

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

## TTA Will Host First Statewide Maintenance Training

Join us for TTA's first Statewide Maintenance Training Session, designed specifically for Maintenance Technicians, Shop Foremen, and working Shop Managers. This training session aims to enhance your expertise and elevate your skills to the next level. Participants will engage with industry professionals, learn cutting-edge techniques, and stay updated with the latest advancements in maintenance practices. Whether you're looking to refine your current abilities or expand your knowledge base, this training will provide an invaluable professional growth and development opportunity. This is also an excellent networking opportunity with peers from around the state. Don't miss out on this chance to become a more proficient and effective leader in your field.



Also don't miss out on the great evening events hosted by SWTA during their [Summer U](#):

7/28- Opening Reception - Sheraton Fort Worth Downtown Hotel

7/30 - Off Site Event - Second Rodeo Brewing (Fee: \$25)

[Book your Hotel](#) - Room block ends soon!

### TTA's Statewide Maintenance Training

**Dates:** July 29-30, 2024

**Location:** Trinity Metro Facility Ft. Worth

**Who should attend:** Maintenance Technicians, Shop Foremen, and working Shop Managers

**Topics covered:**

**Paratransit Lift Training**

**Paratransit AC Training**

**The Philosophy of Maintenance:**

- Reactive Maintenance
- Preventative Maintenance
- Predictive Maintenance

**Registration Fee: No Cost**

You must [Register](#) to attend

## NEMT Meeting Update

At the request of some of our Rural providers, the Texas Transit Association will be hosting a meeting to discuss challenges and opportunities in the NEMT sector. TTA has invited the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), along with the NEMT brokers, to participate. No RSVP is required for this meeting, but you are encouraged to email or call Allen with any topics or issues that you would like to include on the agenda.

**[NEMT Meeting](#)**

**Location:** CARTS Facility, 5300 Tucker Hill Ln, Cedar Creek, TX

**Date & Time:** July 16, 2024 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

## 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.

### July 2024

#### **Procurement Workshop**

Two Day In-Person  
July 15-16, 2024  
Commons Conference Center  
Austin, TX  
8:00 a.m.. – 5:00 p.m. CST

[Register Here](#)

#### **Effective Communication and Disability Etiquette**

Webinar  
July 30, 2024  
10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

[Register Here](#)

### August 2024

#### **Tapping into the Power of Generational Diversity**

Webinar  
August 8, 2024  
10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m. [Register Here](#)

#### **Hiring, Keeping and Motivating Employees**

One Day In-Person  
August 14, 2024  
Citibus, Lubbock, TX [Register Here](#)  
8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

#### **Customer Service for Transit Professionals**

One Day In-Person  
August 15, 2024  
Citibus [Register Here](#)  
Lubbock, TX  
8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

[Click here for Training Calendar](#)

#### **Bus Operator Training (One Day-In Person)**

August 21, 2024  
Longview Transit  
Longview, TX [Register Here](#)  
8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

#### **Bus Operator Training (One Day-In Person)**

August 22, 2024  
Longview Transit [Register Here](#)  
8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

#### **Cares Dispatcher & Call Center Certification**

Two Day In-Person  
August 24-25, 2024  
Waco Transit System [Register Here](#)  
Waco, TX  
8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

#### **ADA: Do I Have to Do That?**

One Day In-Person  
August 26, 2024  
Waco Transit [Register Here](#)  
Waco, TX  
8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.



Drinks provided by: **MODEL COMMERCIAL VEHICLES**



# TTA's Sunset Evening Reception

Tuesday, July 16, 2024  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Free for TTA Members (\$50 each for Non-Members)

Join us for an unforgettable networking event, on the Lonestar Riverboat as we cruise along Ladybird Lake. You will enjoy drinks and appetizers with your peers while taking in a beautiful sunset over Downtown Austin. Near the end of the evening, you will witness a spectacular sight: the largest colony of Mexican free-tailed bats emerging from Congress Avenue Bridge. RSVP today!

*Check-in: 6:30 PM at 208 Barton Springs Rd.*  
*Note: the boat will be leaving sharply at 7:00 PM*

**This event has limited space so RSVP today!**  
(Limited to 4 per agency)

**Don't miss out, there are just few seats left!**

## VIA Wins at CTAA 's National Rodeo



The Community Transportation Association of America's (CTAA) 33rd National Rodeo was hosted on June 9, 2024, in the beautiful city of West Palm Beach, Florida. This unique and exciting event showcases the skills and dedication of transit operators from across the nation, highlighting their expertise and commitment to excellence in public transportation.

This year's top honor goes to **Jesse Rodriguez from VIA**, who secured first place in Body On Chassis (BOC/Cutaway) and was named Driver of the Year.



VIA Metro and CapMetro, Texas

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Jesse Rodriguez and to all the participants and winners who demonstrated exceptional skill and dedication. Special recognition goes to the strong representation from Texas. We look forward to seeing more incredible displays of talent and dedication in the years to come.

## VIA Link Service Reaches Northeast Lakeview College

SAN ANTONIO (June 26, 2024) – VIA will begin offering VIA Link service to Northeast Lakeview College in August, expanding the on-demand transit option and making it fare-free to students and faculty at the Alamo Colleges District campus.

VIA Metropolitan Transit's Board of Trustees unanimously approved the expansion Tuesday. The City of Live Oak is de-annexing a portion of the Alamo Colleges property at Northeast Lakeview so VIA Link transit services could be offered to students, faculty and staff.

Live Oak is not one of 14 member cities in the VIA service area. The de-annexation was necessary to open the campus to service. Northeast Lakeview was the only Alamo Colleges campus outside the service area.

Beginning Monday, Aug. 19, VIA customers can travel between the Northeast Lakeview College campus and the Randolph and Naco Pass VIA Link zones. The campus will have two drop-off/pick-up locations: one at Paluxy Hall and the other at Kruse Circle.

VIA Link is available at the same fares as VIA bus service — \$1.30 full fare per trip. Discounts apply, including VIA's U-Pass program that makes access to all VIA services, **including VIA Link**, free for students, faculty and staff.

VIA Link trips can be booked through the VIA Link app, online at [VIAinfo.net/Link](http://VIAinfo.net/Link) or by phone at (210) 655-Link [5465]. Each van can seat up to five passengers and can accommodate individuals who have a mobility impairment. Vehicles with a bike rack can be requested during trip booking.

Below are the hours of operation for the two zones, including service to Northeast Lakeview:

**VIA Link Randolph:** 5 a.m. – 10 p.m. daily

**VIA Link Naco Pass (Northeast zone):** 5 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. daily

## DART Providing Transit Centers as Cooling Stations

With temperatures rising across North Texas, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) is offering transit centers as cooling stations for riders seeking relief from the heat. DART's initiative aims to provide a safe and cool environment for customers waiting for their transportation connections.

Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Bernard Jackson stated, "DART Transit Centers are currently operational to provide cooling relief to the public during the excessive heat while they wait to make connections with their bus, light rail, paratransit, and GoLink services."



For more information on transit centers [please read here](#).

## CCRTA Provided Critical Evacuation Services

Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA) was currently working with the City of Corpus Christi, American Red Cross, and other governmental entities to evacuate North Beach residents to the Corpus Christi Gym/Natatorium in Corpus Christi, Texas.



## Statewide Training: Successful Strategies for Managing Problematic People

On June 5th and 6th, CapMetro hosted an insightful and impactful in-person training session titled "Successful Strategies for Managing Problematic People" in Austin, TX. This event brought together professionals eager to enhance their skills in handling challenging workplace situations, fostering a more positive and productive environment. We would like to sincerely thank everyone who participated and contributed to making this training session a success. Your engagement and dedication to professional development are truly appreciated.

For more information on upcoming training sessions, please visit our website at [Txtransit.org](http://Txtransit.org) to stay informed about future events and opportunities for growth.



## Sun Metro to Offered Free Rides on June 20 for National Dump the Pump Day

Sun Metro offered free rides all day on Thursday, June 20, 2024, in observance of National Dump the Pump Day.

Originally sponsored by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), the third Thursday in June is known as Dump the Pump Day, and it encourages people to save money on fuel by riding public transportation instead of driving.



“We invited everyone who has never tried Sun Metro to take advantage of the free rides and give public transportation a try. Our system can take residents where they need to go,” said Sun Metro Director Anthony DeKeyzer. “Annually, we provide more than 5.5 million rides all while continuously working to make the system more efficient to provide a better customer experience.”

Dump the Pump Day began in 2006, when gas prices were at record highs, and emphasizes that public transportation is a great travel option that also helps people save money.

According to the American Public Transportation Association, individuals can save more than \$13,000 per year by using public transit instead of driving. In addition, by choosing public transportation, individuals not only save money but also contribute to a cleaner environment and reduce traffic congestion.

## Trinity Metro’s Innovative Transit partnership with Via



June 11, 2024 — Trinity Metro is proud to announce a significant advancement of its investment in technology and innovation to create a more agile and accessible future of public transportation in Tarrant County. In the midst of booming population growth in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, investment in public transit is more important than ever and represents a visionary approach to accessibility, managing congestion, and ensuring residents and visitors have an affordable option to get where they need to go.

Through an expanded partnership with TransitTech provider Via, which has powered the successful ZIPZONE on-demand rideshare transit service since 2019, Trinity Metro will embark on a path to deploy intuitive technology and efficient operations across its entire transit network.

The refreshed transit program includes broadened and improved on-demand and paratransit services, which will increase transit access for more people in Tarrant County than ever before. The agency will also become one of the first in the nation to merge on-demand rideshare services and paratransit operations, an innovative solution designed to maximize service efficiency and improve experience for all riders while minimizing overhead costs.

On-demand transit works by matching riders headed in the same direction into one vehicle, which creates efficient shared trips. The flexible model uses “virtual bus stops” based on the rider’s pickup and dropoff location instead of traditional physical stops and predetermined routes. The expanded on-demand service will provide easy connectivity to Trinity Metro’s existing bus lines.

[Read More:](#)

## FTA News: Biden– Harris Administration Announces \$7.8 Million in Grants to Help Connect People to Health Care and Other Critical Services

The U.S. Department of Transportation's [Federal Transit Administration \(FTA\)](#) announced [\\$7.8 million for 17 projects](#) that will improve public transportation for people with disabilities, older adults, and low-income individuals. The grants support organizations that coordinate public transportation for underserved groups, allowing them to access healthcare, community services, education, and jobs by building partnerships among health, transportation, and human services providers.

FTA's [Innovative Coordinated Access & Mobility \(ICAM\) Pilot Program](#) – supported by more than \$24 million in funding over five years from the President's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – increases access for Americans all over the country, with a focus on health and wellness. Today's announcement supports transportation improvements, from designing new trip scheduling technology to buying transit vans, in 15 states.

"Transportation is a lifeline that connects Americans to essential services, like health care, and today we're supporting innovative projects to help more people connect to the help they need" said **U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg**. "These transportation projects, made possible by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, will help people with disabilities, older adults, and low-income individuals access the health services they need."

By improving the coordination of transportation to critical services for people who have been underserved in the past, the ICAM program supports the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to improving public health, including mental health. The program provides an opportunity for older adults and people with disabilities and in low-income communities.

"This program supports statewide and regional strategies to help ensure people who are especially challenged in accessing healthcare can reach those critical services," said **FTA Acting Administrator Veronica Vanterpool**. "We are pleased to provide resources that help reach into the sometimes-overlooked areas of our nation to ensure no one is left behind."

Some of the selected projects include:

- The Illinois Department of Transportation will receive \$1.8 million to design and implement an integrated technology system for trip scheduling and fare collection that will facilitate non-emergency medical transportation trips and interagency passenger transfers. The program will integrate technology enhancements to improve mobility for people in 20 rural counties in southern Illinois through Shawnee Mass Transit, Rides Mass Transit, South Central Mass Transit, and Monroe Randolph Mass Transit.
- The Central Oklahoma Transportation and Parking Authority (EMBARK) will receive \$415,900 to support the expansion of the existing coordinated transportation services through the purchase of two vehicles and associated vehicle technology systems. This project will meet the growing transportation demand for older adults, people with disabilities, low-income individuals, and transit-dependent populations with improved access to social services, education programs, workforce development programs, non-emergency medical treatment, and wellness and nutrition services throughout Oklahoma City.
- The West River Transit Authority (Prairie Hills Transit) in South Dakota will receive \$269,280 to buy a contactless payment technology system that will enhance safety, improve reliability and the rider experience, and make transit more accessible to residents in the Black Hills region. A trip planning mobile app and website will help facilitate intercounty connections and regional service by linking riders with providers for trips across multiple service areas. The platform will improve coordination of services for veteran service organizations, education institutions, healthcare facilities, women's and homeless shelters, home healthcare organizations, and workforce centers.

In response to the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), FTA received 24 eligible proposals. Projects were selected based on criteria described in the [NOFO](#).

## 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.



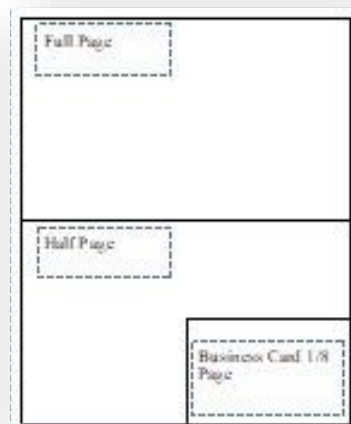
TTA Member Price	
Full Page Ad single issue	\$500
Full Page One Year	\$2,000
Half Page Ad single issue	\$250
Half Page One Year	\$1,000
Business card Ad single issue	\$100
Business card One Year	\$500

Non-Member Price	
Full Page Ad single issue	\$750
Full Page One Year	\$3,000
Half Page Ad single issue	\$400
Half Page One Year	\$2,000
Business card Ad single issue	\$200
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:

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# Membership Announcement

June 2024

## 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.

**Not a Member?**

**Join Today!**

**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

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:

NEMT MEETING - July 16, 2024

TTA's Sunset Evening Reception July 16, 2024

TxDOT Semi-Annual July 17, 2024

SWTA Summer University July 28-31, 2024

TTA's Maintenance Training July 28-30, 2024