

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

Now Accepting Award Nominations and Abstract Submissions for 2027



TTA is now accepting nominations for the 2027 Texas Transit Awards! This is your chance to recognize outstanding individuals or agencies that have demonstrated excellence in public transportation across the state. Whether it's an exceptional leader, agency, or an innovative program making a difference, we want to hear about it. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate their achievements!

Submit your nomination: [2027 Award Nominations](#)

Also, the Call for Abstracts for TTA's 2027 State Conference is Now Open! Do you have an interesting session, a project to showcase, or a solution that's moving the industry forward? We want to hear from you!

Submit your abstract today: [2027 Abstract Submission](#)

Save the Date: Women in Transit Workshop

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for the **Women in Transit Workshop**, taking place **October 15–16, 2026**, at the [Kalahari Resort](#) in Round Rock, TX.

This exciting day-and-a-half event will bring together transit professionals from across the industry for learning, networking, and collaboration. Participants can look forward to engaging discussions, valuable professional development opportunities, and interactive team-building activities designed to inspire and connect attendees.

Our planning committee is developing a lineup of meaningful topics and dynamic sessions that will provide insights, encourage leadership growth, and strengthen relationships within the transit community.

Everyone is welcome to attend!

More details, including the agenda and speaker information, will be announced soon.

Save the Date: TTA All Member Reception

All Member Reception September 28, 2026, Austin, Texas

Our annual **All Member Reception** will be held in Austin on September 28, 2026. While details are still being finalized, we encourage members to save the date and begin planning now.

The meeting will feature a special reception the evening before the TxDOT Semi-Annual Operators Meeting and Training Session in downtown Austin, which will take place September 29–30. This will be a great opportunity to connect with colleagues, network with industry partners, and kick off an important week of transit collaboration and learning. More information will be available soon.

Thank You for Making Our First AI Postcard Contest a Success

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in our first AI postcard contest!

We had so much fun receiving and reviewing all of the entries. The creativity, enthusiasm, and unique perspectives showcased in each postcard made this contest a tremendous success. It was exciting to see the talent and imagination reflected in every submission.

We can't wait to see what innovative ideas and designs you bring to the table next year at our 2027 TTA Conference, Expo, & Rodeo!



1ST PLACE
Rebecca Rodriguez of Citibus



RUNNER UP
Crystal Gonzalez of R.E.A.L. Inc.



TTA 2026 State Conference and Expo Sponsors

Thank you again to our 2026 Sponsors



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Expo Mini-Golf Sponsors



Event Sponsors



Have You Missed Us Yet?

It's hard to believe that our conference is already behind us! While we're back to our daily routines, we're still smiling about the many connections, conversations, and memories made during our time together. Whether you joined us this year or couldn't make it, we hope these photos bring back great memories and showcase the fun, friendship, and collaboration that make TTA events so special.



SWART Celebrating 14 Years Strong

SWART is proud to mark its 14th anniversary as a standalone transit system—while honoring a legacy of service to their region that dates all the way back to 1981. For decades, they’ve been committed to providing vital transportation services and expanding mobility options for our residents—connecting people to what matters most every single day. Here’s to the journey they’ve shared and the road ahead!



Explore More with Cowtown Visitor Shuttles

Visiting Fort Worth this summer? Trinity Metro has even more ways to explore. Between June 15 and July 12, Trinity Metro’s Cowtown Visitor Shuttles will connect visitors and locals to some of North Texas’ most popular destinations on non-matchdays.

Choose from:

- Arlington Entertainment (Six Flags, Texas Live!, Rangers games and more)
- Tanger Outlets and Buc-ee’s
- Fort Worth Zoo and Fort Worth Botanic Garden
-

Premium coach buses run every 30 minutes and connect with Trinity Metro buses, TEXRail and TRE. Spend less time driving and more time exploring.



Learn more at:

[RideTrinityMetro.org/
TheCup](https://RideTrinityMetro.org/TheCup)



with Cowtown Visitor Shuttles
on non-matchdays!

Rangers baseball games, Six Flags,
Fort Worth Zoo, Tanger Outlets
... and more!

[Click to learn more!](#)

TxDOT News: More Than Infrastructure, Strengthening Communities through Transit

Across Texas, the Public Transportation Division (PTN) supported transit facility projects are doing more than improving infrastructure—they are helping shape the future of public transportation. Over the past five years, TxDOT has awarded over \$82 million in supporting design and construction of thirteen facilities statewide, creating safer, stronger, and better-connected systems for the communities they serve. From new transit stations to maintenance centers, these projects are helping to shape the future of mobility and move Texas forward.

The PTN supported facility projects are bringing the story of public transportation to life—one community, one station, and one investment at a time. Backed by \$82 million in facility development, design, construction, and rehabilitation, these projects represent far more than bricks and mortar; they reflect a growing commitment to connection, access, and the future of mobility. From new maintenance and operations centers taking shape in Lufkin, San Angelo, Amarillo, and Alice, to completed passenger and administrative facilities in Austin, Elgin, Smithville, Tyler, Graham, and Texoma, each project is helping strengthen the systems communities rely on every day. Meanwhile, design work in Bastrop, El Paso, and South East Texas is laying the foundation for the next chapter of transit with spaces that are more welcoming, efficient, and resilient for riders and staff.

For example, in Smithville, the transit station tells a story that reaches beyond transportation. With roots tied to the town's railroad heritage, the station has long held a prominent place in the community. Today, thanks to rural discretionary funding awarded to Capital Area Rural Transportation Systems (CARTS), a PTN subrecipient, that legacy is being carried forward through thoughtful improvements that breathe new life into the site. In 2024, CARTS received funding to build a new transit facility designed to serve the community for decades to come. Completed in March 2026, the facility includes a passenger waiting area, dispatch and ticketing space, offices, a driver break room, and a multi-use training room shared with the local workforce agency. More than a transit stop, Smithville station continues to grow as a community resource—honoring the past while helping support the town's future.



Smithville Station completed

Together, the efforts below paint a powerful picture of progress—one that is connecting Texans to opportunity, supporting local communities, and building a transportation network ready for the road ahead. From planning and design to construction and completion, these transit facilities are creating stronger connections statewide and behind every project is a story of community.

Transit sub-recipient projects in design:

In the design phase, three transit facility projects are laying the groundwork for stronger, more resilient service across Texas. In Bastrop, CARTS is planning a park-and-ride expansion and mobility hub with additional parking, safer traffic circulation, EV charging, bicycle infrastructure, and upgraded passenger amenities to better connect riders to downtown. In El Paso, planning and design are underway for a new administrative and maintenance facility that will improve operational efficiency, strengthen fleet maintenance, and provide the needed space for staff while supporting future growth.

By addressing current limitations while planning for future growth, the project is expected to enhance service reliability, safety, and long-term asset management. The South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC) project will support the design and planned rehabilitation of an existing transit facility to improve efficiency, safety, and overall condition. Architectural and engineering services will produce construction documents for facility upgrades, repairs, and system improvements needed to support continued transit operations and meet state and federal requirements.

Story continues on next page >

TxDOT News: Continued

Transit sub-recipient projects under construction:

Currently, there are five transit facility projects now under construction that are strengthening the systems that keep communities connected. In Lufkin, Brazos Transit District is building a new maintenance complex to support fixed-route and demand-response service in Lufkin, Nacogdoches, and surrounding communities, with features designed to improve fleet readiness and reduce downtime. In San Angelo, Concho Valley Transit District is developing a centralized maintenance facility that will bring fleet servicing in house and improve service quality and reliability. In Amarillo, Panhandle Community Services is constructing a new operations and maintenance center that will consolidate dispatch, administration, and vehicle maintenance in one location to meet growing regional demand more efficiently. In the Rolling Plains, improvements at the Graham Transportation Hub have already strengthened operations, resiliency, and staff support, while the Crowell Parking and

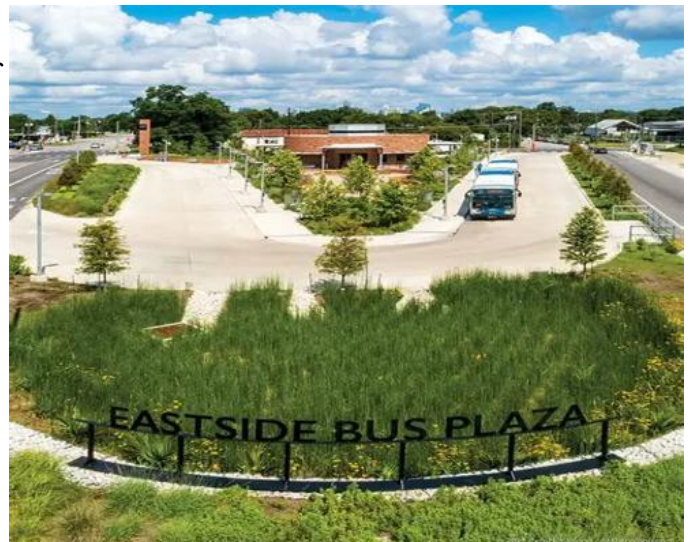
Accessibility Project continues that momentum through expanded covered parking, improved ADA access, and better site circulation. Meanwhile, in Alice, the Rual Economic Assistance League (REAL) is advancing a multimodal administration, operations, and maintenance facility that will provide dedicated space for staff, dispatch, vehicle storage, inspection, and repair, helping reduce reliance on outsourced services and support stronger transit delivery across the region.



REAL Project under construction

Transit sub-recipient projects completed:

The 5 recently completed transit facility projects across Texas reflect the tangible impact of PTN-supported investment on communities and riders alike. In Austin, CARTS upgraded and expanded the Eastside Bus Plaza Station, improving passenger flow, safety, accessibility, and connections with regional carriers such as Greyhound, FlixBus, and local transit providers. In Elgin, a new station now supports both local microtransit and regional interurban service, expanding access to jobs and destinations across the area. In Smithville, CARTS replaced aging infrastructure with a new facility that includes passenger amenities, dispatch and administrative space, and a multi-use training room, strengthening both daily operations and the station's role as a community resource. In Tyler, East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) brought fleet maintenance in house by acquiring an existing administrative and maintenance facility, improving cost efficiency, service quality, and long-term asset management. In Sherman, the Texoma Area Paratransit System (TAPS) project consisted of construction of an administrative and operations facility for TAPS. The plan also included a new building addition and renovation of existing space to support administrative, operational functions, along with parking and utility upgrades that will help meet growing needs across the region for years to come.



East Side Bus Plaza completed

Approved Funding to Enhance Public Transportation for FIFA Host Cities

Trump's Transportation Secretary Announces \$100 Million in Funding to Enhance Public Transportation in 2026 FIFA World Cup Host Cities



WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy announced the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is investing \$100.3 million into public transit systems within host cities preparing to welcome millions of fans during the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The funding will ensure communities can expand transit options to meet increased demand in services around stadiums.

*"DOT is doing its part to ensure the United States is ready to host the most spectacular World Cup in history," said **U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy**. "We're proud to partner with host cities to provide fans with a seamless travel experience that will be part of the memories they cherish from attending these historic games."*

*"Thanks to President Trump's vision, we are entering a new American era of sports and global events," said **Executive Director of the White House Task Force on the FIFA World Cup 2026 Andrew Giuliani**. "This funding is about more than moving fans—it's about preparing our communities to host the largest sporting event in history and ensuring the world sees America at its best. These investments will help create lasting memories for visitors and residents alike, and reinforce our commitment to safety, hospitality, and operational excellence."*

The 2026 FIFA World Cup Funding:

- Will support planning, capital, and operating expenses supporting matches and other public events held in U.S. host cities.
- Will be apportioned by a formula accounting for stadium capacity and number of matches in each host city.
- Allows for 100 percent Federal share for these funds.
- Requires transit agencies to obligate these funds within one fiscal year of the close of the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Additional Information:

To support the effective use of these funds by transit agencies, FTA has prepared a frequently asked questions fact sheet and a grant-making toolkit to help transit agencies, and other transit stakeholders.

This funding for the 2026 World Cup was made possible through the passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026.

More information about public transportation for major events and funding is available on

[FTA's website](#).

CapMetro and Community Leaders Celebrate Rapid 800 and 837 Launch

In June, CapMetro joined leaders from the City of Austin, Austin Transit Partnership, Travis County, as well as other federal and state representatives to celebrate the full vision launch of the new Rapid 800 and 837 lines and the opening of the Expo Center and Goodnight Ranch Park & Rides. This milestone marks the eighth completed CapMetro project delivered through the Project Connect program, a voter-approved investment to transform public transportation across Central Texas.



“These projects entered the Federal Transit Administration’s Capital Investment Grants pipeline during the first Trump Administration, reflecting an early recognition of their transformative potential. Today, it is exciting to see that vision becoming reality as these projects begin serving the residents and families they were designed to connect,” said Melissa Newton, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Department of Transportation. “Looking ahead, the Department remains committed to partnering with states, cities, and local leaders across the country to modernize transportation infrastructure, strengthen connectivity, and expand access to opportunity—always with safety and service to the American people at the center of our work.”

“The Rapid service expansion and new Park & Ride facilities represent an important investment in Central Texas mobility and long-term connectivity,” said Jeffrey W. Travillion, Travis County Commissioner and CapMetro Board Chair. “This service expansion strengthens transportation access for growing communities throughout eastern Travis County, while providing a critical connection for commuters traveling from Manor.”

“Project Connect is not just about future transit investment,” said Veronica Castro de Barrera, Austin Transit Partnership Board Chair. “It’s about delivering meaningful, safe and reliable transit improvements for riders today. Project Connect has always been envisioned as a comprehensive transit expansion and today is a reminder that the program is delivering real results that should be celebrated and our partnerships and momentum are strong.”

The new service enhancements and Park & Rides officially opened to the public as part of CapMetro’s June 2026 Service Change, bringing significant transit improvements to East Austin and surrounding communities. While Rapid 800 and 837 were initially introduced in February 2025, the full vision for the service now includes increased frequency every 10-15 minutes during peak hours, upgraded stations with enhanced customer amenities and two new Park & Rides. The Expo Center and Goodnight Ranch Park & Rides, located in Eastern Travis County and Southeast Austin, respectively, serve as key transit hubs and include end-of-line charging infrastructure to support the agency’s electric bus fleet.

The Expo Center Park & Ride, located on Rapid 837 with 159 parking spaces, and Goodnight Ranch Park & Ride, located on Rapid 800 with 64 parking spaces, both provide convenient access to fast, frequent transit for local and regional commuters.

As part of the June Service Change, the Expo Center Park & Ride also serves existing routes 337, 18, 233, and Pickup Decker, while the Goodnight Ranch Park & Ride also serves existing routes 318 and 333.

Rapid 800 and 837 also include 79 new stations with upgraded rider amenities, including improved stations with a lower roof and perforated panels to help protect against weather elements, digital signage to provide real-time updates and security cameras and lighting.

[See entire article here:](#)

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.

July

Creating Opportunities for Women Across Transportation

July 8, 2026

Webinar

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

July

Passenger-Centered Public Transportation: Practical Strategies for Fixed –Route and Paratransit Services

July 14, 2026

Webinar

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

[Register Here](#)

July

Transit Safety and Risk Management: Building Strong Safety Culture

July 23 & 30, 2026

Remote Workshop

8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

August

Leading Public Transportation Systems: Management Skills for Today's Transit Leaders

August 4-5, 2026

Webinar

Day 1: 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Day 2: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

August

Grant Management and Transit Reporting

August 11, 2026

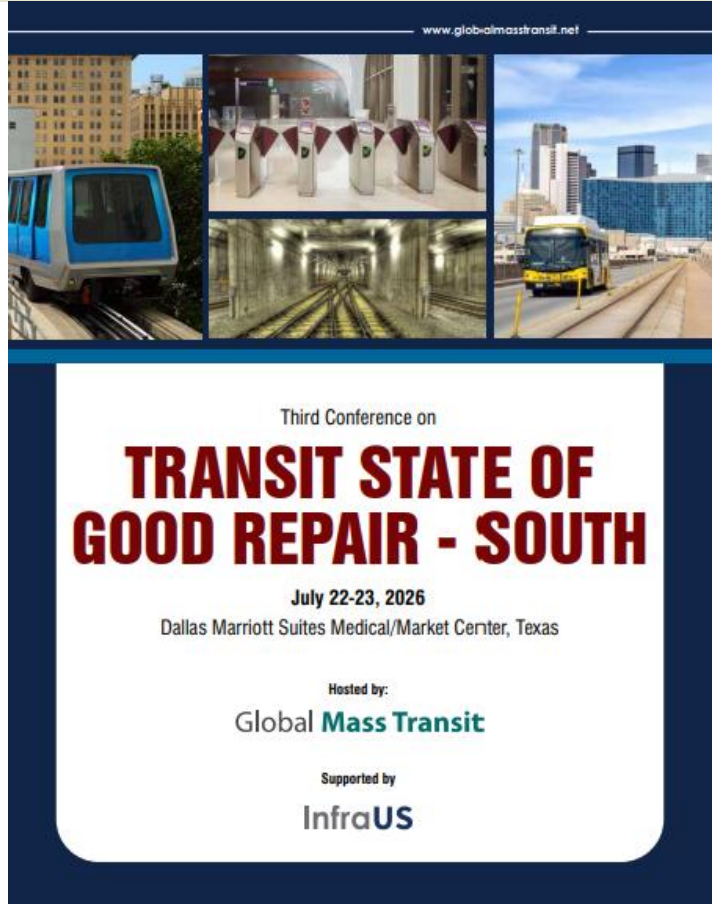
In-person (Location-TBD)

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 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.



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.





TTA 2027 ANNUAL CONFERENCE · EXPO · ROADEO

FORT WORTH, TX + FEB. 19-24, 2027

