

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

Transit Victory at the Capitol but the Fight Continues



Earlier this month, a proposed amendment to Senate Bill 1 aimed to divert millions in funding from small urban and rural transit systems. This would have meant a devastating cut to services that many Texans rely on every single day. These aren't just numbers on paper — they represent real people losing access to jobs, healthcare, schools, and opportunities.

Thanks to a coordinated action across the State, the amendment has officially been pulled. Legislators heard your voices — loud, clear, and unified. Phone calls were made. Emails were sent. Advocates stepped up. And most importantly, the transit community stood strong together.

We owe this win to every advocate who refused to let this slide under the radar. Your persistence made the difference.

However, this is just a reminder that transit can become a target at any moment, and we can't afford to be caught off guard. While we celebrate this moment, we will continue to monitor the countless bills and any new threats that could emerge.

For this reason, the Texas Transit Association's Legislative Committee is now meeting weekly, tracking legislation, and staying alert to any issues that could impact the future of public transportation in Texas. This work is critical — and ongoing. We're proud of this victory, but this Legislative session is far from being over.

Please email [Allen Hunter](#) or [Laura Herrera](#) if you would like to be included on the Legislative Committee.

Call for TTA Board Member Nominations:

The Texas Transit Association's Nominating Committee is seeking [nominations](#) of candidates to stand for this year's election for the TTA Board of Directors in the following categories: Metro, Small Urban, Rural, and Associate Members. All nominations of your colleagues, including self-nominations, are enthusiastically welcomed. A link to the Board nomination form is included below.

The TTA Board has 20 members, comprised of 5 Metro, 5 Small Urban, 5 Rural, and 5 Associate Members. Being a Board member allows members to expand their professional network and be advocates for the transit industry within the State of Texas! TTA Board members serve a minimum of a two-year term and must be prepared to actively support one or more committees.

All [nominations](#) must be received no later than 5 PM CST on Thursday, May 15, 2025.

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Spartan Holds a Measles Vaccine Clinic and Testing Site



LUBBOCK, Texas — SPARTAN Public Transportation said in a press release they are partnering with the Texas Department of State Health Services to host a free measles vaccination clinic and testing site at the SPARTAN facility in Levelland.

“They needed some space to help facilitate the distribution of those vaccines for measles and also a space to do some testing,” said communications director for South Plains Community Action, Samantha Mendoza. “We were more than happy to be able to partner up with them.”

According to the press release, the vaccine clinic was held starting March 31 every Monday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the SPARTAN Transportation facility, located at 1105 TX-114 in Levelland, Texas. The clinic was open to all members of the community until April 14.

Watch Video: [Measles vaccine clinic and testing site at Spartan in Levelland | KLBK | KAMC | EverythingLubbock.com](#)

SWART Introduces Vanpool Program



SWART is offering funding to further reduce the expenses of this already cost-efficient form of commuting. In partnership with TxDOT, SWART is providing \$600 per van per month for vanpools starting in its eight-county service area.

"Vanpooling represents more than just a ride to work—it's a powerful tool for strengthening our region. By reducing congestion, lowering commuting costs, and filling in critical transit gaps, we're creating a more connected, equitable, and sustainable future for our workforce. This program is a smart investment not only in mobility, but in the quality of life for our entire region," states SWART General Manager, Sarah Hidalgo-Cook.

Participants can choose an available qualifying vanpool vehicle from a selection of Commute with Enterprise makes and models, including crossovers, SUVs, minivans, and large passenger vans. Each vanpool rider pays a portion of the total cost, which covers all expenses such as gas, insurance, maintenance, and repairs. Commute with Enterprise also provides 24-hour roadside assistance.

"Vanpooling gives commuters time back in their day and helps them save on transportation costs," said Sirus Karimi, Vice President of Commute with Enterprise. "We work closely with our partner employers and public transit agencies to offer convenient vanpool programs that support more sustainable commuting, help fill transit service gaps, and reduce congestion while helping employers offer a competitive benefit that can attract and retain talent."

Commuters in the counties of Dimmit, Edwards, Kinney, La Salle, Maverick, Real, Uvalde, and Zavala interested in joining the program can visit www.paseoswart.org

APTA Announces Winners of the 2025 International Bus Roadeo

Austin, TX (April 8, 2025) – This year's competition took place in Austin, TX, where 75 bus operators, 52 maintenance teams, and 43 combined teams demonstrated their abilities in various driving, safety, and repair scenarios. From precision maneuvers to brake and door repairs, participants showcased their skills before a panel of judges.

"The APTA Bus Roadeo is a celebration of excellence, and this year's winners have truly demonstrated the highest caliber of skill and professionalism in public transit operations," said APTA President and CEO Paul P. Skoutelas. "The commitment to safety and customer service displayed by all participants sets a standard for the industry. Congratulations to all and thank you for advancing public transportation."

[Read the entire article here:](#)



Congratulations to VIA Metropolitan's Maintenance Team, for placing Second Place.

CapMetro Showcases Level 4 Autonomous Bus (YARD) Yard Automation Research and Deployment

On April 10, 2025, CapMetro hosted its Yard Autonomous Research Demonstration (YARD) project demo day, marking the culmination of more than two years of groundbreaking work on autonomous vehicle technology. Funded through the FTA's Strategic Transit Automation Research (STAR) program, CapMetro was awarded nearly \$1 million in 2023 to develop and demonstrate a **Level 4 autonomous bus** system.

The project utilized a 40' New Flyer Xcelsior, a 100% battery-electric transit bus from CapMetro's regular fleet. Under the leadership of CapMetro staff — including Project Manager **Jo Namayanja** and Project Lead **David Carr** — the initiative brought together a diverse and skilled team, with critical contributions from internal staff, the **Keolis maintenance team**, and partner organizations such as **WSP, TTI, Perrone Robotics, Clever Devices**, and the FTA.

The two-day demonstration included a closed rehearsal and a public showcase attended by more than 120 stakeholders, partners, and community members. Attendees witnessed the autonomous bus perform complex yard maneuvers without human input — including **driverless navigation through narrow lanes, pedestrian detection and response, autonomous parking, bus wash routing, and precision docking for pantograph charging.**



Save the Date! TTA invites you for an Evening Reception at the Punch Bowl Social in Austin!

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Please join the Texas Transit Association for an Evening Reception in Austin's vibrant Domain district Tuesday, July 8, 2025. The Punch Bowl Social is the perfect place to enjoy a few appetizers and cocktails while networking and catching up with several of your peers from around the State.

Remember to save the date:

Day: July 8, 2025

Location: 11310 Domain Dr, Suite 100, Austin, TX 78758

Time: 5:30 – 7:00 PM

Interested in becoming a Sponsor?

The Texas Transit Association is currently seeking sponsors for this special event. Sponsorship of the Punch Bowl Social Reception provides an excellent opportunity to showcase your support for TTA, while gaining visibility among agency leaders and industry partners. Also, only event sponsors will receive the attendee list prior to the event. If your organization is interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact [Laura Herrera](#) for more details.

We look forward to seeing you there for a memorable evening!

Valley Metro Launches Willacy Express with Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Valley Metro RGV celebrated a major milestone in public transportation with the official launch of the **Willacy Express**, connecting Harlingen, Sebastian, Lyford, and Raymondville. The ribbon cutting ceremony, which was held April 9, 2025 at 10:00 AM at the Willacy County Courthouse, drew community members, local leaders, and transportation advocates.

RJ Garza, representing both the Texas Transit Association and El Metro-Laredo, spoke at the event, emphasizing the importance of connectivity and the positive impact this service will bring to the region.

The Willacy Express promises to make commuting, running errands, and visiting loved ones more convenient for residents. With cheers and celebration, the first riders boarded, marking a new era of mobility for Willacy County.



Share Your Transit Story!

Have a powerful, funny, or heartwarming story about public transportation? We'd love to hear it! Help us shine a light on the real people and moments that keep our communities moving.

Email your story to Laura at laura@txtransit.org.

Your story could be featured in our newsletter, on our website, or across our social media platforms!



Complete Coach Works 50/50 Experience

These are some exciting times at Complete Coach Works. They began their series of demos and trade shows starting off with the APTA transform conference in Austin, Texas and spent the day at Waco Transit System.

Their 50/50 Demo bus—featuring one half fully refurbished and the other half as-received—was a huge success and drew nonstop attention. From Worn to Wow, The CCW 50/50 Experience!

Whether you're exploring refurbishments, repowers, or retrofits, CCW is ready to help extend the life of your existing fleet while supporting your sustainability and budgetary goals. Most of all they are helping agencies and communities bridge the gap in their fleet replacement plans.

Thanks to Waco Transit System's Serena Stevenson, Steve Edgar, and Charles Parnam for hosting CCW.



Oh yes! They did it again.

They demonstrated their 50/50 bus yet again, travelling to northern Texas in Denton.

Thanks to DCTA, CEO Paul Cristina, for participating in CCW's event, DCTA board members, and DCTA staff Tori and Bobby.



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Jeff Johnson

(512) 202-2920

jjohnson@model1.com

Brent Roy

(682) 808-9830

broy@model1.com

Jason Roy

(214) 422-4068

jroy@model1.com

Sweeping Tariffs Shake the Auto Industry and its Consumers


The East Lansing-based Anderson Economic Group released a revised estimate last week, which spells out a wide range of potential tariff-related costs for some cars, SUVs and trucks.

The extra tariff-related cost is estimated to range from \$2,500 to \$4,000 for some small crossovers, sedans, and one midsize SUV assembled in the United States, according to the report. The Honda Civic and Honda Odyssey had high U.S. content and one of the lowest tariff costs in the group. The Chevy Malibu, VW Jetta and Ford Explorer are also in this group, but the Anderson report said those vehicles were less impacted by tariffs.

Yet we could see a \$5,000 to \$8,500 jump in costs due to tariffs, the report noted, when it comes to many midsize vehicles, including a passenger van, an SUV, and some pickup trucks. Some Jeep, Ram and Toyota truck models are in this category, as are the Chrysler Pacifica van and the Ford Bronco Sport.

Read the entire article here: [Sweeping tariffs shake the auto industry and its consumers](#)

Tompore, S. (2025, April 7). *Sweeping Tariffs Shake the Auto Industry and its Consumers*. *Detroit Free Press*. [Sweeping tariffs shake the auto industry and its consumers](#)



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CONTACT US
Kilian Ollivier, Business Development Director: kilian.ollivier@equans.com

www.navineo.co 

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.

May

Determining ADA Complementary Paratransit Eligibility

May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2025

Remote Workshop/Webinar

9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

May

Fuel Hedging for Transit: Controlling Costs, Reducing Risk

May 7, 2025

Webinar

1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

May

CARES Frontline Supervisor Certification

May 13-14, 2025

2-Day, In-Person

8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Austin, TX

[Register Here](#)

May

Using Performance Measures to Monitor Your Program and Plan for Success

May 20, 2025

Webinar

2:00 p.m.—3:30 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

Upcoming Training Sessions:

- Financial Management Level 2
- Disability Awareness
- Safety and Security Level 1 & 2



[Click here for Training Calendar](#)

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.

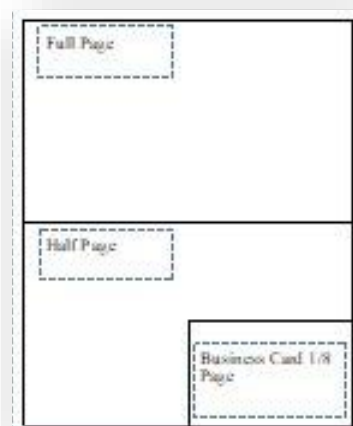


TTA Member Price		Non-Member Price	
Full Page Ad single issue	\$500	Full Page Ad single issue	\$750
Full Page One Year	\$2,000	Full Page One Year	\$3,000
Half Page Ad single issue	\$250	Half Page Ad single issue	\$400
Half Page One Year	\$1,000	Half Page One Year	\$2,000
Business card Ad single issue	\$100	Business card Ad single issue	\$200
Business card One Year	\$500	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
laura@txtansit.org

Allen E. Hunter
(254) 405-4212
allen@txtransit.org



Membership Announcement

April 2025

Time for Membership Renewal

As we move forward with our commitment to advancing public transportation in Texas, we invite all members to renew their membership for another impactful year. Together, we are shaping the future of transit and ensuring communities across Texas benefit from safe, efficient, and sustainable transportation options. Renewing your TTA membership means staying connected, informed, and engaged in the collective work we are all doing to support Texas transit.

Why Renew Your Membership?

Here's a glance at what your membership offers:

- **Networking Opportunities**

Connect with other transit professionals, leaders, and industry advocates across Texas. Share ideas, discuss solutions, and collaborate on projects that matter to you and your community.

- **Discounts on Event Registration**

Enjoy member-only rates for TTA's major events, including our annual State Conference, Expo, and Rodeo. This year's event, took place in [McAllen from March 7-12, 2025](#), it was packed with insights, innovations, and networking opportunities!

- **Advocacy and Legislative Updates**

TTA represents your voice in State discussions, advocating for policies that support public transportation in Texas. Stay informed and involved in these crucial efforts to make positive changes for our communities.

Not a Member?

Join Today!

Contact us (512) 900-0550

laura@txtransit.org or allen@txtransit.org

[Renew your membership for the term September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025](#)

Upcoming Dates of Interest:

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May 1,8,15,22,29, 2025

[Determining ADA Complementary](#)

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June 2-4, 2025

[CTAA Expo](#)

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May 7, 2025

[Fuel Hedging for Transit](#)

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July 8, 2025

TTA Evening Reception Austin

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May 13-14, 2025

[CARES Frontline Supervisor](#)

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May 20, 2025

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