

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

Texas Recognition at SWTA's Summer U - Spotlight Awards

The Southwest Transit Association (SWTA) proudly announced the winners of their Annual Spotlight Awards, recognizing excellence and innovation in public transportation. The awards celebrate the exceptional efforts and contributions of transit agencies and organizations across the region that have significantly impacted their communities.

The following Texas winners were:

Corpus Christi Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA)

- Spotlight Campaign (Know the Signs: Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign)
- Hit the Spot Electronic Media (Driven to Succeed: Career Fair Radio Act)
- Hit the Spot Event Promotion (Routes of Recognition, Celebrating CCRTA's Employees)
- Hit the Spot Print Media (Skip the Ferry Lines: CCRTA's Port Aransas Express)

East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG)

- Hit the Spot Electronic Media: (Go Bus Testimonial Campaign)

Fort Bend Transit

- Spotlight Campaign (Resilience on the Move)

VIA

- Hit the Spot Event Promotion (TEAD: Transit Employee Appreciation Day)
- Spotlight Campaign (VIAMonos Fiesta!)



Legislative Priorities Survey



TTA's Legislative Committee is currently working on establishing our statewide legislative priorities for the upcoming legislative session starting in January.

We are asking for your feedback to ensure we are meeting your needs, please take a moment to take this short survey.

[TTA's Legislative Priorities Survey](#)

CCRTA Host Human Trafficking Summit



Friday, August 16th, 2024, CCRTA hosted a Human Trafficking Summit. Top experts and industry leaders presented new research and methods for combating human trafficking while identifying future research areas aimed at developing solutions to eradicate human



trafficking. Due to the overwhelming response CCRTA received, the event had to be relocated to the American Bank Center to comfortably accommodate everyone.

DART Pilot Program to Test Next Generation Bus Shelters

Bus riders can get a first-hand experience using Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Next Generation Bus Shelters over the next four months.

DART finished installing three versions of the new bus shelter prototypes at five bus stop locations across four cities on July 18 as part of a new pilot program. DART partnered with Tolar Manufacturing, the leading bus shelter manufacturer in the United States, to create a shelter based on feedback previously gathered from DART bus riders.



The prototypes include standard-width and slim-width shelters with benches, and a mini shelter that features seating for two. DART surveyed bus riders in 2023, asking them what key amenities were most important to them and worked with architecture and urban planning students at the University of Texas at Arlington to help design the new bus shelters.

Customer feedback determined that more protection from the elements, improved lighting for safety and visibility, and real-time bus arrival information were top priorities for the new design. UTA students used those details to create a concept shelter that earned the Texas Student Honor Award from the American Society of Landscape Architects in 2023, with DART utilizing those designs to partner with Tolar to deliver the modified versions that are being used in the pilot program.

Read more about this article [here](#)

VIA Link Reaches Milestone and Expands Service

On-demand Service Hits Million-Rider Mark as New Zone Set to Open Downtown

VIA Metropolitan Transit, in partnership with Centro San Antonio and the University of Texas at San Antonio, is launching its new [VIA Link](#) zone, Downtown, as it celebrates two major milestones for the popular on-demand service: five years and over 1 million passengers since it launched.

The VIA Board of Trustees unanimously approved creation of the new Downtown Link zone at a special-called board meeting held Tuesday. The VIA Link Downtown/Little Runner Zone is the fifth for VIA and builds on the success of Centro's 2023 pilot project, dubbed the "Little Runner" for UTSA's RoadRunner mascot.

The new zone, set to launch Sept. 2, is designed to connect people who live, work, and visit the busy city center and UTSA's Downtown Campus.

VIA Link vans will deliver service in Downtown, but unlike other VIA Link zones, bus routes will continue running and a "Little Runner" circulator, using small electric shuttles, will move students, faculty, and staff from adjacent parking lots to the school's new San Pedro I building.



"Offering VIA Link service Downtown moves us closer to our mission of connecting the community through innovation and collaboration with partners and neighbors like Centro San Antonio and UTSA," VIA President/CEO Jeffrey C. Arndt said. "VIA Link has proved to be a gamechanger, with over 1 million passenger trips — and counting. This new partnership will keep us moving in the right direction as San Antonio — and VIA — continue to grow and change."

Trish DeBerry, President/CEO of Centro San Antonio, addressed the VIA Board Tuesday and spoke in support of the project, citing the pilot's success and potential for the future.

"The Little Runner Pilot has provided essential data and actionable steps to advance this next evolution of the program," DeBerry said. "These partnerships are critical as we pursue additional innovation, and electrify the overall experience locals, students and visitors have in Downtown San Antonio. We are thrilled to see VIA expand its operations with this program."

Growing the app-based service model is part of [VIA's Keep SA Moving](#) plan that includes innovative transit options, using technology and multimodal solutions, as well as improved bus service, and the region's first Advanced Rapid Transit network, VIA Rapid.

The first VIA Link zone opened in 2019 on the city's Northeast Side, now known as the Naco Pass zone. The revolutionary service provides more flexible trip options, offering transit service when and where people need it, for the same fares and discounts as regular bus service. Four Link zones are now operating, including Mainland, with service anchored by UTSA's Main Campus on the Northwest Side; Madla, connecting points from Texas A&M University-San Antonio to the Toyota Manufacturing campus on the South Side; and Randolph, near Windcrest and Converse.

Introduced as a "smart transit" solution, it leverages technology and an on-demand model to improve the cost to operate service and offer more frequent and reliable trip options in areas where bus routes are either difficult to operate, like in suburban zones, or can be enhanced with multimodal options, as in the Downtown zone.

VIA Link's Downtown/Little Runner zone will be available daily from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. The fare for VIA Link is the same as VIA's regular bus service, only \$1.30. The same low fares and discounts are available as regular VIA services, including the [U-Pass](#).

Statewide Training: Maintenance Workshop

TTA hosted our inaugural statewide maintenance training, coinciding with the Southwest Transit Association's (SWTA) Summer U. The training was held at Trinity Metro in Fort Worth.

This training was designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of maintenance professionals, providing them with valuable insights and practical skills to address the evolving challenges in the field. Attendees engaged in hands-on sessions, expert-led discussions, and collaborative workshops aimed at improving maintenance practices and fostering industry connections.

The next Maintenance training will be hosted by VIA - San Antonio in October 7-9. [Register Today!](#)

As we finalize the agenda and topics for October's Maintenance Training, we want to ensure that this training addresses the issues most important to you. Please take a moment to complete the following survey to let us know which topics would be most beneficial for your team.

Survey Link: [Public Transit Maintenance Topics Survey](#)



Statewide Training: Customer Service Workshop

In an effort to elevate customer service standards, TTA recently completed a comprehensive two-day training session. This immersive workshop was designed to refine skills, deepen knowledge, and inspire excellence in every customer interaction.

Thank you Citibus for hosting this training session!



[Click here for Training Calendar](#)

Statewide Training: TTA’s Bus Operator Training at Longview Transit

Thank you [Longview Transit](#) for hosting the recent Bus Operator Training provided through the [Texas Transit Association-TTA](#) Statewide training initiative. This interactive workshop included topics such as: dealing with difficult people, de-escalation of tense situations; accident and incident scenarios; best practices for communicating with people with disabilities; service animals; ADA reasonable modification and Q/A regarding frequently asked questions about the ADA.



Statewide Training: Dispatcher & Call Center Certification at Waco Transit

Thank you Waco Transit System for hosting the recent Dispatcher & Call Center Certification Training provided through the Texas Transit Association-TTA Statewide training initiative. This comprehensive 2-day course equipped participants with the essential skills needed for success in a dispatching and call center role. Through interactive sessions and practical exercises, participants learned effective communication techniques, including active listening and de-escalation strategies.



[Click here for Training Calendar](#)

TxDOT: Texas Transportation Commission July 2024



The Commission approved the award of more than \$39 million in state and Federal Transit Administration program funds for public transportation programs across the state. The funding will go to 38 small urban and rural areas, 22 lead planning agencies and 16 coordinated calls for projects.

The award is part of more than \$156 million in funding that will go toward public transit agencies over the next year. The funding will be used to provide agencies with new facilities and fleet, intercity connections and new services.

TxDOT Delivers \$156 Million to Transit Agencies Across Texas

Texans across the state rely on public transit, and new funding from the [Texas Department of Transportation](#) will help provide access and expand service for people to get to jobs, school, medical appointments, and other important destinations.

More than \$123 million in funding was approved by the Texas Transportation Commission this summer to support transit programs across the state.

TxDOT also won a federal grant of \$26.8 million from the Federal Transit Administration. Combined with state funds, \$156 million will go towards public transit agencies over the next year.

“These funds will help Texans in rural and urban communities access safe and reliable mobility options that improve quality of life and enhance economic opportunity,” Texas Transportation Commissioner Alvin New said. “These programs connect people with their community and give them a way to get around when they may have no other option.”

The funding will be used to help transit agencies across the state, providing:

- **New Facilities and Fleet:** Construction of new transit facilities in Amarillo, Sherman, San Angelo, and Alice. The Capital Area Rural Transportation System Eastside Bus Plaza in east Austin will be upgraded to accommodate additional intercity passengers. The money will also go towards more than 150 new buses, allowing older fleet to be retired.
- **Intercity Connections:** Long distance connections between rural and urban metropolitan areas, supporting 15 routes across the state. This will help sustain longer-distance travel options within Texas and connections to the national intercity bus network.
- **New Services:** Increased quality of service for people who use transit in their day-to-day lives. Hunt County will see expanded services for seniors and persons with disabilities – adding Saturday service for the first time. Planning for micro-transit services, offering shorter distance trips, will start in Uvalde, Eagle Pass and Crystal City/Carrizo Springs.



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

August 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 or 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 if you would like to pay using a credit card.

Upcoming Dates of Interest:

TTA's Transportation Emergency Preparedness (Webinar)

September 5, 2024 - 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. [Register Here](#)

TTA's Building Return on Investment Through Public Engagement for Mobility Managers

(Webinar) September 18, 2024 - 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. [Register Here](#)

Latinos in Transit - Leadership Summit 24 - September 12-14, 2024

APTA – TRANSform - September 29 - Oct. 2, 2024

Legislative Day at the Capitol - February 25, 2025

[TTA State Conference, Expo, and Rodeo, McAllen](#) - March 7-12, 2025