

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

The 2026 Conference, Expo, & Rodeo Brings Texas Transit Together

The Texas Transit Association's 2026 State Conference, Expo, and Rodeo was a tremendous success, bringing together transit professionals, industry partners, and transportation leaders from across the state. A special thank you goes to our host agency, **Citibus**, along with **TxDOT**, our sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, volunteers, and attendees, whose support made this event possible.



Throughout the week, attendees participated in dynamic general sessions, engaging discussions, and more than 30 educational breakout sessions covering topics critical to the future of public transportation. Industry experts and transit leaders shared innovative ideas, best practices, and valuable insights that attendees could take back to their agencies and communities.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's event such a success. Your participation, enthusiasm, and support continue to strengthen Texas transit, and we look forward to seeing you again next year.



Share Your Feedback! Each year, TTA strives to make each conference better than the last, and your feedback is crucial. If you attended this year's State Conference, Expo, and Rodeo, we would love to hear your thoughts!

Please take a few minutes to complete this short survey to let us know how we can better serve you: [2026 TTA State Conference and Expo Survey - Texas Transit Association](#)

TTA 2026 State Conference and Expo Sponsors

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The Celebration Continues: 40 Years of Moving Texas Forward

The 2026 State Conference may be over, but the celebration of TTA's 40th Anniversary is far from finished!

If you haven't had a chance to view our special **40th Anniversary Commemorative Magazine**, we encourage you to take a look. This milestone publication captures the history, accomplishments, and people who have helped shape public transportation across Texas over the past four decades.



View the magazine online:
[40th Anniversary Commemorative Magazine](#)

Want to commemorate this historic year? **40th Anniversary shirts** are now available for purchase, along with a limited supply of **2026 Conference T-shirts**.



Order your conference shirt today:
[2026 TTA Lubbock Conference Shirt](#)



Order your 40th Anniversary shirt today:
[TTA Anniversary shirt](#)

TTA 2027 Annual Conference, Expo and Roadeo

Planning is underway for another exciting TTA State Conference, and we're now accepting [abstract submissions](#) for presentation opportunities.



The call for Abstracts is now open:

[Submit your Abstract Today!](#)

2026 TTA Award Recipients

We are honored to recognize this year's outstanding award recipients, each of whom was nominated by their peers for their dedication, leadership, and contributions to the transit industry. Your commitment to advancing public transportation in Texas is truly inspiring, and we celebrate your well-deserved recognition. Thank you for making a difference in our communities and shaping the future of transit!



Rising Star:
Jakeline Santamaria
SPI—Island Metro



Outstanding Customer Service:
Pamela Hernandez
REAL Transportation



Outstanding Staff Member:
Christy Fowler
ETCOG—GoBus Transit



Outstanding PTC:
Eric Garcia
Lubbock



Outstanding Associate Member:
Joe Saldaña
Gillig, LLC.



Transit Innovation:
Harris County Rides Program
Harris County Transit



Friends of Transit:
Ann Zadeh
Community Design Fort Worth



Outstanding Safety & Security:
Corpus Christi Regional
Transportation Authority



Outstanding Rural Transit:
Island Metro
South Padre Island



Outstanding Urban Transit:
Citibus
Lubbock



Outstanding Metro Transit:
Trinity Metro
Fort Worth



Outstanding General Manager:
Anthony DeKeyzer
El Paso—Sun Metro



Public Transit Legacy:
Donna Roberts



Distinguished Service:
Omega Hawkins



Lifetime Achievement:
John Wilson

2026 Expo Hall

The Expo Hall was once again a major attraction, featuring a wide range of vendors showcasing the latest products, technologies, and services available to the transit industry. In addition, the Expo Mini Golf Classic added a fun and competitive element that kept attendees engaged throughout the event.



Women Shaping Transit: A Leadership & Networking Forum

One of the most discussed sessions during the conference brought together an incredible panel of women leaders in transit for engaging and inspiring conversations on leadership, mentorship, and the future of the industry.

The session featured panelists **Serena Stevenson, Sarah Hidalgo-Cook, Loreal Lance, Dottie Watkins, and Vicki Aldrighetti-Mata**, and was moderated by **Kristen Joyner and Laura Herrera**. Rather than traditional presentations, panelists selected questions that reflected their personal journeys and experiences in transit leadership.

Topics included:

- Major projects and innovations they were most proud of
- Skills needed for the next generation of transit leaders
- Opportunities for women to make an impact in the industry
- Mentorship, career growth, and leadership advice
- Progress being made for women in transit

The conversation resonated deeply with attendees, drawing a standing-room-only crowd and generating continued discussion throughout the conference.

For those interested in joining a mailing list and providing ideas for future quarterly meetings, topics, and potential women-focused workshops, please fill out the survey link below.

Survey Link: [Women In Transit Networking Forum - Texas Transit Association](#)



Laura Herrera (TTA), Serena Stevenson (Waco Transit System), Loreal Lance (CTAA), Sarah H. Cook (SWART), Dottie Watkins (CapMetro) and Kristen Joyner (KJ Backpack).

SPARTAN Hosts First Successful Mobility Management Forum

[Levelland, Texas] — SPARTAN Transportation successfully hosted a Mobility Management Forum last month, bringing together community workers, healthcare providers, and various stakeholders from across the South Plains region to discuss transportation challenges and explore innovative solutions for rural communities.

The forum served as a collaborative space to address mobility gaps, share resources, and identify strategies to improve access to essential services such as healthcare, employment, education, and daily living needs. Attendees included representatives from local government agencies, nonprofit organizations, healthcare providers, and community advocates.

“This forum was the first of its kind for the South Plains,” said Brian Baker, SPARTAN Director. “This [forum] allowed us to have meaningful conversations about how we can better coordinate services and meet the needs of our communities.”

Participants had the opportunity to share firsthand experiences, highlight existing challenges, and contribute ideas that will help shape future mobility initiatives in the region.

The forum also included a community mapping exercise where attendees worked together to highlight gaps, resources, and opportunities within the SPARTAN service area.

As a result of the forum, SPARTAN plans to continue working collaboratively with local organizations to improve transportation accessibility and efficiency throughout their service area.

For more information about SPARTAN Transportation and its services, please visit www.spartanpublictransit.com or contact 806-864-3800.



Trinity Metro Ready for Soccer Fans



FORT WORTH, Texas — Trinity Metro is preparing an enhanced mobility plan to support increased travel demand during the world soccer tournament in North Texas, with expanded connections between Fort Worth, Arlington, Dallas and DFW International Airport.

The agency has spent several years coordinating with regional and event partners to prepare for the tournament and is planning enhanced service throughout the world soccer tournament period. Trinity Metro’s plan includes additional service during peak travel periods, schedule adjustments around match and event activities, and deployment of additional vehicles and operational resources to support increased regional demand.

The plan is designed to support both soccer tournament visitors and Trinity Metro’s frequent customers throughout the tournament.

“This is one of the largest international events North Texas has hosted, and Trinity Metro is prepared to move people safely and efficiently on the Trinity Metro system,” said **Rich Andreski, President and CEO of Trinity Metro**.

Trinity Metro services connect visitors to tournament activities and regional destinations with:

- Match-day TRE service between Fort Worth and CentrePort Station, connecting tournament activities and Arlington stadium transportation provided by the North Texas FWC Organizing Committee.
 - TRE service between Fort Worth and Dallas Fan Fest activities via DART light rail connection
 - TEXRail service between Downtown Fort Worth and DFW International Airport
 - The introduction of a special motorcoach shuttle service to Fort Worth destinations and Arlington’s Entertainment District
- On matchdays, Trinity Metro plans enhanced TRE service designed to provide a clear and reliable transit option for customers traveling between Fort Worth and Arlington. Service begins up to six hours before kickoff, with return service operating up to three hours after matches to support post-game departures.

Trinity Metro is helping position Fort Worth as the premier non-match day destination for soccer tournament visitors. With remarkable attractions, award-winning restaurants, and cultural landmarks within easy reach of its transit network, Fort Worth delivers an experience that goes well beyond the stadium.

As part of a new, limited-time service created for this time period, Cowtown Visitor Shuttle motorcoaches, operated in partnership with Trinity Metro, will provide convenient connections between Fort Worth and Arlington, linking visitors to some of North Texas’ most popular destinations. The special shuttle service will connect riders to the Fort Worth Stockyards, Sundance Square, the Cultural District, Fort Worth Zoo and Fort Worth Botanic Garden, while also providing access to Arlington’s Entertainment District, including Texas Live!, Globe Life Field (home of the Texas Rangers), Six Flags Over Texas and the National Medal of Honor Museum. Additional stops will include shopping destinations such as Tanger Outlets and Buc-ee’s, along with dining, entertainment and attractions throughout both Fort Worth and Arlington.

Additional service details and route information are available at RideTrinityMetro.org/TheCup

Houston Metro Takes You to FIFA World Cup 2026



Only 15 days until the FIFA World Cup kicks off!

Skip the traffic and parking stress. METRO is your easiest way around town during the tournament.

From June 7–July 11, METRO is expanding service across the region with:

- More frequent bus service on key corridors and activity centers
- Park & Ride operating 7 days a week
- Extended METROrail hours

Whether you’re commuting to work, heading downtown, or enjoying the excitement around the city, METRO can help you get there with less hassle.

El Metro Transit KIDS on the Go Summer Program

KIDS ON THE GO IS BACK, LAREDO!

From June 1st through August 9th, 2026, students and youth (ages 6–17) can ride El Metro Fixed Route buses absolutely FREE all summer long!

How to ride:

Just show your official El Metro ID, City Parks & Rec ID, or Laredo Public Library card when boarding.

Need your El Metro ID?

Bring a current school ID, recent report card, or class schedule to your nearest community center to grab yours. (Note: Kids under 12 must be accompanied by an adult). (\$2.00 ID card fee)



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.

June

Fundamentals of Transit Management

June 3-4, 2026

In-person

Galveston, TX

8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. each day

[Register Here](#)

June

Understanding FTA Requirements and Regulatory Compliance

June 10, 2026

Webinar

10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

[Register Here](#)

June

Mobility Management and Coordinated Transportation

June 16, 2026

Webinar

10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

[Register Here](#)

June

Effective Transit Policies and Procedures

June 18, 2026

Webinar

10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

[Register Here](#)

June

ADA Compliance in Public Transportation: Fixed-route and Paratransit

June 23-24, 2026

In-person

8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. each day

[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.



Save the Date

TTA 2027 ANNUAL CONFERENCE · EXPO · ROADEO

FORT WORTH, TX 🇺🇸 FEB. 19-24, 2027

