

TTA2025

ANNUAL CONFERENCE • EXPO • ROADEO

McALLEN, TEXAS

HOSTED BY METRO McALLEN

Sunday, March 9, 2025, (Pre-Conference Sessions)

Pre-conference sessions are offered on Sunday, March 9, 2025 at the McAllen Convention Center at no cost. However, you must indicate by registering below which session you will be attending. Note: The Maintenance Session is Sunday and Monday.

Email Laura@TxTransit.org if you have questions

Title: Rural and Small Urban Transit Service Design for the Future: The Art and Science, Ken Hosen and Todd Hansen, KFH Group, Inc.

Location: McAllen Convention Center, Sunday, 1:00-5:00 pm

Description: The theory and practice of rural transit service design has changed dramatically since the 1990s. Innovations in service designs and technology have driven these changes. Unfortunately, many rural systems are still operating 1990s services and losing out on potential ridership. The developments over the last five years tell us it is time to think in the year 2024 and use the combination of proper service design/planning and the appropriate technologies to enhance service, improve ridership and raise the stature of your system.

This introductory workshop, part of a series on rural transit service design, is focused on the basic theories that drive ridership in rural and small urban areas. All of the designs reviewed are proven in the rural transit world and many examples in Texas and across the country will be cited. The workshop will give the participants an understanding of the most appropriate 2024 service designs/options. Each of the service designs will be discussed in the context of the wide variety of service areas.

The last part of the workshop will include an exercise where participants will be able to apply what they learned in the presentation. The presenter will select an example of a real rural system and have all the participants review the service and apply the lessons learned in the session.

[Register Today!](#)

Title: Giving Effective Presentations, Speaker: Robbie Sarles, RLS & Associates, and Kristen Joyner, KJ Backpack, LLC

Location: McAllen Convention Center, Sunday, 1:00-5:00 pm

Description: Speak, present, and communicate with poise and power! Effective public speaking is key to your professional success and corporate image. Learn techniques to turn any presentation into a rewarding experience for you and your audience.

In this workshop, you'll gain confidence, refine your speaking style, organize your message, and conquer the fear of public speaking. Robbie and Kristen will guide you through essentials like preparing strong beginnings, using visuals effectively, and handling speech anxiety. Plus, you'll practice both impromptu and prepared presentations with personalized feedback.

If you need to give presentations, serve on panels, or speak at meetings, this workshop will boost your skills and confidence.

[Register Today!](#)

Pre-Conference Workshops Cont.

Sunday, March 9, 2025, (Pre-Conference Sessions)

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Title: Workplace Impairment Training- April Ramos, Program Manager, NSC

Location: McAllen Convention Center, Sunday, **1:00-4:30 pm**

Description:

This interactive, scenario-based course introduces a six-step process for responding to potential impairment in the workplace. Participants will explore how the scope of impairment has expanded to include a wide range of issues such as drugs and alcohol, over-the-counter medications, fatigue, stress, and mental distress.

The course addresses critical questions, including: What is the relationship between impairment and workplace safety? What factors and situations can cause impairment? What are the common signs and symptoms of impairment? How should I respond when observing impairment in the workplace? What are the impacts and costs of employee impairment on a company's bottom line? What resources are available to help recognize and address impairment in my workplace?

[Register Today!](#)

Title: Managing Operational and Capital Costs at Rural and Small Urban Transit Systems, Michael Walk, TTI

Location: McAllen Convention Center, Sunday, **1:00-5:00 pm**

Description:

In an era of rising costs, Texas rural and small urban transit agencies require effective knowledge, practices, and tools to manage operational and capital expenses. This workshop condenses 2.5 days of content developed by TTI with support from TxDOT into a focused training session. Participants will gain an overview of the Guidebook and Online Course, both available at no cost, and will explore foundational concepts in cost management, including transit cost drivers, cost analysis, and reporting. The course also addresses strategies for managing directly operated labor and fuel expenses, as well as vehicle-related costs such as maintenance and replacement.

[Register Today!](#)

Title: Maintenance Training: This is broken down into two Workshops, One for Heavy Duty and one for Paratransit Technicians (Two-day course, Sunday and Monday)

Participants will have the opportunity to attend the Welcome reception on Sunday evening, March 9, 2025 and the Expo Sneak Peak on Monday, March 10, 2025 following the training.

Location: Mc Allen Convention Center

Sunday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Monday 8:30 am - 3:30 pm (Expo 3:45 - 5:00 pm)

Description:

This two day maintenance training course is designed for maintenance technicians participating in the TTA State Bus Roadeo. It is tailored for both heavy-duty bus and paratransit/van technicians, focusing on critical topics such as wheelchair lift systems, security camera systems, HD-Electric bus maintenance, van electrical issues, and common defects. The course combines classroom instruction with hands-on training, offering a comprehensive learning experience. Space is limited due to the interactive format.

Pre-Conference Workshops Cont.

Sunday, March 9, 2025, and Monday, March 10, 2025 (Pre-Conference Sessions)

Paratransit Maintenance Technician Workshop (Sunday-Monday)

This session targets Paratransit technicians, maintenance supervisors, and maintenance managers.

Sunday, March 9, 2025, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Topic: Braun Ramp and Dodge ProMaster Van Maintenance, Francois Caron, Braun Ramp Specialist

This session covers essential maintenance practices for Braun ramps and Dodge ProMaster vans to ensure reliability and longevity. It will highlight the importance of regular inspections, including checking door and ramp fasteners, lubricating hinge and pivot points, and keeping lower door channels clear of debris. Additionally, attendees will gain insights into routine maintenance tasks specific to Dodge ProMaster vans, learn how to identify potential issues early and receive key contacts for technical support and parts.

Monday, March 10, 2025, 8:30 AM – 11:30 PM

Topic: Common Vehicle Defects and Failures in Paratransit Vehicles, Simmon Johnson

This session focuses on common defects and failures in paratransit vehicles, providing attendees with the knowledge to identify, troubleshoot, and repair frequent issues. Participants will learn to recognize common problems, understand their root causes, and follow step-by-step diagnostic procedures to restore vehicle functionality. The discussion will be tailored to the specific vehicle types used by attendees, addressing unique challenges faced by different operators to ensure practical and relevant solutions.

Monday, March 10, 2025, 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Topic: Managing your fleet video systems, Chris Ishmael, CWI Digital Systems Specialist

This session covers best practices for fleet video systems, including installation, troubleshooting, and file management. Learn optimal camera placement, system checks, preventative maintenance, and integration with other vehicle systems. Topics include troubleshooting common issues, offloading video files via various methods, and managing playback, storage, and incident files.

[Register Today!](#)

Heavy-Duty Maintenance Technician Workshop (Sunday-Monday)

This session targets heavy-duty technicians, maintenance supervisors, and maintenance managers.

Sunday, March 9, 2025, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Topic: Maintenance Best Practices and Interdepartmental Collaboration, Kevin Bunce

This session covers maintenance best practices and interdepartmental collaboration to improve transit operations. Topics include systematic maintenance schedules, data-driven failure prevention, employee retention strategies, and fostering communication between operations, dispatch, and maintenance teams.

Monday, March 10, 2025, 8:30 AM – 11:30 PM

Topic: Preventative Maintenance and Troubleshooting for Voith Transmissions, Dan Hollenbach (Voith Group)

This session focuses on preventative maintenance and troubleshooting for Voith transmissions. It will cover essential maintenance practices to extend transmission lifespans and ensure optimal performance. Attendees will also learn how to identify common transmission issues, systematically diagnose and resolve problems, and utilize Voith's support services for more complex challenges.

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