas State Rodeo competition on March 15 and 16, featuring 40- & 35-foot bus and cutaway/Body-on-Chassis divisions & Maintenance Teams
- Multiple General Sessions, breakout workshops & training sessions
- TTA's Annual Awards presentation
- Multiple networking & socializing opportunities, including a Welcome Reception and A Big Night Out!

**Registration will open soon!**



## 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!](#)



## Longview Transit Director To Serve On State Transportation Committee

Longview Transit Director Scott Lewis is part of a new Texas Department of Transportation committee that aims to direct the future of public transit in the state.

Jeff Williford, TxDOT spokesman, said by working with transit agencies, municipalities and people across the state, the Statewide Multimodal Transit Plan will form a vision for future transit efforts and how to best serve Texans going into the year 2050.

According to Williford, the plan will affect all Texas residents by helping to plan for the future of transportation. The plan also will solicit public input.

“Starting sometimes in the next several months, Texans will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the Statewide Multimodal Transit Plan as the agency looks towards 2050,” he said.

The steering committee will work with stakeholders and the community to identify priorities and create goals for the Statewide Multimodal Transit Plan and will help develop the public engagement process, identify key policy/issue areas to be addressed and review and recommend the plan for adoption to the Texas Transportation Commission.

Lewis said he is “excited” and “honored” to have been invited to join the steering committee and for the opportunity to represent Longview by having a seat at the table.

“While the Texas Transit Association awarded Longview Transit the Outstanding Small Urban Transit System of the year for 2022, we feel that the invitation to serve on the statewide steering committee is yet another recognition that Longview Transit is doing an exemplary job or serving the citizens of Longview,” he said.

Lewis said he believes the recognition means the city is doing something right and that TxDOT must like what it sees here. He referenced the city’s own multimodal center that serves as a public transit hub not only for Longview Transit but also Amtrak, Greyhound and GoBus.

Lewis also mentioned Longview Transit is set to roll out mobile ticketing within the next few weeks, which will help increase efficiency and reduce operating costs.

Although the steering committee for the Statewide Multimodal Transit Plan hasn’t had its first gathering, it is set to meet regularly throughout the next 12 to 18 months via virtual meetings.

## TTA Introduces Our Newest Team Member

TTA welcomes Laura Herrera, who began her career in the finance department at South West Area Regional Transit District (SWART) as a finance assistant. Over the course of her five years with the company, she demonstrated exceptional dedication and a strong work ethic. Her talents and commitment did not go unnoticed, and she quickly advanced within the organization. During her tenure at SWART, Laura excelled as the Chief Financial Manager, demonstrating her financial acumen and leadership skills.

Alongside her successful career at SWART, she embarked on a journey to further her education. Currently, Laura is presently enrolled at Sul Ross State University, where she diligently works towards earning her bachelor’s degree. This pursuit of higher education underscores her dedication to continuous learning and self-improvement. It’s a testament to her determination to excel in the transportation field and make a lasting impact in the industry.

As she balances her studies with her career, her personal life shines through her dedication to family. She cherishes the moments spent with her family, embracing the importance of quality family time and creating lasting memories.



## Introducing Two New Committees

TTA is excited to announce the creation of two new committees. The Safety Committee and the Conference Program Planning Committee. Your involvement is crucial to the success of these committees. We invite you to join either of these committees and contribute your valuable insights and expertise.

### Safety Committee

Safety remains a top priority for all of our agencies, and the Safety Committee will provide an excellent opportunity for our safety professionals to network and share information on best practices.

### NEMT Committee

By bringing together industry leaders, this committee will play a key role in addressing some of the unique challenges faced by our non-emergency medical transportation providers. This committee will serve as a platform for open dialogue to foster collaboration, share best practices, and recommend innovative solutions to enhance the efficiency, reliability, and overall quality of NEMT services.

If you wish to be part of one of these Committees, please email [Laura Herrera](#). We look forward to your support.

## TTA's Commitment to Continuous Improvement

A well-functioning and informed Board of Directors is at the heart of a successful organization. As a commitment to continuous improvement and excellence in governance, our Board recently undertook a comprehensive training program during our annual workshop in August at Island Metro.



This training aimed to provide our Board of Directors with updated knowledge and tools necessary for effective governance, equipping them to navigate the evolving landscape of our industry and organization. By investing in this training, we are strengthening the foundation of our Board, ensuring its ability to make informed decisions that drive our organization forward. This training focused on Board member roles and included Advocacy and Fiduciary responsibilities. The training concluded with the Board developing Association Goals, Objectives, and Expectations for FY23/24.

TTA's Board remains committed to implementing the insights gained from this workshop, using them as a springboard to propel our organization to new heights of success. TTA would like to thank Island Metro for the use of their facility and the excellent support provided by their team. TTA also thanks Kristen Joyner from KJ Backpack LLC for leading the discussion.







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## Celebrate Dart's 40th Anniversary

DART started a movement in 1983, and they've got big plans for their next forty years! DART has been the most affordable, hassle-free way to go for 40 years – putting you within walking distance of the area's best destinations for work and play. Join them for their many block parties across DART's Service Area in the coming months.



## METRO's Half-Price Student Fares Return for the New School Year

Student savings are back for a new school year! Beginning Sept. 1, 2023, kindergarten through college students with an active, [discounted METRO Q® Fare Card](#) ride for 60 cents on [local bus](#), [METRORail](#), [METRORapid](#) and [curb2curb](#) services, and receive half-off [Park & Ride](#) commutes. For students who participated in METRO's Students Ride Free fare program, benefits will continue through Aug. 31, 2023.

METRO's discounted fare program empowers students by providing them with safe and affordable access to public transportation. Students enrolled at participating educational institutions — from elementary schools to universities — are eligible.

Key features of the program include:

**Significant Savings:** Students enjoy substantial discounts on regular fare prices, ensuring that transportation costs are no longer a barrier to accessing educational opportunities, cultural experiences, and other essential services within the region.

**Seamless Travel Experience:** Student fare cards seamlessly integrate with METRO's existing fare payment system. Students can simply tap their cards on buses and trains, making their daily commute hassle-free and time-efficient.

**Easy Enrollment:** The enrollment process for the program is designed to be user-friendly. Students can obtain a discounted Q® Fare Card through METRO's [online RideStore](#) or any physical [location](#). On-campus registration is also available at many schools. Contact your school registrar for details.

**Proof of enrollment is required. For K-12 students, one of the following must be provided:**

- Current school ID
- Report card
- Class schedule

**For college students, METRO requires the following:**

- Government-issued photo ID
  - Proof of credit hours (*choose one*)
  - Current class schedule
  - Letter from college verifying you're a current student
- [Discounted METRO Q® Fare Card registration form](#) signed and stamped by school registrar.



For more information about METRO's Student Discounted

Fares program, including eligibility criteria and enrollment details, please visit our [website](#). You may also call or text a METRO Customer Care representative at 713-635-4000.

## Update from FTA

On September 19, 2023, FTA issued a [safety advisory](#) to recommend that bus agencies consider strategies to reduce bus-to-person collisions. Bus-to-person collisions remain a top safety concern. Hundreds of bus collisions with pedestrians and bicyclists occur each year. From 2008 to 2021, bus modes reported to the National Transit Database (NTD) 7,298 bus-to-person collisions. This accounted for 537 fatalities — or 15 percent of all transit fatalities — and 7,329 injuries. Additionally, we are urging all transit agencies to join the Call to Action campaign ( [Call to Action: NRSS | US Department of Transportation](#)) in support of DOT's National Roadway Safety Strategy goal to reduce roadway fatalities.

The Safety Advisory was issued to stress the importance of improving bus safety, and we are asking transit agencies to identify hazards that may cause or contribute to bus-to-person collisions, assess the associated safety risk and implement mitigations to reduce the likelihood and severity of those collisions. FTA also recommends that agencies consider bus operator vision impairment when conducting their safety risk assessments.

FTA has posted fact sheets on our [website](#) providing guidance and training for transit providers on identifying safety hazards, completing a safety risk assessment and developing mitigations. Additionally, FTA has a [Bus-to-Person Collision website](#) available with further information. FTA would like to facilitate the sharing of best practices and success stories. Agencies wishing to share examples of successful implementation of a safety risk assessment or the development and implementation of safety risk mitigations for bus collisions with persons can submit them to the [FTA Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan Technical Assistance Center \(PTASP TAC\)](#).

- **Upcoming Safety Training – Updated for FY2024** - Safety training plays an important role in creating safer transit systems across America. The following list summarizes available safety training and resources offered through FTA and its partners. The FY2024 training schedule is now available. Training resources include: [FTA Safety Training Page](#) — outlines training requirements and available training courses. [FTA-Sponsored Training Courses](#) — provides information on FTA-sponsored FY2024 training delivered by the Transportation Safety Institute (TSI).

[TSI Course Schedule](#) — includes TSI safety training courses for transit personnel to support FTA grantees subject to the [Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program \(PTSCTP\)](#) regulation with initial training and refresher training requirements. In addition to PTSCTP bus and rail courses, trainings include courses for bus, rail, general transit safety and transit crime prevention and emergency management.

[Enhanced Transit Safety and Crime Prevention Initiative Related Trainings](#) — offers virtual Assault Awareness and Prevention (AAP) and Violence in the Transit Workplace (VTW) courses, provided by the National Transit Institute (NTI). The AAP and VTW courses support the FTA Enhanced Transit Safety and Crime Prevention Initiative.

## TTA welcomes ABB one of our newest Associate Members



TTA is thrilled to spotlight our newest associate member, ABB, a global leader in electrification and automation technologies. ABB is an electrification leader in power and automation technologies, leading market positions in utility, transportation, and infrastructure businesses. One of ABB's remarkable offerings is its fast-charging solutions for transit systems. ABB's solutions cover the entire spectrum from the grid to the plug, ensuring efficient and rapid charging for electric vehicles. For more information, please contact:

Ian Stern-Markovitz

Sales Manager Bus & Transit, Central Region

Phone: 3039025163



## VIA and National Arts Program Host Employee Art Show

SAN ANTONIO (Sept. 25, 2023) – Now in its 11th year, the VIA Employee Art Exhibit is showcasing more than 135 pieces of art made by VIA employees, retirees, and their family members, made possible by VIA's collaboration with The National Arts Program®. [The works of art are on display through Friday, Oct. 20, 2023, as part of VIA's ongoing support for local and aspiring artists.](#)

The 2023 VIA Employee Art Exhibit is free and open to the public. Creations in all media, from painting to sketching, photography, sculpture, and more, will be on display at The Grand, 123 N. Medina St. from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Monday through Friday, through Oct. 20. Use VIA's goMobile app to plan your trip to The Grand, 123 N. Medina, adjacent to Centro Plaza.

VIA Employees, retirees, and their immediate family members submitted paintings, drawings, photos, crafts and sculptures – all vying for more than \$3,000 in prizes for adults and children. It comprises art of various mediums in five categories – amateur, intermediate, professional, teen, and youth 12 years of age and younger.

In 2022, Mario Quintanilla, a Fleet and Facilities Department employee, was awarded first place in the intermediate category for action figures that he'd crafted depicting his VIA teammates. One of the judges from the University of Texas at San Antonio – Southwest was so impressed that he created a class in their program called "Custom Action Figures," which many students have embraced. This year, Mario was awarded "Best of Show" honors for his entry titled "Tula's Love" (*photo attached*).

The National Arts Program was founded to provide individuals a forum to showcase and develop their visual-art talents. The program hosts annual exhibits featuring the work of employees and their immediate family members in a variety of venues. VIA has participated in the program for 11 years.

Over the past 11 years, this employee program has displayed more than 1,100 art pieces in the Employee Art Exhibit.

The top winners of the Employee Art Contest are as follows:

**Best of Show** – Mario Quintanilla; Title: Tula's Love; Dept of Fleet & Facilities

**Youth (12 years and under)** – 1st Place Katelyn Baugh; Title: Papa at Missions Game

**Teen (13-18)** – 1st Place - Audrina Miranda; Title: Petrified



**Art Education Award** – Dylan Pena (*photo attached*)

**Intermediate** – 1st Place - Josh Baugh; Title: Flexing at Scobey

**Professional** – 1st Place - Daniel Rodriguez, Title: El Jaliscience

Instructors and Coordinators of the Community Art Program from the University of Texas at San Antonio – Southwest served as judges for the Employee Art Contest.



# Membership Announcement

## Time for Membership Renewal

Remember, the TTA Membership year is September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024

Joining the Texas Transit Association as a member is the first step in showing your commitment to improving public transportation. Membership gives you access to valuable resources, networking opportunities, and a platform to influence policy decisions. We want to emphasize that your TTA is increasingly vital.

**Not a Member?**

**Join us!**

**Texas Transit Association**

Contact us (512) 900-0550

[laura@txtransit.org](mailto:laura@txtransit.org) or [allen@txtransit.org](mailto:allen@txtransit.org)

### Transit and Associate Members Form and Payment

Please download this [form](#), for Transit Agency

Please download this [form](#), for Associate Member

Send completed form, along with a check, to  
501 Congress Ave, Suite 150,  
Austin, Texas 78701.

Contact [laura@txtransit.org](mailto:laura@txtransit.org) if you would like to pay using a credit card.

## Upcoming Dates of Interest:

All Members Meeting and Reception in Austin January 23, 2024

### October 2023

#### Advanced Transit Management

(In Person)

October 18-19, 2023

San Antonio, TX

#### Human Resources: Dealing with Unacceptable Behavior

(Online Webinar)

October 25, 2023

9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

### November 2023

#### **Risk Management: Identifying and Responding to Uncertainties**

(In Person)

November 7, 2023

Longview, TX

#### **Thrive! How to Thrive During Crisis and Beyond**

(In Person)

November 8, 2023



## Unlock Your Brand's Potential with TTA Sponsorship Opportunities!

At TTA, we believe in forging strong partnerships that drive success for both our transit and associate members. For this reason, TTA provides several sponsorship opportunities that offer a wide range to showcase your brand's dedication to advancing the transit industry. From member in-person meetings and receptions to the highly anticipated TTA Statewide Conference, Expo, and Rodeo, we have the perfect avenue to amplify your brand's visibility and impact. Some of the sponsorship opportunities are listed below:

### In-person Meetings and Receptions

Twice a year, TTA holds in-person Member Meetings and Receptions in Austin, TX, in conjunction with the TxDOT Semi-annual meeting. These are very well-attended networking events. Sponsoring these gatherings allows your brand to engage with decision-makers, network with professionals, and establish a prominent presence among industry leaders. All sponsors receive a list of attendees.



### State TTA Conference, Expo, and Rodeo, San Antonio- March 15-20, 2024

The TTA Conference, Expo, and Rodeo is one of the largest transportation conferences in the State that gathers transit professionals, showcasing the latest innovations and trends in the field. Sponsoring this event provides unparalleled exposure, offering a chance to connect with a broad and diverse audience, including potential clients and collaborators.



### Newsletter

Our Newsletter is a dynamic source of industry news, member highlights, and updates. Sponsoring this communication channel allows you to reach our engaged readership directly, reinforcing your brand's association with innovation and progress in the transit sector.

### Membership Directory (new)

Gain visibility year-round with a sponsorship in our Membership Directory. This valuable resource will be a go-to reference for industry leaders, providing essential contact information and insights into our extensive membership base.



At TTA, we're committed to creating win-win partnerships, ensuring your brand's impact resonates within our transit community and meets your budget. Join us as we support the transit industry in Texas, and let us work with you to discover the perfect sponsorship opportunity.

For inquiries and to explore sponsorship options, please contact our sponsorship team at [laura@txtansit.org](mailto:laura@txtansit.org) or visit our website at <https://txtransit.org/sponsorships/>.

Newsletter Sponsorship

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.



TTA Member Price		Non-Member Price	
Full Page Ad single issue	\$500	Full Page Ad single issue	\$750
Full Page One Year	\$2,000	Full Page One Year	\$3,000
Half Page Ad single issue	\$250	Half Page Ad single issue	\$400
Half Page One Year	\$1,000	Half Page One Year	\$2,000
Business card Ad single issue	\$150	Business card Ad single issue	\$250
Business card One Year	\$600	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: Laura Herrera  
(512) 900-0550  
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