

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

Early Bird Registration is Now Open

Early Bird [Registration](#) is now open for TTA's 2026 State Conference, Expo, and Rodeo to be held April 28-May 2, 2026 in Lubbock. Members, don't forget to ask for your discount access code.

Highlights include:

- Texas State Rodeo Competition
- New Paratransit Maintenance Competition
- Multiple General Sessions & Breakout sessions
- TTA's Annual Awards Presentation
- Full Expo featuring Vendors, Vehicles, & Mini Golf Classic
- Multiple Networking Opportunities, including a Welcome Reception and Big Night Out!

Visit the [TTA website](#) for the latest conference updates including schedules, hotel information. That's where you'll always find the most current details as we get closer to the event.



Don't Miss Out! Watch the [Lubbock Invitation Video](#) and be a part of the Excitement!

Hosted By:



TTA Extends Awards Deadline and Adds New Safety & Security Category

To allow more time for submissions, the deadline to nominate for the 2026 Texas Transit Awards has been extended to December 31. If you haven't submitted a nomination yet, there's still time to recognize the outstanding individuals and agencies making an impact across Texas Transit.

We're excited to introduce a new **Safety and Security Award** category which was created to recognize exceptional efforts that promote safe operations, protect passengers and employees, and strengthen security practices within transit systems.

New Deadline to Submit: December 31, 2025
Click here to nominate: [Award Nomination Link](#)

2026 Award Categories:

Outstanding Metropolitan Transit System • Outstanding Urban Transit System • Outstanding Rural Transit System • Outstanding Customer Service Employee • Outstanding Associate Member • Outstanding Public Transportation General Manager • Outstanding Public Transportation Coordinator • Outstanding Staff Member • Distinguished Service Award • Rising Star Award • Friend of Transit • Transit Innovation Award • Safety & Security Award

Showcase Your Brand at the 2026 TTA Conference, Expo, & Rodeo

The 2026 TTA Conference, Expo, and Rodeo in Lubbock will bring together agencies, innovators, and industry partners from every corner of Texas and we'd love to have you there as a sponsor.



Expo Booth with a Mini Golf Sponsorship. Sponsoring a hole is a way to guarantee traffic at the EXPO.

Don't miss out on the limited number of Expo Mini Golf Sponsorships and other Key Sponsorships while they last. Our Expo Hall consistently sells out and for good reason! This is an excellent chance to build relationships, and grow your visibility.

Visit our website for all [2026 Sponsorship Opportunities](#).

Registration is now open!

Happy Holidays from TTA

As the year comes to a close, we want to thank our members, partners, and transit professionals across Texas for your dedication and hard work. Your commitment to serving communities and keeping people connected makes a meaningful difference every day.

We wish you and your loved ones a Safe and Happy Holiday season, and we look forward to continuing our work together in the New Year.

Happy Holidays!



2026 Texas State Rodeo in Lubbock

The TTA State Rodeo is a proud tradition that honors the exceptional abilities of our transit operators and maintenance teams, the true heartbeat of our transit systems. This thrilling event brings together the best of the best to demonstrate precision driving, expert troubleshooting, and the highest commitment to passenger care.



Save the Date
2026 Texas State Rodeo
May 1-2, 2026
Lubbock, TX

Hosted By:



Competition Divisions Include:

- 40 ft Bus
- 35 ft Bus
- Paratransit/Van
- Maintenance Team (Heavy)
- Paratransit Maintenance Team

Rodeo Registration Now Open!

For the latest conference updates including schedules, hotel information and more, please visit the [TTA website](#).



Volunteer to Judge

You can participate in the Rodeo even if you aren't a driver! Please help us by volunteering for the various scoring elements around the competition site on Saturday, May 2nd. All judges will need to attend the briefings on Friday, May 1st. Judges will receive a T-shirt, breakfast and lunch during the Rodeo.

[2026 Rodeo Judges and Volunteers Sign up Here!](#)

Important Note: Anyone wishing to attend the Rodeo Awards Banquet will need to purchase a ticket.

Tickets are \$75 each.

Rodeo Awards Banquet

The Rodeo Awards Banquet is an evening dedicated to celebrating the incredible competitors and their achievements. Operators and Maintenance competitors receive a complimentary ticket to this special event. However, all guests and family members are required to purchase tickets. Availability is limited and *tickets sell out quickly!*



El Metro Transit Celebrates 4th Annual Noche Mágica Christmas Event

El Metro Transit recently welcomed the community to its 4th Annual Noche Mágica Christmas Event, a festive celebration filled with holiday spirit and local pride. The event brought together families, riders, and community members to enjoy the season while supporting more than 40 local vendors.



Brownsville Metro participates in Christmas Parade

Rolling into the holiday spirit! Brownsville Metro and BTX Connect joined the Christmas Parade, spreading cheer one ride at a time.



VIA Inducts Former President & CEO into Hall of Honor

VIA Metropolitan Transit honored two individuals on Friday who played pivotal roles in helping shape VIA from its founding into the modern agency it is today: the late Armando “Rocky” Aranda, Sr. and Jeffrey C. Arndt.

VIA Board Chair Laura Cabanilla, VIA President & CEO Jon Gary Herrera, VIA trustees and others celebrated the inductees, whose families were present, during a ceremony at the VIA Metro Center Board Room, where the Hall of Honor is housed. The space was dedicated in February 2024.

Aranda, who served as a trustee from 1980 to 1988, had a passion for accessible transportation that was rooted in personal experience. After surviving childhood polio, he developed a deep understanding of the challenges faced by people with disabilities. This perspective fueled his advocacy for inclusive services, including the expansion of VIAtrans paratransit and fare programs for seniors, students and individuals with disabilities — efforts that continue to benefit riders today.



Arndt served as President/CEO from 2013 until January 2025, guiding VIA through a decade of bold transformation, positioning the organization as a model for innovation, sustainability and community-centered mobility. He led the successful 2020 voter-approved referendum that established a dedicated funding stream for public transportation, enabling the start of San Antonio’s first Advanced Rapid Transit corridor, the expansion of VIA Link on-demand service, and the development of the Better Bus Plan with a strong emphasis on reliability and frequency. A two-time Outstanding General Manager honoree of the Texas Transit Association,

a recipient of its 2024 Distinguished Service Award, and the 2024 Heart of the City Award from Visit San Antonio, Arndt is widely recognized for his strategic leadership, collaborative spirit and lasting impact on mobility in the region.

The Hall of Honor was established to honor trailblazing leaders who played pivotal roles in establishing, promoting and enhancing transit in the San Antonio region. The inaugural inductees honored in February 2024 were Esperanza “Hope” Andrade and Marilyn G. Jones, two former chairs of the VIA Board of Trustees. Glen Hartman, Robert Thompson, and Nelson Wolff were inducted in November 2024.

Metro Introduces New Community Connector ADA-accessible Vehicles



Metro Introduces New [Community Connector](#) ADA-accessible Vehicles. These new vehicles feature an easy-to-use ramp, spacious onboard area for riders who use wheelchairs, and updated interiors to make trips more comfortable. Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County is proud to support services that serve all their riders and ensure accessible travel for everyone.



Gulf Coast Transit District Launches a New Route Service

The Gulf Coast Transit District (GCTD) has officially launched a new route service, ***The Splash***, in a landmark collaboration with Galveston Island Transit (GIT). This new service, which began operations on Monday, December 1, 2025, provides a seamless and affordable public transit connection between the Mainland and Galveston Island.

Read full article here: [Gulf Coast Transit District Launches New Route Connecting the Mainland and Galveston Island](#)



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 Feedback is needed on Two Important Surveys

As we continue strengthening the voice of Texas transit, your feedback plays a key role in shaping our priorities. TTA is currently conducting two important surveys, and we are asking all agencies to take a moment to participate.

1. Wage & Compensation Survey

Understanding compensation trends across the state is essential as we work to support workforce development and help agencies stay competitive. This survey collects information on wages, benefits, and staffing structures so we can build a clear picture of industry benchmarks. Your participation helps us develop resources and guidance that reflect the real needs of our transit workforce.

Survey Link: [TTA Wage Survey](#)

2. Legislative Priorities Survey

As we prepare for the upcoming legislative session, we want to ensure that our advocacy efforts align with the issues that matter most to you. This survey allows agencies to identify challenges, opportunities, and policy priorities that should shape TTA's legislative agenda. Your input helps us speak with a unified voice at the Capitol.

Survey Link: [Legislative Priorities Survey](#)

Both surveys are brief, but the value of your responses is significant. When transit agencies share their perspectives, we gain the insight needed to better represent and support systems of every size across Texas.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to provide your feedback.



National Safety Council: Texas Employer Traffic Safety Award

**Our Driving
Concern**
an nsc program
TEXAS

Texas Employer Traffic Safety Award

Our Driving Concern, a program of the National Safety Council in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation honors Texas employers through an awards recognition program. Awards are presented to Texas businesses that demonstrate their commitment to driver and transportation safety.

Who's eligible to apply?

- Any Texas employer is eligible to apply.
- Anyone may nominate an employer.
- Self-nominations are also accepted.
- Employers may be municipal, corporate, private or not-for-profit – small or large.

Access online
submission using
the QR Code



Get Recognized!

Visit:

<https://tx.ourdrivingconcern.org/awards/> and complete the online application **prior to January 30, 2026**

**Our Driving
Concern**

**Employer Traffic
Safety Award 2026**

nsc

Save a Life
Texas Department of Transportation

FOR MORE INFORMATION – email - ourdriving.concern@nsc.org

TxDOT's News: Veterans Day Story



Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), in partnership with Texas State Representative Toni Rose, commemorated Rosa Parks Day on Monday, Dec. 1, 2025, with a morning program honoring the life and legacy of the civil rights icon whose courage helped ignite a national movement for equality and justice.

State Representative Toni Rose, who represents Texas House District 110 covering the Dallas communities of Oak Cliff, Pleasant Grove, and Balch Springs, is a long-time advocate for equity and mobility justice. In 2021, she authored House Bill 3481, which passed the Texas Legislature unanimously to designate December 1 as Rosa Parks Day in honor of her act of heroism.

“Rosa Parks’ courage showed us what it means to take a stand by staying seated,” Representative Rose said. “Her legacy reminds us that transportation is not just about getting from one place to another—it’s about access, dignity, and opportunity. I am honored to join DART in celebrating a woman whose actions continue to shape our path toward equality.”

As part of the celebration, DART showcased one of its new buses, part of a fleet of 70 vehicles featuring a special commemorative placard on the headrest above the front seat. The design honors Parks’ historic act of resistance 70 years ago, when she refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus, sparking a wave of activism that reshaped the nation. The bus was stationed at Rosa Parks Plaza for photo opportunities and public viewing.

“Rosa Parks’ bravery changed the course of American history, and her legacy continues to inspire the work we do every day,” said Randall Bryant, Chairman of the DART Board of Directors. “Public transportation has always played a powerful role in the civil rights movement, and DART is proud to stand with Rep. Rose in honoring a woman whose courage still moves people forward.”

Rosa Parks Plaza, dedicated in her honor, remains one of the most visible reminders of Parks’ enduring impact on transit, civil rights and American history. DART’s commemoration highlights the agency’s continued commitment to equitable mobility and community-centered service.

Watch this video: [DART Commemorate 70th Anniversary of Rosa Parks](#)

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.

January

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Public Transportation: Practical, Opportunities, and Risks

January 7, 2026

Webinar

1:00 p.m.—2:30 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

January

Writing Successful Grant Proposals

January 15, 2026

Webinar

9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

January

Essential Team-Building Skills for Transit Leaders

January 21-22, 2026

2-day, In-person

8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. each day

CCRTA, Corpus Christi, TX

[Register Here](#)

[Click here for Training Calendar](#)

Please note: We've introduced a new [No-Show/Late Cancellation Fee Policy](#). We encourage you to review the full policy on our website or the next page of this document to ensure you're aware of the updated guidelines.

TTA's No-Show / Late Cancellation Fee Notice

To better serve our members and ensure the most efficient use of resources, the Texas Transit Association (TTA) has implemented a No-Show/Late Cancellation Fee for all Statewide training courses, which became effective **September 1, 2025**.

While TTA continues to offer these high-quality training opportunities **at no cost to participants**, there are real costs associated with hosting each course—such as printed materials, venue arrangements, and instructor fees. When individuals fail to attend or cancel at the last minute, it can result in unused seats, wasted resources, and missed opportunities for others who would have liked to participate.

To address this challenge and promote greater accountability, TTA has begun enforcing a **\$150 No-Show/Late Cancellation Fee** under the following conditions:

- **No-Show:** The participant registers but does not attend the course without providing advance notice (see Cancellation Policy).
- **Late Cancellation:** The participant cancels **less than 72 hours** before the scheduled start of the course.

We understand that emergencies happen. Participants who must cancel due to unexpected circumstances may request a fee waiver by contacting TTA directly.

This policy is not intended to penalize, but rather to improve our ability to plan, reduce unnecessary costs, and **maximize participation** in these valuable training sessions. With your help, we can ensure that every available seat is filled.

For questions or to request a cancellation or waiver, please contact:

[Laura Herrera](#) or [Allen Hunter](#).

Thank you for your continued support and participation in TTA's training programs. We appreciate your understanding.



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

December 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 Roadeo. Next year's event will take place in Lubbock from April 28 - May 2, 2026, it will be 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, 2025 through August 31, 2026

Upcoming Dates of Interest:

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March 3-6, 2026
CTAA's Legislative Fly-In

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March 30—April 2, 2026
2026 SWTA Conference & Expo

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April 28—May 2, 2026
2026 TTA Conference, Expo, & Roadeo

