

TTA Welcomes Two New Board Members!



The Texas Transit Association is pleased to welcome **Gennie Garcia** and **Shah N. Remtulla** to its Board of Directors. Gennie Garcia, with the City of Brownsville – Brownsville Metro, was elected by the membership to serve as one of TTA's five Urban Transit representatives. Shah N. Remtulla, of Complete Coach Works, was appointed by the Board to serve as one of the Association's five Associate Member representatives. Both will serve two-year terms.

TTA's Board of Directors is comprised of representatives from four membership categories—Metropolitan, Urban, Rural, and Associate—with five representatives serving in each category. Representatives for the Metropolitan, Urban, and Rural categories are elected by the membership, while the Associate representatives are appointed by the Board of Directors. This structure ensures that every segment of Texas public transportation has a voice in guiding the Association's mission and strategic direction.

Continuing their service on the TTA Board of Directors are Dottie Watkins, Derrick Majchszak, and Anthony DeKeyzer, representing the Metropolitan systems; Mario Delgado and Chris Mandrell, representing Urban transit agencies; Perri D'Armond and Vince Huerta, representing Rural transit agencies; and Huelon Harrison, representing TTA's Associate Members.

TTA 2027 Conference, Expo, & Roadeo

Save the Date: February 19-24, 2027

TTA is now accepting nominations for the 2027 Texas Transit Awards! Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate your achievements! Submit your nomination: [2027 Award Nominations](#)

The Call for Abstracts is Now Open! Do you have a story to tell, 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: TTA All Member Reception

TTA All Member Reception September 28, 2026, Austin, Texas

TTA will host an **All Member Reception** in Austin on September 28, 2026. Please join us at the Stephen F. Austin Royal Sonesta in Austin's vibrant downtown. This is a perfect place to enjoy a few appetizers and cocktails while networking and catching up with peers from across the State.

There will be a brief all member meeting along with a reception the evening before the TxDOT Semi-Annual Operators Meeting and Training Session, 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.

The All-Member Reception is complimentary for TTA members. Non-members are welcome to attend for a registration fee of \$50.

RSVP Today!

Stephen F. Austin Royal Sonesta
701 Congress Ave., Austin, TX 78701



Women in Transit Workshop

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!

Registration will open soon!

Space is limited.



TTA Board Members Featured at Transit State of Good Repair

Several TTA Board members served as speakers at the 3rd Annual Transit State of Good Repair – South Conference, hosted by Global Mass Transit on July 22–23 in Dallas, Texas. TTA was also proud to support the conference as a Partner Sponsor, further demonstrating our commitment to advancing the public transportation industry.

Our Board members shared their knowledge and expertise alongside other industry leaders, highlighting the innovation and leadership taking place across Texas transit agencies and organizations. It was exciting to see so many familiar faces contributing to meaningful discussions and helping shape the future of public transportation.

We appreciate Global Mass Transit for hosting another successful conference and congratulate our Board members on sharing their expertise with attendees from across the region.



El Metro Provides Travel Training to Together Laredo Foundation

El Metro recently partnered with the Together Laredo Foundation to provide travel training for individuals with disabilities and their families.

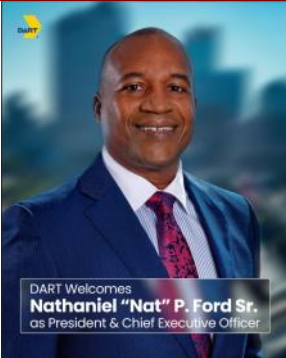
During the training, participants learned how to safely and confidently navigate the El Metro bus system, gaining the knowledge and skills needed to travel more independently while increasing access to employment, education, healthcare, and community resources.

Travel training plays an important role in empowering individuals to use public transportation with confidence, promoting greater independence and inclusion throughout the community.

Pictured: Participants from the Together Laredo Foundation during El Metro's travel training session.



Nathaniel P. Ford, Sr. Named DART President & CEO



The Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Board of Directors has selected Nathaniel P. Ford, Sr. to lead the agency as its next President & Chief Executive Officer.

From train conductor to CEO, Ford's transit career includes working at Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) in New York, and previous CEO roles at the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) in California, and the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) in Georgia. Since 2012, Ford has served as the CEO of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA).

"Mr. Ford brings decades of executive leadership in public transportation, a proven record of organizational transformation, and a deep understanding that transit is about much more than buses and trains," said DART Board Chair Randall Bryant. "Today, we are turning the page. The board has made its decision and now it's time to get back to what matters most, serving the people of North Texas."

Celebrated as an innovator in the industry, Ford has been recognized with numerous awards, honors, appointments, and distinctions including:

- Chair - Transportation Research Board (TRB) of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
- Chair – American Public Transportation Association (APTA)
- Policy Board National Ambassador (USA) – Union Internationale des Transports Publics (UITP)
- 2020 – Outstanding Public Transportation Manager from APTA
- 2016 – White House Champion of Change in Transportation by the U.S. Department of Transportation
- 2016 – JTA named as "Outstanding Public Transportation System Achievement Award" recipient by APTA

Ford has an MBA from Jacksonville University's Davis School of Business, a bachelor's degree in applied science in organizational leadership from Mercer University and is a certified Master Executive Coach. He graduated from the Executive Development Consortium program at Emory University and has completed executive training at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

DART was awarded a \$25 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to support regional infrastructure projects with significant community impact. The grant awarded to DART is one of 127 public transportation projects across the U.S. funded with more than \$1.73 billion in federal grants.

The project will include the removal of center crosswalks at station platforms, and leveling at eight South Dallas stations along DART's Red and Blue Lines. These improvements will provide level boarding and greater access for all; especially those with limited mobility or traveling with luggage. Additionally, the grant will fund upgrades to way-finding signage and security systems to ensure a safer environment for passengers.

"This grant funding continues our commitment to modernizing our entire system," said Trenise Winters, DART's Chief Operating Officer. "Upgrading these eight South Dallas stations means closing transit equity gaps, and providing a smoother, safer journey for thousands of our passengers every day."

The \$25 million in grant funding continues DART's focus on fiscal stewardship by significantly decreasing the amount of local funding needed to cover the remaining project costs. The overall contribution from this grant ensures that DART's efforts to keep the system in a state of good repair can move forward without delay. Installation and upgrades will begin early in 2027 and occur in phases through 2030 until completion.

For more information about DART's system improvements and its commitment to transforming the public transportation experience, please visit www.transform.dart.org

CCRTA Celebrates the Retirement of Longest-Tenured Bus Operator



Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA) celebrated the career of longtime Bus Operator Maria Flores, as she completed her final shift after more than 39 years of dedicated service to the Coastal Bend.

A former Bus Operator of the Year, Flores' will concluded her career at Staples Street Station, where her family, CCRTA leadership, staff, and customers gathered to recognize her remarkable career and lasting contributions to the public transportation industry.

Maria's career nearly parallels CCRTA, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. Throughout nearly four decades of service, Maria has safely transported generations of families, connecting them to work, school, medical appointments, and to their loved ones across the service area. For her last day, Maria operated the maiden voyage of the American Flag Bus.

CCRTA unveiled their new American Flag Bus, just in time for America's 250th birthday!



Star Transit Celebrates Rider Appreciation Week

STAR Transit is kicking off its annual Rider Appreciation Week, running Monday, July 27 through Saturday, August 1. In celebration throughout the week, STAR Transit's Rider Appreciation Squad will board vehicles across the service area, surprising unsuspecting riders with giveaways to show appreciation for their continued support.

"Our riders are the reason we do this work," says Tommy Henricks, STAR Transit's executive director. "Rider Appreciation Week is a small way of saying thank you for the trust they place in us."

"I always enjoy watching our Rider Appreciation Squad surprise someone on their commute," said Kim Britton, STAR Transit's deputy executive director. "We want all our riders to know how much they mean to us."

Riders across Kaufman County, Rockwall County, Balch Springs, Cedar Hill, DeSoto, Duncanville, Hutchins, Lancaster, Mesquite, Seagoville, and Wilmer are eligible for the Rider Appreciation Week promotion.



Explore More with Cowtown Visitor Shuttles

This 2026 Rural Transit Day, REAL Transportation is proud to celebrate more than just the essential transportation they provide across the rural Costal Bend, they're celebrating their commitment to keeping their riders and employees safe every mile of the journey.

Congratulations to our Safety Officer, Gilbert Estrada, and Safety Specialist, Tino Garcia! They represented REAL Transit at the 2026 TxDOT Texas Traffic Safety Conference in Dallas and received the 2026 Our Driving Concern Texas Employer Traffic "Employee Engagement in Traffic Safety" Award, presented by the National Safety Council in partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation.

REAL Transit was recognized for using safety spotlights and a centralized observation tracker system to strengthen driver performance and enhance fleet-wide safety.



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.

August

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

August 4-5, 2026

In-person

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

Webinar

10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

August

Transit Operations Management: Strategies for Effective System Oversight

August 19-20, 2026

In-person

8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. each day

[Register Here](#)

August

Federal Procurement Requirements

August 25-26, 2026

In-person

Day 1: 1:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Day 2: 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

[Click here for Training Calendar](#)

Please note: The [No-Show/Late Cancellation Fee Policy](#) is now in effect. We encourage you to review the full policy prior to registering for one of the Statewide Courses to ensure that 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

