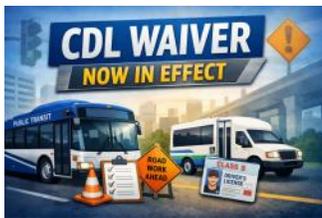


Supporting the needs of Texas' public transportation systems through statewide advocacy and education.

TTA Secures Major Win: CDL Waiver Now in Effect

Following ongoing advocacy and collaboration, TTA is proud to announce that the Under-the-Hood CDL Waiver has been officially implemented by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). This long-anticipated change will significantly streamline the CDL process for transit agencies across the state. The new Engine Compartment Waiver removes select under-the-hood inspection requirements during CDL testing for eligible intrastate transit operators, helping reduce barriers to entry and accelerate driver training.



What does this mean for transit?

- ◆ Faster, more efficient CDL process
- ◆ Reduced training burden for agencies
- ◆ Stronger support for workforce development

This achievement reflects TTA's continued commitment to advocating for practical solutions that directly benefit our members and strengthen public transportation across Texas. DPS is currently updating its website with full details. In the meantime, please reach out to TTA with any questions on implementation.

Don't Miss Out: Register for the 2026 TTA Conference, Expo, & Rodeo



The countdown is on! Join us for our 40th Anniversary celebration at the 2026 TTA State Conference, Expo, and Rodeo in Lubbock, April 28 – May 2, 2026.

This is your opportunity to connect, learn, and be part of the conversations shaping the future of transit in our state. From engaging sessions to networking events and the always-popular Expo Hall, this is an event you don't want to miss.

Hosted By:



Exhibitors only a few booths remain!

If you're looking to showcase your products and services, now is the time to secure your space. Our Expo Hall is nearly sold out, and spots are going fast.

Don't wait register today and reserve your booth before it's too late.

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!

[Register Here!](#)

TTA 2026 State Conference and Expo Sponsors

Thank you to our Sponsors



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2026 Conference Networking Events



TTA2026
ANNUAL CONFERENCE • EXPO • ROADSHOW
LUBBOCK, TEXAS
HOSTED BY CITIBUS

Spartan Public Transit Facility Tour

April 28, 2026
1:30 P.M.

1:15 P.M. Check-in at Lubbock Memorial Civic Center
o 1501 Mao Davis Ln, Lubbock, TX 79401

1:30 P.M. Shuttle Departs to SPARTAN Facility (40 min drive)
o 1105 W. Hwy 114, Levelland, TX 79336

2:10 P.M. Arrive at SPARTAN Facility, and the tour begins

4:00 P.M. Shuttle Departs to Lubbock Memorial Civic Center (40 min drive)

4:40 P.M. Arrive at Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, and the tour concludes

The tour is sponsored by: **QRYde** by RWSS

Sign up for the tour here:
[SPARTAN Public Transit Facility Tour](#)

For more information, please contact Allen at allen@tdtransit.org or Laura at laura@tdtransit.org

SPARTAN Public Transit Facility Tour

April 28, 2026

Don't miss this opportunity to tour the SPARTAN Public Transit Facility!

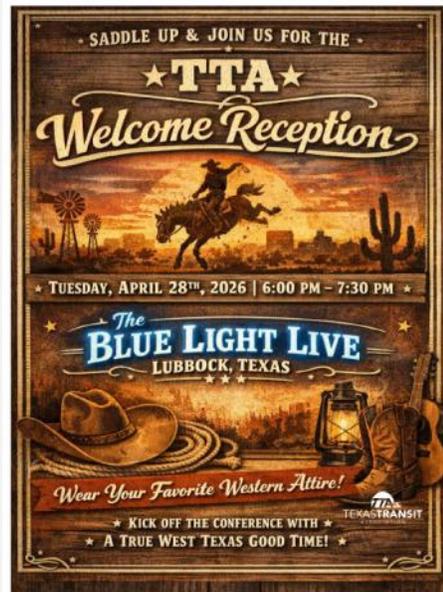
Sign up here: [SPARTAN Tour](#)

Welcome Reception The Blue Light Live

April 28, 2026

Kick off the conference with a true West Texas good time!

Wear your favorite western attire!



SADDLE UP & JOIN US FOR THE

★ TTA ★

Welcome Reception

TUESDAY, APRIL 28TH, 2026 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

The BLUE LIGHT LIVE
LUBBOCK, TEXAS

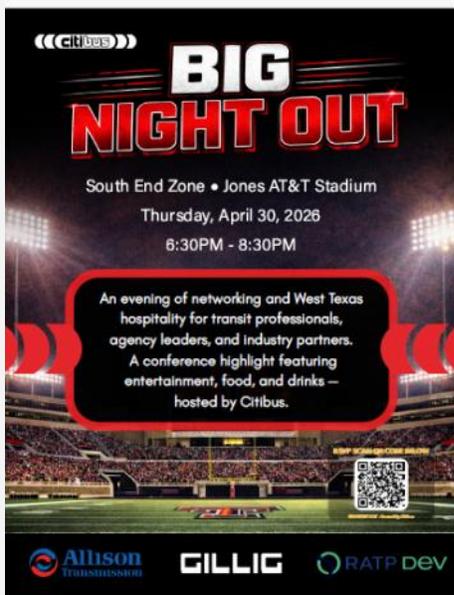
Wear Your Favorite Western Attire!

KICK OFF THE CONFERENCE WITH
A TRUE WEST TEXAS GOOD TIME!

Big Night Out -South End Zone

April 30, 2026

CitiBus will host a Big Night Out to remember!



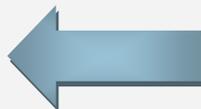
(((CitiBus)))

BIG NIGHT OUT

South End Zone • Jones AT&T Stadium
Thursday, April 30, 2026
8:30PM - 8:30PM

An evening of networking and West Texas hospitality for transit professionals, agency leaders, and industry partners. A conference highlight featuring entertainment, food, and drinks — hosted by CitiBus.

Albison TRANSPORTATION GILIG RATP DEV



Scan QR code to RSVP!

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 our [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 and lunch during the Rodeo.

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

Important Note: Anyone wishing to attend the Rodeo Award Banquet will need to purchase a ticket. Tickets are \$75

Rodeo Awards Banquet

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

Sponsored By:



2026 Roadeo Committee Kicks Off Preparations



On March 26, our **Roadeo Committee** and our **Host Agency, CitiBus** came together for the official course setup, marking an important step in preparing for this year's State Roadeo.

A great deal of time, coordination, and hands-on work goes into ensuring the course is ready, safe, and set up for a successful competition. From layout planning to on-site execution, the committee plays a critical role in bringing this event to life.



We extend our sincere thanks to the Roadeo Committee for their dedication, teamwork, and continued support. Their efforts behind the scenes make it possible for us to host a high-quality event that showcases the very best of Texas transit. We truly appreciate all that you do!



Register for Post Conference Workshops

Maintenance Technician Workshop

Thursday, April 30, 2026, 1:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m.

Friday, May 1, 2026, 8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Registration Link: [Maintenance Technician Workshop](#)

AI : The Smarter Way to Deploy Transit Technology

Friday, May 1, 2026, 1:00 p.m.—4:30 p.m.

Presenter: Stephen Kuban

Registration Link: [AI Workshop](#)

Civil Rights, Title VI, LEP, ADA, Diversity, and Inclusion

Friday, May 1, 2026, 1:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Presenter: Carol Wright Kenderdine, Carol Wright Consulting

Registration Link: [Civil Rights Registration](#)

Cost Allocation: What, Why, and How?

Friday, May 1, 2026, 1:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Presenter: Michael Walk & Carrie Diamond, TTI

Registration Link: [Cost Allocation Registration](#)

2026 POST-CONFERENCE
WORKSHOPS

Click here for workshop descriptions.

Continue to visit our conference website for updated information: [State Conference, Expo, and Roadeo - Texas Transit Association](#)

Sarah Hidalgo-Cook Elected to National Association for Mobility Management Board



Sarah Hidalgo-Cook, General Manager of the Southwest Area Regional Transit District (SWART), has been elected to serve on the board of the Association for Mobility Management (AMM), a nationally recognized organization dedicated to advancing mobility solutions across the United States. Hidalgo-Cook will begin her term in June 2026, representing Region 6.

With more than 36 years of experience in the transit and mobility industry, Hidalgo-Cook has been a driving force behind innovative transportation solutions in rural Southwest Texas. Since assuming leadership of Southwest Transit (SWART) in 1990, she has played a pivotal role in addressing mobility challenges for residents across the Middle Rio Grande region, ensuring access to essential services, including healthcare, employment, and education.

In 2019, Hidalgo-Cook spearheaded the development of SWART’s mobility management program and launched the Southwest Initiative for Mobility (SWIM). In just a few short years, SWIM has grown into a comprehensive and impactful program serving SWART’s expansive 11,000-square-mile service area. The initiative provides personalized case management, travel training, and a robust referral network to connect individuals with the resources they need to overcome transportation barriers. In addition, SWIM actively engages communities through outreach efforts, including presentations, partnerships, and participation in local events to promote available mobility services.

Further advancing the field of mobility management, Hidalgo-Cook collaborated with Shah Software in 2024 to develop and launch a first-of-its-kind mobility management application platform. Now available nationwide, the platform enables mobility managers to track outreach, case management activities, travel training, and referrals, and to schedule rides directly with public transit providers on behalf of their participants. The system not only streamlines and automates mobility managers' work but also provides critical data and analytics that demonstrate how mobility management works hand in hand with public transit to expand access and improve outcomes for individuals in need.

Building on this success, Hidalgo-Cook led the creation of Partners in Transit, Inc., a nonprofit organization established in 2023 to further support public transportation and mobility management initiatives in the region. This effort has strengthened SWART’s ability to expand services, enhance coordination, and better serve individuals with diverse mobility needs.

Hidalgo-Cook’s election to the AMM board reflects her longstanding commitment to improving the quality of life through accessible and innovative transportation solutions, particularly in rural communities.

“As rural communities continue to face challenges related to limited funding and resources, it is my goal to ensure that rural residents have a strong and unified voice at the national level,” said Hidalgo-Cook. “We must boldly advocate for the resources and investments needed so that rural communities can thrive and offer the same opportunities and quality of life that urban and metropolitan areas enjoy. I am truly honored to represent Region 6 and remain committed to advancing mobility solutions that empower individuals to be self-sufficient and have the freedom to go where they need and want to go.”

Her leadership at the national level will elevate the needs of rural America and advance innovative, data-driven mobility management practices nationwide.



Current News

Sun Metro LIFT Celebrates Launch of First Electric Vehicle Fleet

It's electric! Sun Metro LIFT recently celebrated the launch of its new electric vehicle (EV) fleet with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. These zero-emission vehicles are the first of their kind for El Paso's public transportation system, marking an exciting step forward for the community. The event drew strong community support, and Sun Metro extends special thanks to the Mayor's Office, City Representatives, and members of the Citizens Advisory Committee for their continued support of public transit in El Paso.



CCRTA Maintenance Facility Groundbreaking

March 23, 2026, CCRTA celebrated the groundbreaking of its new maintenance facility. [CCRTA received \\$46.28 million in federal funding](#) for the new maintenance facility through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) 5339(c) Low or No-Emissions competitive grant. In addition, [U.S. Representative Michael Cloud secured \\$1.94 million](#) through the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026.

"I would like to personally thank Congressman Michael Cloud for his leadership in securing \$46.28 million for CCRTA's new maintenance facility, along with an additional \$1.94 million to help bring the project to completion. This facility will play a critical role in strengthening emergency response capabilities, enhancing safety for our maintenance team, and improving the overall reliability of our transportation system. This investment ensures our fleet is ready to serve the community every day—and prepared to respond when it matters most," said Derrick Majchszak, CCRTA Chief Executive Officer.



The facility will be built on CCRTA property adjacent to the current facility, ensuring that service remains unaffected during construction.

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.



National Transit Employee Appreciation Day

National Transit Employee Appreciation Day, observed annually on March 18, recognized the essential role transit employees play in keeping our communities connected and our economy moving. This day served as an opportunity to celebrate the dedication, professionalism, and hard work of transit operators across the state. We extend our sincere thanks to WeDriveU, Longview Transit, and the City of Brownsville for sharing their photos and helping us highlight the incredible individuals behind public transportation.



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.

April

Risk Management, Decision Making, Time Management, and Stress Management

April 7-8, 2026

In-person

AACOG, San Antonio, TX

8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. each day

[Register Here](#)

April

Maintenance Technician Workshop

April 30—May 1, 2026

In-person

Lubbock, TX

1:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m. (4/30)

8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m. (5/1)

[Register Here](#)

April

AI Workshop: The Smarter Way to Deploy Transit Technology

May 1, 2026

In-person

Lubbock, TX

1:00 p.m.—4:30 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

April

Civil Rights, Title VI, LEP, ADA, Diversity and Inclusion

May 1, 2026

In-person

Lubbock, TX

1:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

April

Cost Allocation: What, Why, and How?

May 1, 2026

In-person

Lubbock, TX

1:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

[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.

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:

Laura Herrera
 (512) 900-0550
laura@txtansit.org

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



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:

Not a Member?
Join Today!
Contact us (512) 900-0550
laura@txtransit.org or allen@txtransit.org

- **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.

[Renew your membership for the term September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026](#)

Upcoming Dates of Interest:

MAR	March 30—April 2, 2026 2026 SWTA Conference & Expo
APR	April 12—April 14, 2026 APTA Legislative Conference
APR	April 28—May 2, 2026 2026 TTA Conference, Expo, & Roadeo
MAY	May 10—May 13, 2026 CTAA EXPO & Roadeo
MAY	May 15—May 19, 2026 APTA International Bus Roadeo
MAY	May 17—May 20, 2026 APTA Mobility Conference



For the latest conference updates including schedules, hotel information, and more please visit our [TTA website](#). That’s where you’ll always find the most current details as we get closer to the event.