



Texas Statewide Multimodal Transit Plan

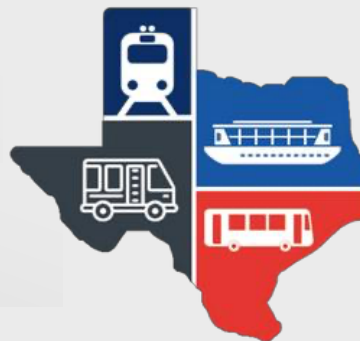
6th National RTAP Conference



December 8, 2025

Today's Presentation

- 1 Plan Overview
- 2 Initial Priority Steps
- 3 Recent Outreach and Rural Implementation Actions



**TEXAS
STATEWIDE
MULTIMODAL
TRANSIT
PLAN**



December 8, 2025

Texas SMTP 2050 Plan Overview

A photograph of a transit station platform. On the left, a modern train with a blue and white exterior is stopped at the platform. A large crowd of diverse people is walking along the platform. In the background, a brick building with a sign that reads "FORT WORTH CENTRAL STATION" is visible. The sky is clear and blue. A large blue text box is overlaid on the center of the image.

Texas Transit Vision

A safe, universally accessible, and integrated network of transit mobility options that connects people seamlessly—locally and across the state—supporting an improved quality of life and a resilient and vibrant economy.

Texas SMTP 2050 Goals



Safety and Security

Maintain a transit network that is safe and secure, strives toward zero fatalities, and fosters a culture of transportation safety and security in Texas.



Asset Preservation

Maintain and preserve a resilient and high-quality transit system that is financially stable and operates in a state of good repair (SOGR) to meet community needs.



Mobility

Support an integrated transportation system that efficiently and effectively enhances access to work, school, healthcare, essential services, and recreational activities.



Connectivity

Provide local and statewide connectivity for everyone that is coordinated, affordable, accessible, reliable, and easy to use.



Economic Vitality

Ensure the long-term economic competitiveness of Texas by providing access to economic opportunity through a comprehensive and accessible transit system.



Stewardship


Embrace a fiscally responsible multimodal approach to preserve natural, cultural and human resources by reducing impacts for a sustainable and resilient transit network.

Texas SMTP 2050 Development Timeline



SMTTP Public Outreach


Texas Statewide Multimodal Transit Plan In-Person Public Outreach




Reached over **90,000 Texans** through outreach efforts in fall 2023, spring 2024, and fall 2024



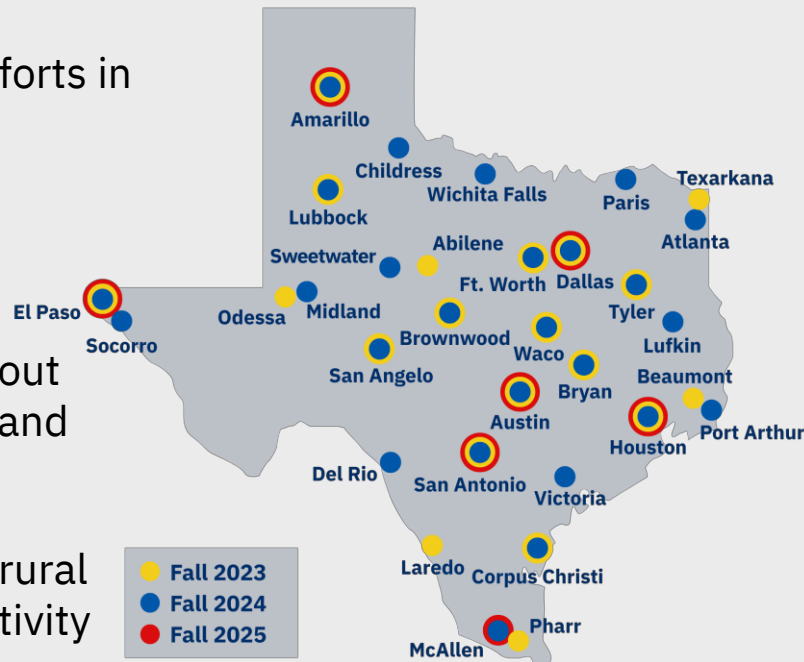
Held **in-person events** in all **25 TxDOT districts**



Nearly 3,000 surveys completed by the public about transit needs and preferences and top challenges and potential strategies around improving transit



Key themes heard included service development, rural transit needs, improved facilities, intercity connectivity and informing Texans about the value of transit



What do Texans want from transit?



What We Heard During Texas SMTP 2050 Engagement

- 1 in 3 of the Texans we surveyed said there is a need to expand rural and urban transit service areas and hours of operation across the state.
- More than 1 in 3 respondents across urban, rural, and suburban areas said that the lack of statewide transit network and connectivity is a major challenge.
- Strengthening intercity and regional connectivity was prioritized as a top strategy by 41% of survey respondents.



What We Heard During Texas SMTP 2050 Engagement

In the 2023 statewide TxDOT Transportation Visioning Survey,*

86% of respondents said it is important to improve public transit in Texas.

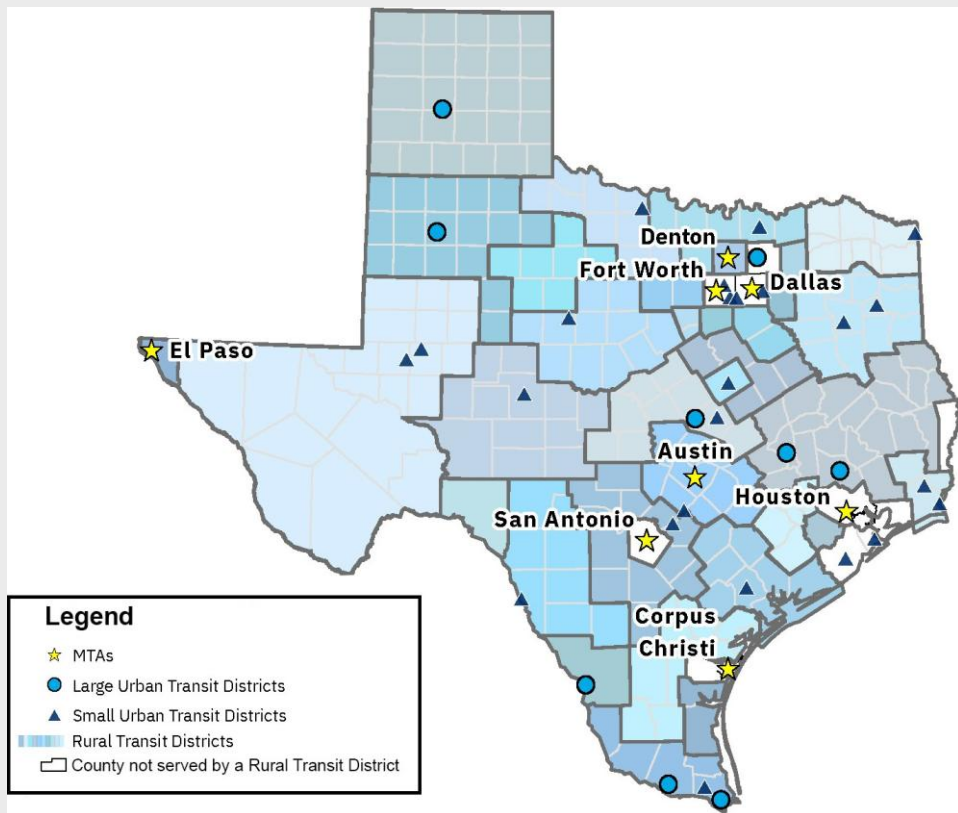
*The statewide statistically valid Transportation Visioning Survey asked a randomly selected representative sample of over 4,500 residents to consider the state's transportation system needs through the year 2050, and it sought to understand attitudes towards various transportation topics. The findings from the survey helped identify Texans' needs, challenges, and priorities and were used to develop Connecting Texas 2050.



What We Heard During Texas SMTP 2050 Engagement

- 1 in 4 rural Texans we surveyed highlighted aging infrastructure and a need to maintain current assets as a priority challenge.
- More than 1 in 3 Texans we surveyed emphasized maintaining a SOGR as a priority strategy for *Texas SMTP 2050*.

Texas Transit Today



- Transit services in Texas are provided by **77 statutorily** defined transit districts or authorities.
- In fiscal year (FY) 2024, these public transit providers reported nearly **230 million passenger trips**.
- Operated more than **252 million miles of service**.
- Expended over **\$4 billion**.
- **8 Metropolitan Transit Authorities (MTAs)** serve areas with populations of more than 200,000 and are supported with a state-authorized, locally approved sales tax.
- **9 Large Urban Transit Districts (UTDs)** serve areas with populations of more than 200,000 and are eligible to become MTAs with local voters' approval of transit sales tax measures; becoming an MTA would make a UTD ineligible for state funding.
- **24 Small Urban Transit Districts (UTDs)** serve urban areas with populations between 50,000 and 199,999.
- **36 Rural Transit Districts (RTDs)** serve areas of the state with populations under 50,000.

Needs, Gaps, and Challenges

Technical analysis and feedback from public and stakeholder engagement efforts were used to identify transit needs, gaps, and challenges.



Urban and Rural Area Transit Services	Intercity Connections	Planning and Design	Funding: Maintain and Expand Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing urban areas • Transit access to economic opportunities • Congestion driven by growth • Rural and small urban area general mobility networks • Workforce recruitment, training and retention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statewide transit service network and connectivity • Intercity connectivity • Governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transit and the transportation planning and design process • Transit resilience • Public awareness of the importance of transit • Inconsistent consideration of transit in economic development • Aligning transit with development and transit-supportive land uses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain critical assets • Need to maintain and expand service levels • Funding for new and improved service • Funding challenges and constraints

Strategies

Needs, gaps, and challenges were aligned with corresponding strategies intended to address the issues. The strategies below emerged from a list of over 250 ideas and have been crafted with stakeholder feedback at top of mind.



Urban and Rural Area Transit Services	Intercity Connections	Planning and Design	Funding: Maintain and Expand Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify priority corridors and estimate minimum levels of service • Integrate all transit modes and mobility options with other transportation modes • Establish institutional and organizational partnerships to promote comprehensive workforce development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify a statewide route and hub network • Develop a governance framework for statewide and regional intercity services • Implement technology to transform seamless travel statewide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and document statewide Texas transit benefits • Integrate transit through local, regional, and statewide planning • Incorporate transportation technology • Prioritize safety and resiliency • Enhanced research, reporting and knowledge sharing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximize use of existing funding • Expand sources, flexibility, and levels of funding • Tie funding to growth and performance



Texas Statewide Multimodal Transit Plan 2050

September 2025



1. Introduction

2. Transit in Texas Today

3. Urban and Rural Transit Service

4. Intercity Connections

5. Planning and Design

6. Funding: Maintain and Expand Services

7. Texas Transit Forward





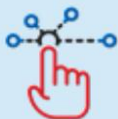
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Texas Transit Forward: Initial Priority Steps

Identifying Initial Priority Steps for Implementation



Gathered feedback from working groups and other stakeholders



Identified 250+ strategies informed by stakeholder input



Summarized and aligned strategies with goals, gaps, challenges, and needs



Developed potential initial actions toward implementation



Identified Initial Priority Steps to get started



Establish a Community of Practice (COP) to address small urban and rural transit challenges.



Develop a statewide transit network and hub plan.



Develop flexible statewide transit planning and design guidelines.



Develop success metrics, enhance and broaden data collection, and develop consistent reporting.



Identify options to increase flexibility of funding sources and identify new and innovative funding sources to maintain and expand transit.



Formalize a plan for regular outreach and education on the benefits of transit.

SMTP Initial Priority Steps

Priority steps are intended to jumpstart the process and build a strong foundation for realizing *Texas SMTP 2050* by identifying plans, policies, or programs necessary for carrying out the strategies.

Establish a Community of Practice (CoP) to address small urban and rural transit challenges

TxDOT-led

The assembled team focused on this Priority Step would prioritize fostering collaboration and partnerships.

Activities should include:

- Developing a CoP to support RTDs and small UTDs to help improve agency operations and fiscal responsibility by:
 - Sharing best practices; and
 - Leveraging joint purchasing training, research and development
- Increasing cross-agency and multi-modal collaboration
- Enhancing TxDOT division and district coordination

Develop a statewide transit network and hub plan

TxDOT-led and -facilitated

TxDOT will work to develop a plan that connects transit regions and provides Texans with an accessible way to reach all parts of Texas without a car. The network and hub plan should identify:

- Key corridors needed to connect priority transit destinations statewide
- Key hub locations providing local, regional, and first- and last-mile connections
- Transit priority corridors within each region where transit treatments to improve safety, speed, and reliability should be considered in the planning, design, and construction processes

Develop success metrics, enhance and broaden data collection, and develop consistent reporting

TxDOT-facilitated

Building on current methods, TxDOT—with partner support—will facilitate an effort to streamline the reporting structure, including providing additional information on performance and future needs.

Activities should include:

- Creating metrics focused on “movement of people” for use in transportation planning projects
- Further developing metrics that focus on the impacts of transit on business, the Texas economy, and community value
- Streamlining the reporting process by using the latest technology and best practices to reduce reporting time while adding additional metrics
- Updating the reporting structure to better convey the importance of transit in Texas

Identify options to increase flexibility of funding sources and identify new and innovative funding sources to maintain and expand transit.

TxDOT-supported

Moving forward, flexible funding would allow agencies to invest in emerging technologies, work across jurisdictional boundaries, and develop new types of transit services. To advance this effort, TxDOT will identify non-TxDOT entities to lead a team that:

- Works with key agencies to help identify and reduce or remove funding restrictions that prevent transit agencies from leveraging their funding to the highest and best use
- Identifies and develops new sources of funding—including non-traditional sources, innovative partnerships, and local funding—at all levels to diversify the revenue supporting transit

Formalize a plan for regular outreach and education on the benefits of transit

TxDOT-led and -facilitated

Proactively engaging with Texans on how transit fits into the overall transportation network and addresses critical transportation needs will help build support for long-term investment in transit.

Activities TxDOT can use to build upon *Texas SMTP 2050* public awareness campaigns and outreach efforts would include:

- Continuing to collect rider, operator, and business transit stories, especially those showing how transit expands access to opportunities
- Utilizing existing tools and developing new ways of measuring how transit benefits the statewide economy and local communities
- As part of a regular, ongoing program, sharing information with the public and local governments via newsletters, social media, and partnership building activities



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Texas Transit Forward: Recent Progress and Rural Implementation Actions

Rural Focused Implementation Actions

Initiated:

- Development of new measures that highlight the value of transit in rural areas (community value of transit, customer satisfaction, workforce satisfaction, economic impact, perception of safety and security).
- Community of Practice (CoP) in development with Texas Transportation Institute (TTI).

Near Term:

- Develop a statewide transit network and hub plan that identifies corridors needed to connect priority transit destinations statewide. This plan would also focus on local, regional, and first- and last-mile connections.



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Questions?

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