



NEWSLETTER

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

Reminder late registration begins after Friday, March 8th



There's still time to <u>register</u> for this year's State Conference, Expo and Roadeo. Don't miss out on joining the over 490 attendees that have already registered.

There will be several general/breakout sessions, the largest public transit Expo in the state and multiple networking opportunities, including a welcome reception at the iconic Alamo on March 17th (don't forget to wear green since it will be on St. Patrick's Day). There will also be a networking breakfast each day and a big night out at the Grotto on the Riverwalk hosted by VIA Metropolitan Transit on March 19th.

Register Today!

Register now and save for this year's TTA Annual State Conference, Expo, and Roadeo. Late registration begins after Friday, March 8th, with fees increasing to \$650. Secure your spot today before rates increase!

Schedule at a Glance

2024-TTA State Roadeo Guidebook

Exhibitors/Sponsors Registration

Vendor Service Kit

Expo Hall Map

Conference/Roadeo Attendee Registration

Pre-conference workshops

General Sessions

Breakout Sessions



A Special Thank You To Our Conference Partners!



We appreciate the strong support provided by both the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and VIA Metropolitan Transportation Authority in planning and delivering this one-of-a-kind conference! TxDOT's financial support has contributed significantly to the success of the event, while the team at VIA has been heavily involved in ensuring our attendees have an outstanding experience in San Antonio. We couldn't have done it without you!

TTA 2024 State Conference and Expo Sponsors

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SPECIAL EVENT

"SNEAK PEAK" HAPPY HOUR

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VOITH

3:45 - 5:00 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 18

Expo Hall at the Convention Center

Make a stop at the VIA Lounge and enjoy music, food and refreshments!

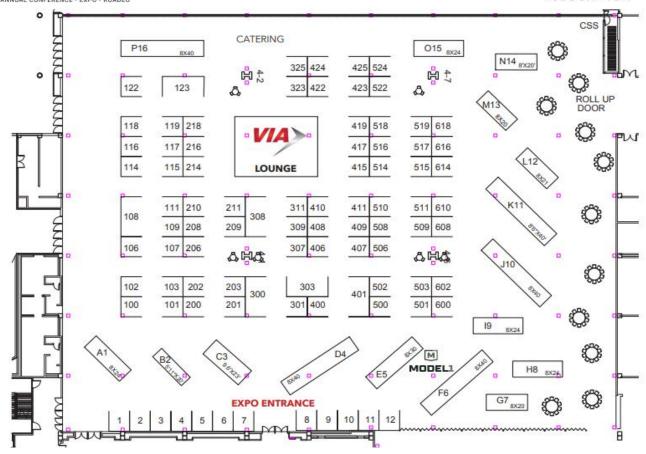
10:15 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. TUESDAY, MARCH 19

Expo Hall at the Convention Center



Expo Hall Map





ADA Guru	109
Alivi Health	
Allison Transmission and	
Stewart & Stevenson	610
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American Seating	
AMF Bruns America	
Avail Technologies, Inc	
Beep	119
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Damera Corp	
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Gillig Corporation	
GMV	417
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Granicus	410
Hanover Displays	503
Hendrickson Transportation Group (HTC	6)214
Huitt-Zollars, Inc.	
Icomera	
INIT Innovations in Transportation, Inc	
INSURICA	
InterClean Equipment	415
InterMotive Vehicle Controls	614
Kuba	
LIFT-U	117
LiquidSpring	406
Luminator Technology Group	
Maestronic USA Inc.	
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Model 1	9/D4-19
Mountain Commercial Graphics	
Municipal Parking Services Inc. (MPS)	
N/S Corporation	
National RTAP	
National Safety Council	102
New Flyer/MCI	K11
Nexus Software Systems	
OkTA - Oklahoma Transit Association	
Optibus	
Peak Transit	
Q'Straint/Sure-lok	C3
RATP Dev USA	
Reeder Distributors, Inc.	
REI	
RideCo Inc.	

ROUSH CleanTechL12	2/616
Safe Fleet	
Shah Software	11
Spare	210
Spradling	517
Spring Bird	
Swiftly	509
Texas A&M Transportation Institute	3
Texas Bus Sales	409
Thermo King	
Tolar Manufacturing Co., Inc	309
Trans/Air Manufacturing	
Transdev	
Transign	
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Transit Workforce Center	
TransTrack Solutions Group	2
Trapeze Group	106
TripMaster by CTS Software	401
TripSpark	
TSİ Video	
TTA-Texas Transit Association	7
TxDOT	8
United Safety & Survivability Corp	218
UZURV	303
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Voith US Inc	522
Vontas	408
Wabtec Bus Solutions	
White Associates	
Xybix Systems, Inc	425



Registration for the Roadeo ends Friday, March 8th



The last day to to register for the TTA State Bus Roadeo is Friday, March 8th, 2024. Transit agencies are encouraged to register your bus operators and technicians now for a day of friendly competition, skill-building, and camaraderie at the Alamodome in San Antonio. Don't miss this opportunity to demonstrate your agency's commitment to excellence in transit operations. Currently there are six maintenance teams and over 40 operators that will be competing. There will also be a Swap meet on Friday after the briefings and testing so come prepared to swap your agencies branded merchandise.

The Roadeo will conclude with the Awards Banquet to be held in the Pearl Room of the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel on Saturday, March 16, from 6-8 PM.

Note: The Roadeo Awards Banquet is included for all contestants. However, any guest, family members, volunteer or Judge wishing to attend the Roadeo Awards Banquet will need to purchase a Banquet ticket at \$75.00 each by no later than Friday, March 8th. Register today, and let's make this Roadeo an unforgettable event!

Roadeo Guidebook

Register Your Teams Today!

Also, after the Roadeo, participants and their families can enjoy San Antonio's fantastic <u>St. Patrick's Festival</u> that will include a number of family-friendly activities, including dyeing of the River Walk, live entertainment, vendors and more located at La Villita Historic Village. Admission to the Festival is free! Click for <u>More Information</u>

The festival kicks off with the dyeing of the River Walk. The San Antonio River Walk is transformed into the River Shannon through 25-gallons of eco-friendly green dye. Also, on Saturday, there will be two river parades of Irish-themed decorated floats filled with Irish entertainment that can be viewed from anywhere on the parade route. Several bagpipers will grace the floats along with other entertainers. This event started in 1969 and has been organized by the Visit San Antonio River Walk and the Harp & Shamrock Society of Texas since that time. Both parades are free to attend. We invite you to come for the Roadeo and stay for the conference.





Multiple Breakouts and Pre-conference Workshops

TTA's State Conference will offer attendees an enriching experience, featuring <u>daily</u> <u>general sessions</u>, multiple in-depth <u>breakout sessions</u>, and <u>pre-conference workshops!</u> Don't miss these valuable industry insights, innovation, and best practices.

These sessions also offer the opportunity to network with peers and colleagues while gaining valuable knowledge and skills to advance your career. Don't miss out on this chance to connect, learn, and grow!

Remember that all attendees present at the end of TTA's closing conference session on Wednesday, 3/20/24, will be entered for a chance to win a \$500 Visa gift card sponsored by CWI Video Systems. (must be present to win)



Breakout Sessions

	Monday, 3/18 10:00 am	Monday, 3/18 11:05 am	Monday, 3/18 1:30 pm	Monday, 3/18 2:40 pm	Tuesday, 3/19 2:40 pm	Tuesday, 3/19 3:50 pm	
RM: 209	Micro Transit, Major Mobility How VIA Metropolitan Transit is changing the game with on-demand service	Building a Safety Culture with Countermeasures that Work	Managing Operational and Capital Costs in Rural & Small Urban Transit Systems	The ABCs of Disadvantaged, Minority, Small, and Women-owned Businesses	Active Shooter Awareness and Preparedness	Fleet Configurations for Paratransit and Other Demand Responsive Transportation Services	
RM: 210-A	Moving People – TxDC and Active Tr		Risk Management Strategies for Public Transportation - Sponsored by INSURICA	She's Driving the Future Women leaders are delivering on the promise of modern mobility at VIA	Bus Operator's Retention, Run Preferences, and Run- Life Conflicts	Solving the Mystery of ADA Paratransit Eligibility Determination	
RM: 210-B	Transit Supply and Demand Adjustments after the Pandemic	Women in Public Transportation Networking Forum	Growing Your Own Through Apprenticeship: A Joint Approach to Building Skills for the Frontline Workforce	Panel discussion with industry leaders for agencies contemplating the shift toward electric and hydrogen fuel cell buses	State of Paratransit in Texas, Governor's Committee on people with disabilities	Elevating Austin's Transit Experience with the AMP fare card	
RM: 211	National RTAP Resources for Rural Transit Agencies	FTA Bus Procurement Guidance and Oversight Review Updates	The ADA's Requirements for Service Animals and Reasonable Modification of Policy	How to Future- Ready your ADA Paratransit Services Sponsored by SPARE	We All Play a Role: Equity in Transit, from the Practitioner's Perspective		
RM: 212-A	USDOT Drug & Alcohol Regulation Update (49 CFR Part 40) - Oral Fluid Drug Testing & More!		Does Your Board have a Clue?		? Maintenance Open Forum Discussion		
RM: 212-B	Managing People: Knowing Yourself and Others WILL Make it Easier		Learn about the NEW Guide from Center for Medicare, Medicaid (CMS) and Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT)		for Medicare, Medicaid (CMS) and Non-		o-Day Practices



***** YOU'RE INVITED ****

6:00 - 8:00 P.M. TUESDAY, MARCH 19

The Grotto at the Convention Center 900 E Market St, San Antonio, TX 78205

Drinks, Food, Live Music | Fiesta's Rey Feo | Mascots and Mingling

Please RSVP by Thursday, March 14th to RSVP@outsidetheboxevents.com

TITLE SPONSOR

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Featuring Bidi Bidi Banda



Go to TXtransit.org for conference and expo information.

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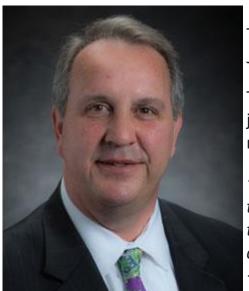
"At participating locations. Certain restrictions apply. Rebates are not applied at the time of purchase — they appear as an account credit on the same billing statement with your monthly purchases. The standard tier rebate only applies to gallons fueled at Shell stations. Rebates are subject to change without notice. †Basis point rebate applies to purchases made at locations that are not Shell-branded ††Merchants can withdraw from the program at any time. .

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Current News January 2024

The METRO Board of Directors appoints Deputy CEO Thomas Jasien as interim president & CEO.



The METRO Board of Directors appoints Deputy CEO Thomas Jasien as interim president & CEO.

Tom Jasien has been METRO's Deputy CEO since 2014. He joined the Authority in 2000 as Senior Director of Government Affairs and Community Outreach.

"Working with a team of people with diverse perspectives and talents is what makes this job fun. We have a unique opportunity to do things differently, think outside the box, and be as creative as we want to be."

— Thomas Jasien

Get Ready: Daylight Saving Time Approaching!

It's that time of the year again – Daylight Saving Time is just around the corner! On March 10th, at 2:00 a.m., clocks will "spring

forward" one hour, marking the start of longer, brighter evenings.

As we prepare to adjust our clocks, don't forget to also check those smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. Embrace the extra daylight and get ready for the season ahead!



Current News

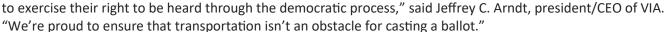
VIA provides fare-free trips to vote on Election Day

Exercise Your Ride to Vote on March 5 VIA provides fare-free trips to vote on Election Day

VIA Metropolitan Transit offered fare-free service Tuesday, March 5, for customers riding public transportation to their polling location under its long-standing Election Day "Ride VIA to Vote" program.

VIA provided fare-free transportation for passengers who presented a valid voter registration card to the bus or van operator on Election Day.

"As a transit agency, we're deeply rooted in the civic process and committed to providing equitable access to all community members who wish





The "Ride VIA to Vote" initiative provides complimentary public transportation on uniform municipal, state and federal election days. The goal is to encourage civic engagement and participation among VIA customers and to provide transportation for voters who may not otherwise be able to get to and from their polling location.

The complimentary service is available for regular bus service, VIA Link, and VIAtrans paratransit service throughout the VIA service area. Registered VIAtrans customers should schedule their trip in accordance with VIAtrans policies and procedures by phone or online. VIA Link trips are available within designated service zones. Customers can connect to the VIA system to travel outside the zone. Visit VIAinfo.net/link to plan your trip.

Since launching the Ride VIA to Vote initiative in March 2016, the agency has provided thousands of rides for people traveling to or from a polling location. Customers can plan their trip to a polling place with the Transit app, and by using the VIA goMobile+ app, both available for download at VIAinfo.net/gomobileplus. A complete list of Election Day voting locations also can be found at elections.bexar.org. For more information on riding VIA, visit VIAinfo.net.

For additional information regarding routes and schedules on Election Day, call (210) 362-2020 or visit VIAinfo.net.

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About VIA Metropolitan Transit

VIA provides safe, reliable transportation options that put opportunity within reach for millions of passengers each year. VIA began operation in 1978 and today serves 14 member cities and the unincorporated areas of Bexar County, operating seven days a week on 77 routes, with complementing VIAtrans paratransit service and VIA Link on-demand options. VIA's family of services help connect our community, support economic vitality, and enhance quality of life throughout the region. In 2020, voters approved funding for VIA's Keep SA Moving plan, in support of projects designed for a modern mass transit system in San Antonio and Bexar County. Visit VIAinfo.net for more information. Follow us on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, LinkedIn, and the X platform, formerly known as Twitter.

SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS:

What to Know Before You Buy



The search for new cameras can be challenging. Understanding details is critical to making better, more informed decisions. Read on to learn about some that could affect fleet safety and your bottom line.

Operational Hours

Calculate each bus's monthly operating hours. This number will help you determine the <u>storage space</u> needed for surveillance video. More hours require more space.

Video Resolutions

Resolution also helps you calculate storage space. 720p images are smaller than 1080p and 4K UHD images and require less space. However, 720p views may not be large enough to provide the details you want. Test each resolution to identify what's best for your operation.

Camera Counts

Vehicle size, fields of view, and hot spots impact camera counts. Two interior cameras with 95-degree vertical views may be enough for one bus, but a larger bus will likely require more. Focusing on hot spots may mean even more. For example, closer views of a wheelchair zone will require an additional camera with a 6mm lens. Establish coverage areas to help determine camera quantity.

AHD and IP Cameras

An Analog High-Definition (AHD) Camera requires a DVR and a few cables to convert images to digital and to store. Typically,







it costs less than an IP camera. However, the required DVR and cables may bring its overall cost close to an IP camera's.

An Internet Protocol High-Definition
(IP) Camera does not require a DVR and
multiple cables. It processes and stores
video internally and uses a single Ethernet
cable. IP cameras also provide wider views,
sharper details, and are better at capturing
motion.

Before buying, test both and compare. Ask about fields of view, image quality, and additional hardware and software that may be required.

Frame Rates

Frames per second (fps) affects the action seen on video, not resolution. Video recorded at 30 fps shows smooth action. At 5 fps, video is slightly choppy but requires less storage space.

Record Time Estimator

Our online estimator calculates the storage capacity needed for each bus. You simply enter the camera count, resolutions, and frame rates.

Materials

Are the cameras made of durable, prograde materials? Ensure they are tested to withstand extreme temperatures, vibrations, and constant use.

Warranties

Most providers offer warranties covering the repair or replacement of defective products. However, the terms and types will vary. Obtain written details about cost, duration, product coverage, and claim procedures.

Support

Is <u>in-house support</u> available 24/7/365? How is it accessed? Do live representatives answer questions? Support should be available when needed to minimize downtime.

The more you know about cameras and suppliers, the better. Up-front research can help you attain more complete proposals and greater peace of mind.

Attending TTA EXPO? Visit booth #514!



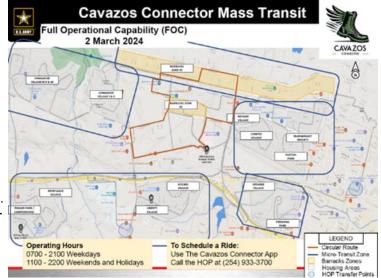




To learn more, contact Jim Hakes, REI Transit Territory Manager, at: 531.325.1172 Current News March 2024

The HOP Launches First of Its Kind Transit System at Fort Cavazos US Army Installation

On February 5th 2024, Hill Country Transit District (HCTD), operating as the HOP in Central Texas, began a phased launch of a multimodal transit system for the US Army, at Fort Cavazos which is arguably the largest military installation in the US. This transit initiative is the brainchild of the Fort Cavazos Senior Mission Commander, Lieutenant General Bernabe, who has traveled the world and has firsthand experience using worldclass transit systems. "He wants to bring that same worldclass innovation and experience to Fort Cavazos. He has a passion for enhancing the quality of life for everyone stationed on the installation and he sees access to high frequency transit as key to accomplishing multiple goals", said Raymond Suarez, the General Manager for the HOP. Suarez is an innovation leader for the Hendrickson Transportation Group that manages the Transit District and is leading the transformation to the new regional transit plan and the implementation for the US Army.



An installation-wide contest was held to name and brand the transit system which has created a lot of interest and buyin. The transit service known as the Cavazos Connector, is part of a 10-year agreement between the US Military and
HCTD subject to annual funding appropriations. When fully deployed, the transit system will provide seamless service
across the entire installation. The key innovation that makes this service possible is an on-demand rideshare system
that uses proprietary software that enables dynamic scheduling and dispatching of vehicles in real time. Users of the
service can download the app, schedule trips around the installation seven days a week and track current vehicle location and when the ride is due to arrive. For those without phone app-capabilities, they can visit a website at
www.takethehop.com or contact the HOP Call Center to book a trip.

The Cavazos Connector transit system is comprised of a high-frequency circulator route that links frequently used facilities including offices, post exchanges, dining facilities, working facilities, entertainment venues, schools, and medical facilities. The Circulator route is linked to five microtransit zones that generally cover the entire military installation and provide curb-to-curb access to residential areas. The combination of microtransit and high frequency access to the circulator makes the entire installation highly accessible.

Another key innovation was the application of thoughtful transit planning and design, to link 100,000 military personnel when the installation is at or near full capacity to the HOP's regional transit services including access to the cities of Killeen, Temple, Copperas Cove, Harker Heights, and Belton, all of which have microtransit zones to key destinations throughout each city. The Cavazos Connector is linked to a 36-mile commuter route that operates on 30-minute frequency. The technology combines various transit services and comingles trip requests then brokers rides to various transit vehicles operating in the service areas in real-time. "Through this intermodal solution we are weaving access and mobility into the fabric of life on the military installation and into the HOP's nine-thousand square mile operating area. All regional services become more accessible and reduce barriers to access like never before. As a result, we are forecasting ridership to significantly increase thereby improving the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the transit system", said Suarez.

This new transit initiative would not have been possible without the leadership and funding of the U.S. Army, collaboration of the 14 stakeholder communities of the HOP, and the support of the Texas Transit Association. More information on The HOP's schedule and service can be found on their website at www.takethehop.com and on their Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/takethehop. The HOP can also be reached at (254) 933-3700, and the app can be found on the Google Play store or Apple App Store by searching for "Hill Country Transit".

Current News March 2024

Freight Rail Return Activates Dormant Crossings in Plano and Richardson

The continued progress of the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Silver Line Regional Rail Project is bringing freight rail service back to the cities of Plano and Richardson beginning Sunday, March 3.

DART and CPKC, formerly Kansas City Southern Railroad, agreed to cease freight operations in July of 2022, allowing Archer Western Herzog (AWH), DART's design-build contractor, construction crews more room to work and advance major construction of the Silver Line project. The agreement gave DART the ability to move about the corridor with its construction plans, while rerouting CPKC freight traffic out of the area. Once the project advanced to the point where the reroute was no longer necessary, the agreement would allow CPKC to resume freight service.

For the commuters and residents in Plano and Richardson driving near the Silver Line corridor this means warning systems and crossing signals dormant for about 20 months will be active again.



"We are grateful to CPKC for working with us to make this section of the Silver Line corridor as safe as possible for our crews and commuters as we advanced the project," said Trey Walker, DART vice president of capital design and construction. "Now that we are continuing that progress, we want to continue to stress safety, ensure the public is aware of these changes, and adhere to the crossing signals and warning signs.

DART has been in communication with the cities and school districts in Plano and Richardson, as well as their eastern neighbors along the railroad tracks of Murphy and Wylie to ensure residents and commuters are aware of the return of freight rail service to the area. New signage, warning systems, and existing crossing signals were tested and operational before freight trains return to the tracks.

The return of CPKC freight operations will affect 12 at-grade crossings in Plano and two in Richardson on the Silver Line pathway. Testing of the systems and crossing signals will take place Sunday, March 3, from 9 am to 5 pm with flaggers at crossings as a safety precaution for vehicle traffic.

Normal freight operations will begin Monday, March 4, and run at night after 10 pm and include evening trips.

The DART Silver Line is a 26-mile commuter rail that traverses seven North Texas cities (Grapevine, Coppell, Dallas, Carrollton, Addison, Richardson, Plano) between DFW Airport and Shiloh Road in Plano. The regional rail alignment crosses three counties (Collin, Dallas, Tarrant) and will provide service to improve mobility and accessibility across the northern portion of the DART service area. DART Silver Line revenue service is scheduled to begin in late 2025 to early-2026.

To learn more about the Silver Line Regional Rail Project, please visit DART.org/silverline.

Current News March 2024

TTA Statewide Training Initiative

These courses are offered at **no cost**, but space is limited, so make sure that you and your staff don't miss out. This training opportunity is made possible with a grant through TxDOT.

April 2024

Equity in Action: Navigating Title VI, DBE, and EEO

Two Day In-Person April 10-11, 2024 Brazos Transit Bryan, TX 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. CST

Register Here

Fundamentals of Project Management

Webinar April 17, 2024 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. CST

Register Here

Microtransit as a Part of an Integrated Transit System

Webinar

April 23-24, 2024 1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

Register Here

Click here for Training Calendar



Upcoming Training:

CARES Frontline Supervisor Certification (in-person 2-day workshop)

CARES Transit management Certification (in-person 2-day workshop)

Planning for Program Sustainability (Webinar)



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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 involvement with TTA is vital.



Transit and Associate Members Form and Payment

Please download this **form**, for Transit Agency

Please download this **form**, for Associate Member

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

Contact laura@txtansit.org if you would like to pay with a credit card.

Membership Directory

Help us update your mermbership profile today!



Time is running out to register for this year's State Conference and Expo

TTA 2024 State Conference, Expo and Roadeo March 15-20, 2024

Registration Today!

Over 490 people have registered!

